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DOCUMENT

Astronomy Archives User Group Terms of Reference

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1 INTRODUCTION

The legacy of ESA's Astronomy missions is the knowledge base built up in the science community, the papers published in scientific journals and the data stored in ESA's data archives for Astronomical missions, including the common portal to high-level science-ready data called ESASky. These archives provide the science communities in Europe and worldwide with low-level, calibrated and higher-level data products from ESA's Astronomy missions. The archives also include the documentation describing the data themselves and the processing that has been performed to generate the products.

For ESA's Astronomy Missions, the mission archives are the agreed final destination of all science data from the mission (from raw to fully calibrated science-ready data), which, together with the mission documentation stored in Livelink or other documentation systems are kept for available in the long-term. The ESAC Science Data Centre, of SCI-OP is responsible for maintaining the archives accessible in the long term.

In order to better serve the needs of the Astronomical science community, ESA has established an Astronomy Archives User Group (AA-UG).

2 TASKS

The following outlines the tasks for which the AA-UG shall be responsible:

- Identify the most important functionalities of the overarching multi-mission Astronomical data portal ESASky and monitor its development to ensure it best meets the needs of the user community within the resources available.
- Identify for synergies and/or similarities in the recommendations about the future development of the Astronomy archives content, interfaces, documentation, compatibility with other astronomical science archives and tools from the respective mission user groups.
- Act as a focus for the interests of the scientific community in the Astronomy archives and as an advocate for them within those communities.
- Actively participate in all reviews of the Astronomy archives activities, and provide assistance in finding relevant reviewers from the scientific community.
- Advise on the main functionalities of a future web service linking the Heliophysics, Planetary and Astronomical archives if feasible.



3 MEMBERSHIP

The AA-UG shall be comprised of 6-8 members chosen to ensure an appropriate range of expertise in disciplines important for Astronomy such as Exo-planets, Interstellar Medium, Star Formation, Stars, Galaxies, Active Galactic Nuclei and Cosmology and being knowledgeable in the analysis of data from Gamma-ray, X-ray, Ultraviolet, Optical, Near-, Mid and Far-Infrared, Sub-millimetre and Radio instruments. They should also master the different main observational techniques such as photometry, spectroscopy, spectral imaging and time-domain astronomy.

- The AA-UG members should be active users of ESA's Astronomy missions.
- Ideally, members should not be formally affiliated with any of the instrument teams providing data to any Astronomy mission archive.
- Members are appointed by D/SCI for an initial interval not exceeding 2 years.
- H/SCI-OO, H/SCI-OE and H/SCI-S jointly propose membership of the AA-UG to D/SCI for approval, after consultation with the Astronomy Working Group (AWG).
- The chairperson, appointed by D/SCI, will serve as the official representative of the working group and will ensure the transition to the following panel of the AA-UG.

4 MEETINGS

The AA-UG shall meet in person once to twice per year, as baseline at ESAC in Madrid, Spain. Additional meetings may be organised by tele- and/or video-conference as required, at the request of the chairperson.

- The Astronomy Archives Science Lead will act as the secretary of the AA-UG and take care of the organisation of the meetings.
- The following should be invited to attend the AA-UG meetings: H/SCI-S and H/SCI-OO, H/SCI-OE, the ESA Astronomy Archives Technical Lead, a Project Scientist from SCI-S and representatives of ESA's Astronomy missions as required.
- Travel expenses of members based at institutes within the ESA Member States will be paid by ESA.

5 OUTPUT AND REPORTING

The AA-UG output and reporting shall be as follows:

- The AA-UG will make written recommendations to the ESA Astronomy Archives Science Lead.



- Written minutes shall be produced within a reasonable interval and made publically available by posting on the relevant website.
- The chairperson of the AA-UG shall make an annual report to the Astronomy Working Group (AWG).
- The chairperson of the AA-UG shall make a final report of their activity during the mandate of the panel.