



# ITEX Data Use & Authorship Policy

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Compiled by the ITEX Steering Committee  
and adopted by the ITEX network

Here we formalize a common data use and authorship policy for data sets compiled as part of the International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) network. This document is a general guideline that should be used as the baseline for future analyses and resulting papers.

The ITEX community strongly encourages the continued use of ITEX datasets. High profile publications are the best way to assure that ITEX sites are maintained and that future data sets will be available. Including data contributors as authors assures that the data are used properly and that the conclusions drawn from the analysis are valid and meaningful. Therefore, we believe including as many authors as is reasonable creates a win-win situation for the team spearheading an analysis and for the original data contributors.

## Authorship policy

People *should* be invited as co-authors if they contribute primary data (especially unpublished data) and/or have an intellectual input. More specifically, everyone who contributes data used in the final analyses should be offered participation and authorship on *at least* the first publication of the data. It will also be up to each person who submits data to inform leaders of manuscripts who else should be invited to be an author on the final manuscript (see “**Data contacts and PIs**”).

In addition to submitting data, every author will be requested to participate in the manuscript preparation. If someone does not read and approve the final version of the manuscript, it will not be possible to include them as an author, as per journal guidelines. If anyone prefers to submit data for use and does not want to join in the analysis and writing effort, that person will be thanked in the acknowledgements and not included as an author.

After publication the data should become public (see “**Data policy**”), and co-authorship for follow-up papers *cannot be guaranteed*. The long-term success of ITEX is dependent on a favorable perception of the network among the research community and policy makers. Therefore, once the database is made public (after the initial publication) members of ITEX should encourage other groups to use the data in further synthesis activities (with or without authorship). Contributors who, for whatever reason, are unable to abide by the ITEX authorship guidelines may have their data omitted from the analyses and the resulting database.

## Data contacts and PIs

It is the responsibility of each data contributor (the person who sends data for meta-analyses) to inform of all data PIs (all people with academic ownership over the data). All data contributors and PIs will be asked to agree to the data use and authorship policy and will be invited to be authors on *at least* the first manuscript that will use this database (see below). The names of data contributors and PIs will be entered into the data and the contact information for the data contributors listed in the dataset, so that future data users know both the ownership of the data and can contact the data contributors.

## Data policy – Data will be made public at time of first publication

In accordance with our belief that it is the responsibility of scientists to publically archive their data for the future, after publication of the first manuscript we will submit all the compiled database used in a synthesis into one or more public data repositories (e.g. the Polar Data Catalogue, <https://www.polardata.ca/>). At that time it will be in the public domain and available for future research without restriction. This is the policy for many journals (and thus a requirement for publication) and it is the general guideline for the ITEX network.

## Communication of ongoing analyses

Communication of ongoing activities is important to keep the networking thriving. The ITEX Steering Committee will aim to keep the community apprised of ongoing analyses and opportunities to be involved *via* the ITEX webpage and listserv.