

Observatoires Virtuels France

F-VO



F. Genova, Interoperability Baltimore, 28 Oct. 2008

The CDS

- CDS, created in 1972, had been a major member of collaborations for networking astronomical on-line resources
- It had expertise in pre-VO functionalities developed for its own needs (e.g., the GLU = registry, collab. Astroles (1999) – describing astronomical catalogues and query results in XML, etc)
- It has been associated to the VO development from the beginning (AVO, first OPTICON Interoperability WG, national project IDHA)



Early stages

- CDS aimed at creating a national community of VO developers and was ready to help
- Recognized as a priority in the national strategy exercise in 2003
- No e-Science programme in France



The Action Spécifique Observatoires Virtuels France (ASOV)

- Created in 2004 by INSU (National Institute for Universe Sciences) with support from CNES (French national space agency)
- Objectives:
 - Coordinate French participation to IVO
 - Astronomy, Space Plasma Physics, Sun, Planetary Sciences
- A bottom-up approach



ASOV organisation

- Scientific Council, with a representative sent by each National Programme, thus covering all subdisciplines of astronomy, some involved in VO, others not
- Bring science community requirements, distribute information
- Very small amount of ‘triggering’ money
~ 70 000 euros/year
- Funds for implementation of the VO layer and participation in VO framework development to be found elsewhere – local support, projects, etc



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- [Philippe Prugniel](#) (CRAL, PNG)
- [Evelyne Roueff](#) (LUTH, Observatoire de Paris, [PNPS](#))
- [Hervé Wozniak](#) (CRAL, ASSNA)

Responsable du suivi des activités de l'Action Spécifique au CNRS/INSU: François Pajot



Activities

- Annual meeting – sharing of information & lively discussion
- One presentation at the annual meeting of the French Astronomical Society – community awareness
- Working Groups
- Tutorials
- Annual AO (travel to Interops, European meetings, collaboration meetings)



Working Groups

- Working Groups
 - Planetary science (A. Sarkissian)
 - Theory (H. Wozniak)
 - Fundamental astronomy – geodetics (F. Deleflie)
 - Images and VO-3D (E. Slézak)
 - Spectroscopy (C. Soubiran, P. Prugniel)
 - Workflow (A. Schaaff, F. Le Petit, P. Prugniel, E. Slézak, C. Surace)
 - Grid (A. Schaaff, F. Le Petit, H. Wozniak)
 - Standards for atomic and molecular physics (ML Dubernet)



Creation of a community of VO developers (1)

- Started on the basis of CDS expertise
- National tutorials
- Support to European Workshops aimed at data providers
- Support to travel for discussion with experienced VO participants
- ‘Annual ‘Software bricks for the VO’ meeting organised by Paris Observatory



First F-VO tutorial October 2004



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Creation of a community of VO developers (2)

- This worked well and fast
- ASOV had a triggering role, and success relied on the willingness of laboratories, teams and individuals
- VO projects on-going in all Observatories
- Some organise ‘VO services’ (Paris, Marseille)
- Visible participation to IVOA meetings and to many standards



Participation in this meeting

- Observatoire de Lyon
- Observatoire de Paris (OV Paris, IMCCE, LERMA, LUTH)
- Observatoire de Strasbourg

- Several posters at ADASS also from Marseille



Census

- 40 answers in 2005, 32 to the European DCA census this year
- Very diverse services
 - Disciplinary data centres – CDS, CDPP, MEDOC/BASS2000, IMCCE (BdL)
 - Focussed services, e.g. spectroscopy, atomic and molecular data bases, theory, access to specific data sets
 - Tools (e.g. Terapix)



Interface with European level

- Encourages participation to all events organised by the Euro-VO projects
- National actions defined taking into account Euro-VO ones and checking which are more efficient done at the national level ('subsidiarity')
- Interface with Grid: working group, tutoriel
The core institute is Paris Observatory



Transition to operations

- Future role of ASOV will be discussed
- The French VO landscape will be assessed during the next national strategy exercise (2009)
- Part of the astronomy infrastructure in recommendations of the European strategic exercise AstroNet)
- Which actions to help uptake by users?

