



IVOA Status

Fabio Pasian

Chair , International Virtual Observatory Alliance

IVOA Interoperability Workshop, Strasbourg, 24-29 May 2009



IVOA goals

- An alliance of projects for:
 - Developing interoperability standards
 - Enhancing communication
 - Fostering collaboration
 - Cultivating VO awareness and usage by the astronomical community



IVOA priority

- The IVOA is about enabling astronomical research
- Fulfilling the requirements from the astronomical community has key importance
 - Paolo Padovani as IVOA Deputy
 - Dave De Young's invited talk



Some events since Baltimore

- 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy
- Paolo Padovani is IVOA Deputy Chair
- Brazil (Observatorio Virtual Brasileiro - OVB) funded, approved in Apr 09 by Exec as 17th IVOA member
- The NVO follow-on proposal (the VAO) was funded (duration foreseen: 5 yrs)
- IVOA Newsletter: 2 numbers issued
 - Editors: **M.Allen**, S.Emery-Bunn, E.Hatziminaoglou, R.Mann, T.McGlynn, C.Miller, A.Richards, J.Tedds
- Exec Telecon: 19 Feb 09
- TCG Telecon: 12 May 09



Some events since Baltimore

- ADASS XVIII (Québec, Canada, 2-5 Nov 08):
 10 VO-related presentations: 3 oral, 7 posters
- EuroVO-AIDA 1st Community Workshop: Multi-wavelength Astronomy & the VO (ESAC, Madrid, Spain, 1-3 Dec 08)
- EuroVO-AIDA Hands-on Workshop on VO tools, (ESO, Germany, 30 Mar – 1 Apr 09)
- European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (Hatfield, UK, 20-23 Apr 09): **VO session**
- Hotwiring the Transient Universe II (Santa Cruz, CA, 26-30 Apr 09): **organised by VOEvent**



Status of standards

- SAMP to REC (21 Apr 09), page www.ivoa.net/samp
 - DAL WG: SIAP v1.1 to RFC
 - DAL WG: progress on TAP - WD v0.5 (*aim : getting a recommended std in the weeks following the Interop*)
 - Document Naming & Version numbering convention:
 - ⇒ *new schema* ⇒ *updated Document submission page*
 - ⇒ Document Stds v1.2 back to WD and again to RFC
 - GWS: VOSpace v1.15 from RFC to TCG review
- ... and many more (see Christophe Arviset's report)



Liaison Committee

- Formation of Liaison Committee
 - C. Arviset, **D. De Young**, F. Genova, M. Ohishi, F. Pasian, N. Walton
 - Follow-on to Trieste plenary and special sessions
 - Establish liaison with other disciplines
 - Explore mutual problems and areas of interest
 - Developing tools, standards, & protocols
 - Communicate results, experience
 - Common or recurrent themes or needs – standards?
 - STP, Planetary Science, Particle Physics, Earth Science
 - Up to now “passive” approach \Rightarrow creation of dedicated groups (Liaison Groups ?) with interested communities
 - Links to computational Grid communities? \Rightarrow (EGI session)



ICSU SCCID

- Strategic Coordinating Committee on Data and Information (**SCCID**) within the International Council for Science (**ICSU**)
 - to “play a proactive role in developing the global agenda for scientific data and information and in guiding and monitoring the activities of all ICSU’s data and information bodies”
- Key forum where liaison with other communities can be fostered
- **Masatoshi Ohishi** is IAU representative in ICSU/SCCID



Take-Up Committee

- Established during Trieste Interop
 - M.Allen, **D. De Young**, E.Hatziminaoglou, A.Kembhavi, A.Lawrence, P. Padovani
- Discussed problems, forwarded report to Exec
 - Extremely important issue ⇒ Survival of VO
 - Support dedicated workshops; gather information
 - Support VO portals/interface – tools and techniques
 - Direct IVOA role: Interop presentations on needs of astronomy community
 - PP's paper on issues resulting from feedback after the recent Dec 2008 Euro-VO AIDA workshop



Education to VO

- Educating (young) professionals:
 - User Workshops (possibly on one specific subject)
 - “Hands-On” Workshops on VO tools
- Educating “new generations of astronomers”:
 - In EuroVO-AIDA a number of research projects that can be carried out at high school (14-18 yrs old) and undergraduate levels, using data extracted from the VO and (simplified) VO tools
 - “Info sheets” in several languages
 - If interested, contact **Massimo Ramella**



Highlights from Exec meetings

- Reports from Projects
- Reports from WG/IG Chairs
 - Focus on current WG/IG problems and issues
 - Provides essential input for Exec discussion
 - Approval of std's having passed RFC and TCG
- Reports on Newsletter, Ad Hoc Committees
- Proposals for the creation of new groups:
 - Data Mining IG: session on Thu, charter drafted ([G.Longo](#))
 - VO Implementation Group ([D.Schade](#)):
 - define metrics, a baseline to measure growth
 - gather evidence, feedback to Exec



Prospective New Members and Inactive Projects

- Argentina – initial contact made, initiatives
- Australia – currently inactive
- Bulgaria – continuing interest
- Chile – under development
- Korea – currently inactive
- Portugal – emerging interest
- Romania – under development
- Turkey – possible initiative



Upcoming Events

- Wide-Fast-Deep Surveys: New Astrophysics Frontier, Aspen, Colorado, USA, 14 Jun - 5 Jul 09
- Euro-VO AIDA Workshop “How to Publish Data in the VO”, ESAC, Madrid, Spain, 22-26 Jun 2009
- Earth and Space Science Informatics Workshop, UMBC, Baltimore, Maryland, 3-5 Aug 09
- IAU WG on Virtual Observatories (at IAU General Assembly), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 4 Aug 09
- ADASS XIX, Sapporo, Japan, 4-8 Oct 09
- Workshop on High Performance Computing in Observational Astronomy: Requirements & Challenges, Pune, India, 12-16 Oct 09
- IVOA Interoperability Meeting, Garching bei Munchen, Germany, 9-13 Nov 09



Issues

- *Some major issues from the 2007 IVOA Assessment Survey:*
 - *Pace of promotion to standards*
 - *IVOA and the astronomy community, operations*
- Priorities in the definition of standards ?
 - time (the “Panama Canal” effect): avoid RFC overlap
 - importance: loop Exec-TCG-Exec to define requirements → tech feasibility → actions
[however: within limits of best-effort approach]
 - VO standards dependencies
- Monitor take-up by community ?



What we are about (1)

- ✓ We are about enabling astronomical research
- Development of complex technical tools ...
 - ... is essential to some of this, but ...
 - ... Because-It-Can-Be-Done does not imply that It-Should-Be-Done
- Near term: get **useful** tools & services to astronomers **now**
- How?



What we are about (2)

- ✓ We are about sharing, reciprocity, consensus
- To reach agreements, compromises are needed:
 - We all have different views on the best (The Right) technical way to have things done
 - The-Other-Guy's-Way is always much better than No-Way-At-All
 - Slow-Convergence is always much better than No-Convergence-At-All



Thanks to:

- The Program Organizing Committee
- The Local Organizing Committee

- You all, for your attention!

