VO-I Report

(Ajit Kembhavi, 11/04/2005)

We at the VO-I have continued developing applications and tools, some specific to our needs, and others of use to the larger VO community.

We have put out a new version of the C++ VOTable parser, in streaming and non-streaming, to accommodate recent versions of VOTable. I am glad to say that requests for an improved version came from various quarters, showing that people are still interested in using this very first product that VO-I developed long ago.

We have finished development of a data archiving system for the Himalayan Chandra Observatory, which has a 2m optical/IR telescope located in Ladakh. The system also allows the creation of a user observing log, and combines this information with header information from instrument output files to make an archives. The system has a user friendly interface. The system is now in regular use, and we would be glad to tailor such systems to other observatory requirement, using a generic tool.

We have developed user interfaces for the 2qz and similar catalogues, and are well onto designing a generic interface, which a user should be able to adapt easily to local needs and to specific catalogues. I hope to report on this development in Kyoto.

We have now set up a mirror of the Chandra Data Archives with the help of the CFA, and should be acquring SDSS-DR3 from JHU in about a week's time. The DR3 data transfer, as you can imagine, is not straightforward and we are very grateful to the JHU group for their help.

Jayant Gupchup, who has been working for the VO-I project for about two years now, will be leaving at the end of May, to work with Alex Szalay and the computer science department at JHU for a PhD.

The present phase of the VO-I project will be finished at the end of May, and results obtained by us were reviewed by a committee a few days ago. The committee included a representative of the funding agency. I can say that whatever we have done so far has been favorably viewed, and we have been encouraged to submit another project (VOI-TNG, the last three letters will not reflect anywhere except in the project proposal!). Persistent Systems, who have been our partners, and have in fact provided most of the human resources (which have been of excellent quality, and would have been completely unfordable to us otherwise, have emphatically said that they have enjoyed the collaboration, and

would like to participate equally well in VOI-TNG. I have also received specific suggestions for collaboration from CDS, JHU, Caltech, and Lyon observatory, and an organization in India which specializes in grid computing; we are folding these into our plans for the future. We will be very happy to work with other groups as well. And in case we do get funding, we will be happy indeed to host another interop meeting at the right time, and also to have other international workshops for young researchers etc.