

The APECS Discipline of the Month Concept

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www.apecs.is/research-fields

Highlights
Discipline of the Month

I. THE IDEA

- Background:**
 - The >3200 APECS members identify with one or more research disciplines.
 - All members are involved in research activities that are worth sharing.
- The Need:**
 - A continuous platform that comprises all APECS available research area specific information.
 - A site where early career scientists (ECS) can present their research.
 - An event to kick-start the new platform.
- The Objective:**
 - Dedicate each month to a specific research area- the Discipline Of the Month (DOM).
 - Facilitate research discipline discussion and up-to-date information exchange.
 - Include ECS, APECS mentors and the wider audience interested in polar sciences.

II. THE IMPLEMENTATION

- The Webpages:**
 - Each DOM is featured through a particular webpage.
 - The webpages are created by the APECS research area representatives and active members.
 - This platform is created to meet a variety of needs (see explanations on the right).
- The Live Sessions:**
 - Each DOM includes a Virtual Poster Session (VPS, see poster #666).
 - 3-5 ECS present their research to a world-wide audience via a web conferencing tool.
 - Keynote speakers, i.e. APECS mentors and senior scientists, give a general introduction to the research discipline.



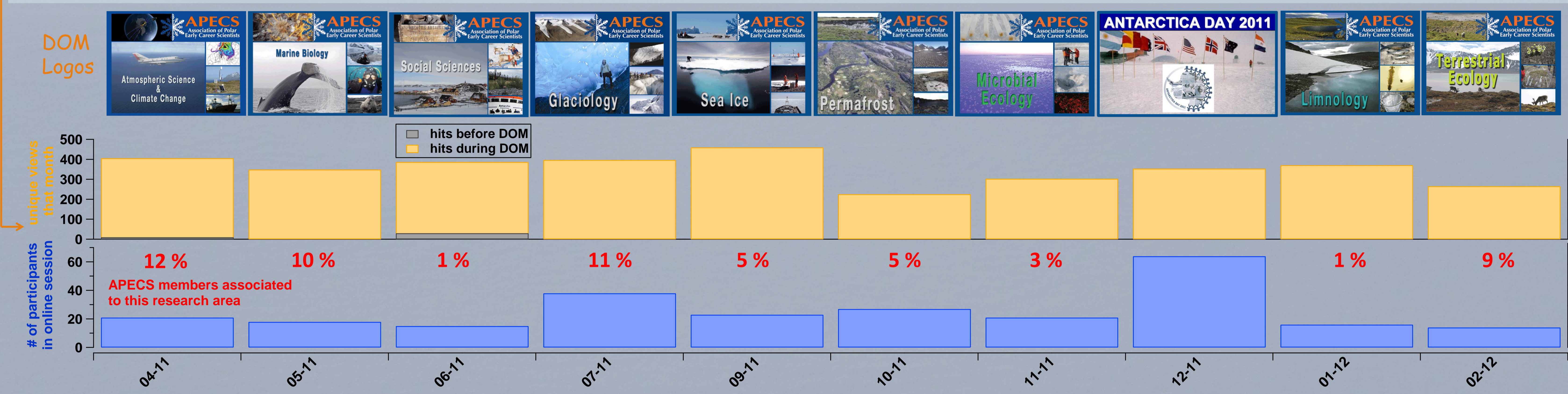
Fig. 1: The typical DOM webpage

IV. BENEFITS

- For the audience:**
 - Contacts are established between ECS, mentors, senior scientists and educators through the live sessions and contact information on the DOM webpages.
 - Increased knowledge in specific research areas.
 - Increased interaction between members of the same research area.
 - Interdisciplinarity is fostered through the comprehensive webpages and the free participation in the Virtual Poster Sessions.
 - APECS members can make their research more known by:
 - posting their publication citations on the webpages
 - presenting their research posters and uploading them to the VPS database.
- For the organizers:**
 - Acquiring skills that go beyond (post-) graduate education: leadership qualities, project management experience, communication, and webpage creation skills
 - Expanding their network.

III. ONE YEAR OF DOM HISTORY: April 2011 - February 2012

Fig. 2: First year DOM statistics on top panel: unique page clicks on the DOM webpage during the featuring month (orange) and before (grey, if applicable) bottom panel: participants in live Virtual Poster Sessions



V. OUTLOOK

- Current/Upcoming DOMs:**
 - April - Contaminants in polar regions
 - June - Social Sciences
- Future development:**
 - Expanding the DOM to a "research feature" concept allowing regional, interdisciplinary and focused research area topics.
 - Reaching a broader audience by including education and outreach topics.

Would you like to collaborate?
Please contact us!

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