

# Report on the 2011 ESAC Science Archives Users Survey

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Astronomy Archives User Group Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

- Survey conducted in 2011
- Web form, open for 5 weeks: 14/11/2011 – 19/12/2011
- Announced via email to archives users that had been active within the last five years (just over 4500 users).
- Was redistributed by some missions to their own lists of users
- Was also announced on the archives home page:  
<http://archives.esac.esa.int>

# The 2011 ESAC Science

- Designed to only take a user a few minutes to answer.
- The first five questions were compulsory, with options as radio buttons and tick boxes. The questions asked were the following:

1) Which ESAC Science Archives do you use and how often? Select all that apply.

		Daily	Few times a week	Few times a month	Few times a year	Less than once a year
Astronomy Archives	EXSA ( <a href="#">EXOSAT</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	HSA ( <a href="#">Herschel</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	ISDA ( <a href="#">INTEGRAL</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	IDA ( <a href="#">ISO</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	PLA ( <a href="#">Planck</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	XSA ( <a href="#">XMM-Newton</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planetary and Solar Archives	PSA ( <a href="#">Planetary</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	SSA ( <a href="#">SOHO</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2) How satisfied are you with the ESAC Science Archives? Select all that apply.

		Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Astronomy Archives	EXSA ( <a href="#">EXOSAT</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	HSA ( <a href="#">Herschel</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	ISDA ( <a href="#">INTEGRAL</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	IDA ( <a href="#">ISO</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	PLA ( <a href="#">Planck</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	XSA ( <a href="#">XMM-Newton</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planetary and Solar Archives	PSA ( <a href="#">Planetary</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	SSA ( <a href="#">SOHO</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3) Which type of access interface do you use?

		Web Interface	Machine Interface	HIPE	Map Interface	Dataset Browser
Astronomy Archives	EXSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				
	HSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>		
	ISDA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
	IDA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
	PLA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				
	XSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
Planetary and Solar Archives	PSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>
	SSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				

# The 2011 ESAC Science Archives survey



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## 3) Which type of access interface do you use?

		Web Interface	Machine Interface	HIPE	Map Interface	Dataset Browser
Astronomy Archives	EXSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				
	HSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>		
	ISDA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
	IDA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
	PLA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				
	XSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>			
Planetary and Solar Archives	PSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>
	SSA	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Link</a>				

## 4) For which activities do you use the Archives? Select all that apply.

☐ Scientific research   ☐ Observatory/Mission support   ☐ Education/Outreach   ☐ Amateur Astronomy   ☐ Other

If other, please specify:

## 5) Have you used, or do you plan to use, the Archives for the following purposes? Select all that apply.

☐ Browsing for data   ☐ Downloading proprietary data   ☐ Downloading public data  
☐ Preparing observing proposals   ☐ Identifying areas with sufficient coverage for science projects   ☐ Downloading science-ready data products (if applicable)  
☐ Other

If other, please specify:

# The 2011 ESAC Science Archives

- Questions 6 to 9 were not compulsory and asked for feedback comments regarding the Archives:

If you wish to submit now, please click [submit](#) at the bottom of the form, however, we would be grateful if you could also fill in the following qualitative fields:

6) What do you like the most about the ESAC Science Archives?

7) What do you like the least about the ESAC Science Archives?

8) Please suggest other features or improvements you would like to see in the ESAC Science Archives.

9) If you have any further comments, please add them here.

If you would like to receive feedback directly from the ESAC Science Archives Team, please give your name and email:

Name:

Email:

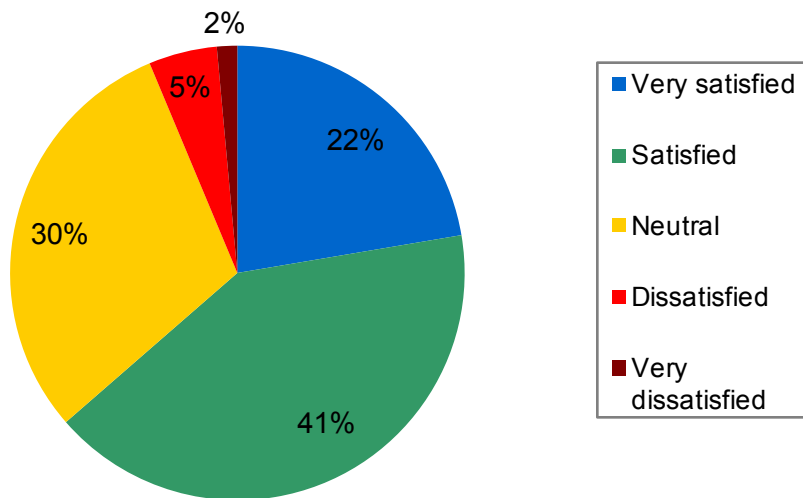
Many thanks for your time,

The ESAC Science Archives Team

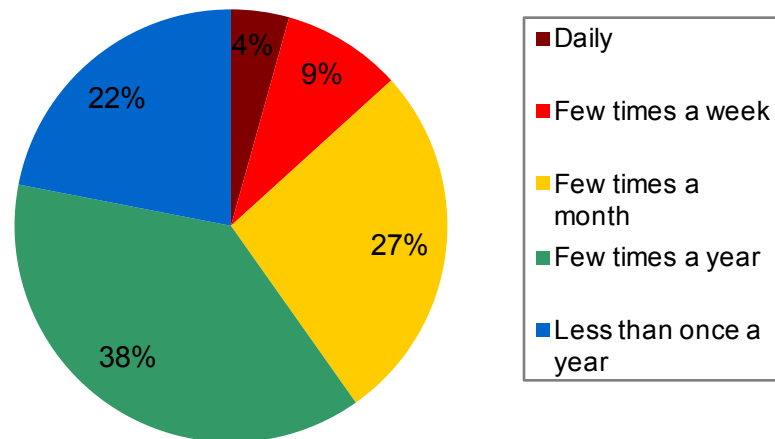
- Total number of responses to the survey was 385 -> a response rate of approximately 8.4%.
- Approximately ten times more satisfied users than dissatisfied users.
- Received a lot of useful feedback, e.g. at the time all archives were Java based, and we received many comments on this (Appendix B).

- We noticed a pattern appearing in the answers of questions 1 to 3 because the survey did not offer the option of 'never' or 'not applicable'
- Probably the questions, as they were written, were a bit ambiguous
- We believe some people felt obliged to select all the Archives in questions 1 and 2, and mark the options 'less than once a year' and 'neutral' respectively for Archives they never use.
- This led to a large peak in the 'less than once a year' responses

## How satisfied are you with the ESAC Science Archives?

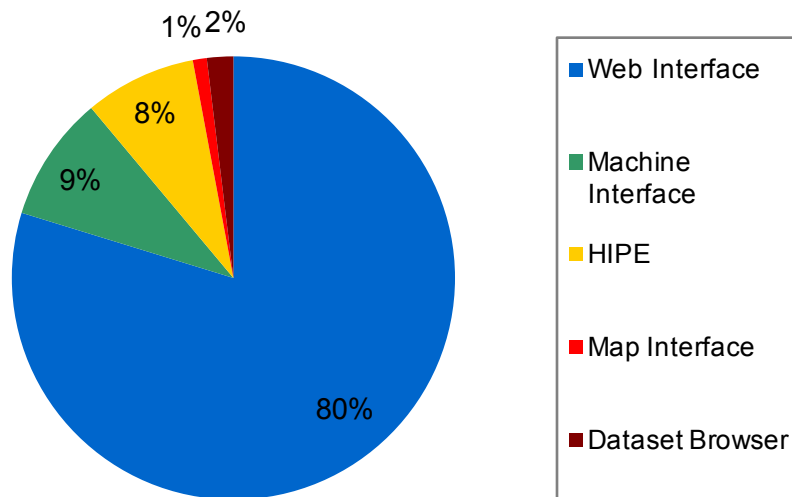


## How often do you use one of the Science Archives?

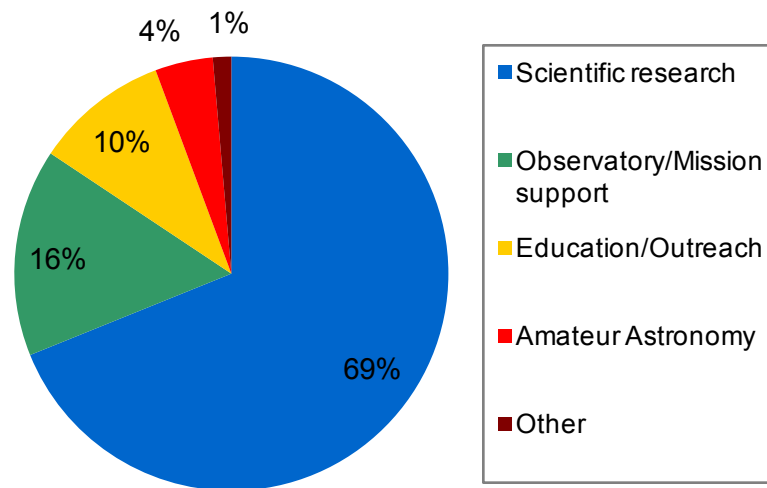




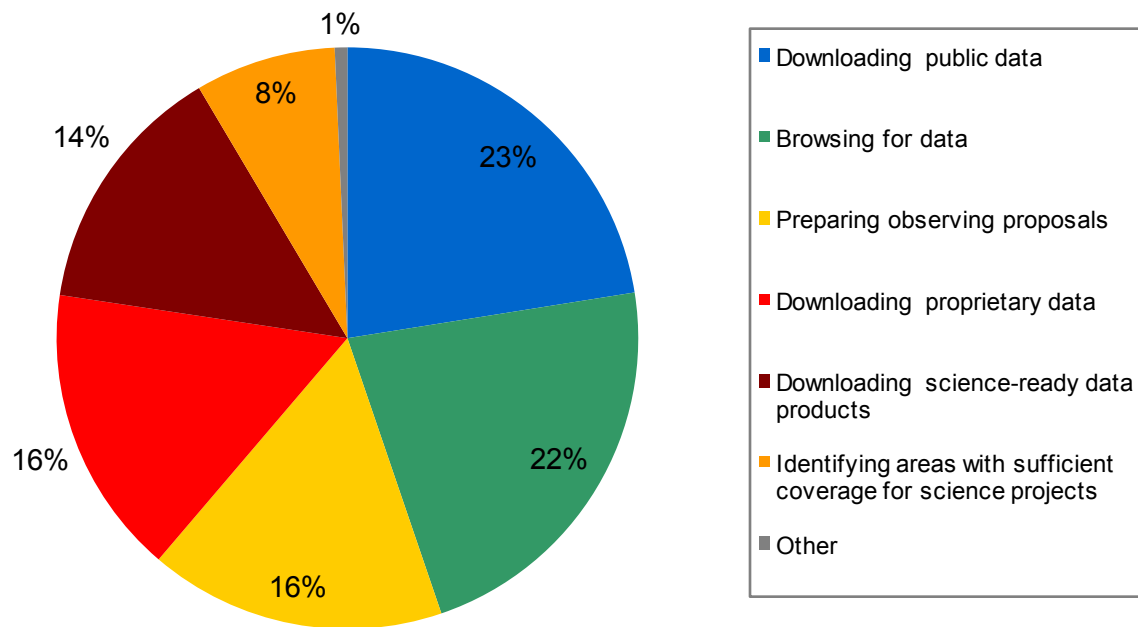
## Which type of access interface do you use?



## For which activities do you use the Archives?



Have you used, or do you plan to use, the Archives for the following purposes?



- For more detailed results please see the report document '2011 ESAC Science Archive Survey Results'

- Don't expect a large number of people responding to the call and filling out the survey. 10% is very good.
- Therefore, distribute the survey as widely as possible to as many users as possible.
- Keep the survey short, or have only a few compulsory questions -> very little time needed to fill it out.
- Add options such as 'not applicable' , 'never' etc.
- Feedback from the 'open text' questions were also very useful.