Data Pathfinders: A GDEX UX/UI Intern Quest
Redesigning the Scientific Data Journey

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Project Background

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

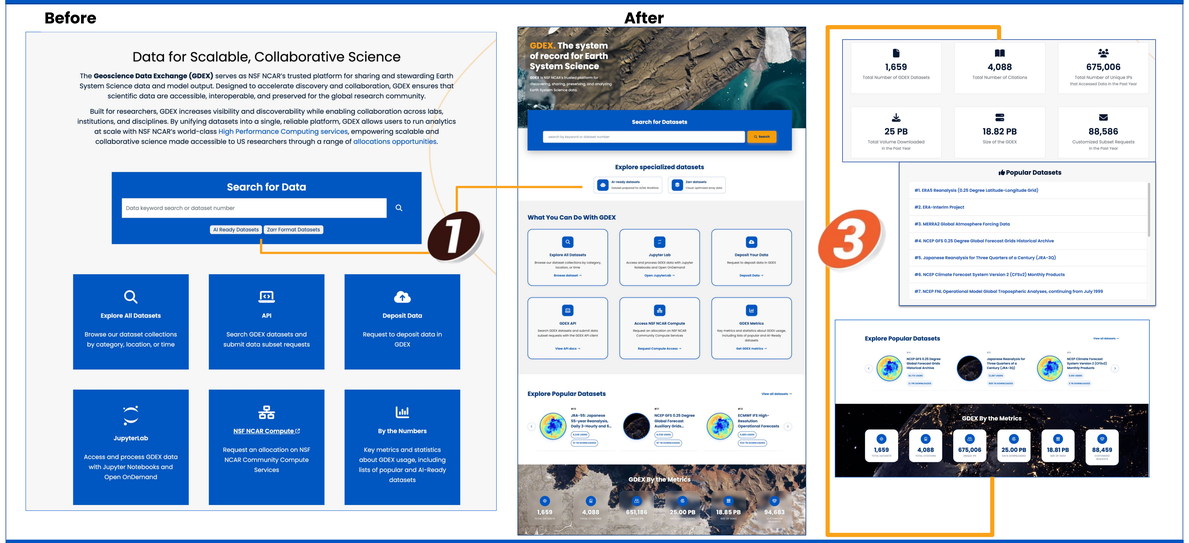
This is a UX/UI study of the GDEX data portal (gdex.ucar.edu) to identify problems about the user journey and make improvements based on the data collected. This study involved a task based usability testing with 10 NCAR CISL SIParCS interns.

Key User Problems Identified

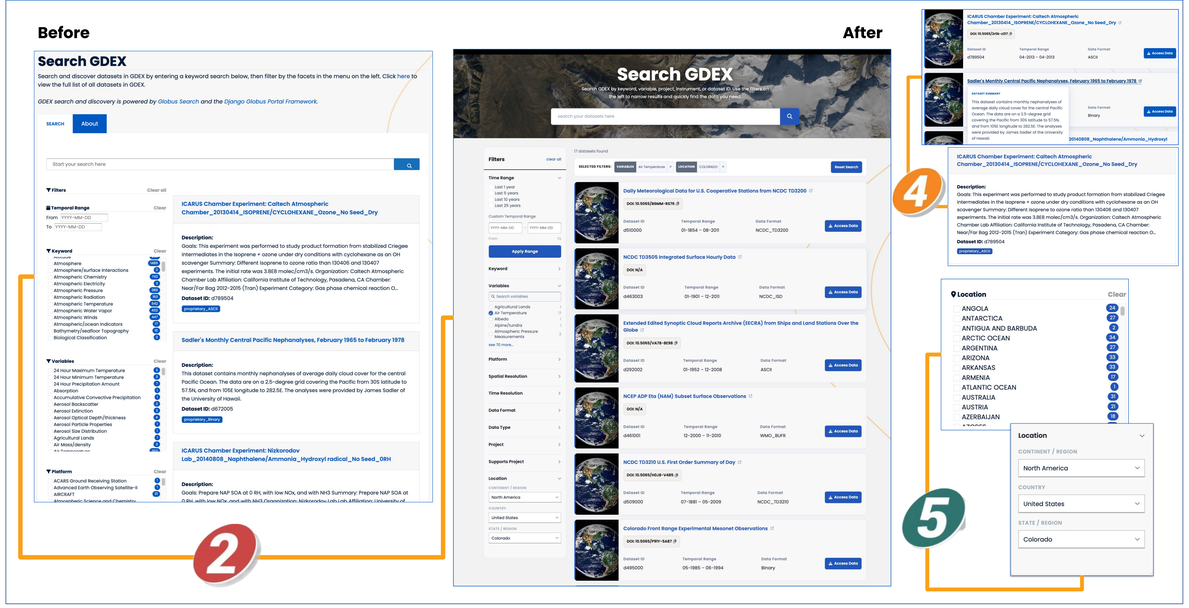
1. AI-ready and Zarr datasets were difficult to discover, limiting access to analysis-ready data formats.
2. Search filters were overcrowded and hard to navigate, making it difficult for users to narrow results efficiently.
3. Usage metrics and popular datasets were buried in a separate metrics page, reducing visibility of useful, high-value resources.
4. Important dataset information was difficult to locate, including DOI, formats, and access options
5. Location search filtering was unclear, making it challenging to find datasets for specific regions, states, or geographic areas.

Methodology

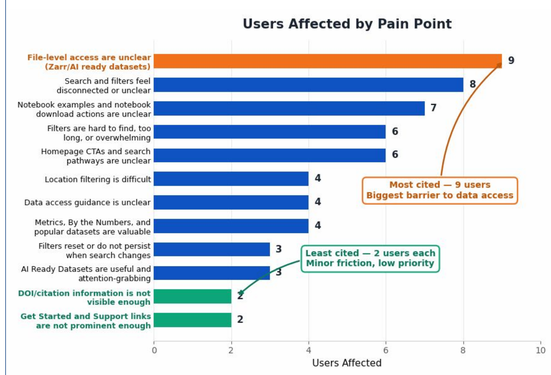
GDEX HomePage Redesign (Before —> After)



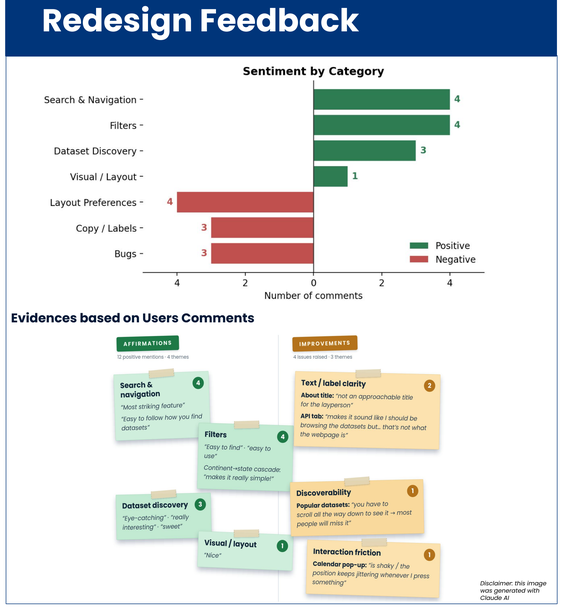
GDEX Search Page Redesign (Before —> After)



User Analysis Findings



Redesign Feedback



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