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Accessibility to astronomical data and services for all

Content

Francesca Primas, a colleague from ESO, contacted me in November 2020 to know if accessibility and technology issues for people with disabilities were discussed at IVOA. A first workshop around Astronomy Research Accessibility, <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/sara2020>, was held in late 2020, organised by major actors of our domain.

It sounded great to me to introduce a noble human concern in addition to the usual scientific and technological concerns. And to start looking for solutions to make it happen.

Always interested in R&D around new ways of interactions, and motivated by the human side of this work, a six month study will start in September 2021 with a student. The aim is to draw up an initial inventory of the accessibility of CDS data and services for people with disabilities, to find solutions to improve the existing but also to set up upstream new ways of presenting data, developing interfaces and tools. It is an interesting and rich work involving a large variety of new technologies as well as a human experience.

Sharing this experience and federating around it would be even better.

It concerns potentially a large panel of IGs/WGs but the most important is to initiate a discussion and the Education IG could be a good place even if accessibility is also for professionals and not only for Education.

Preferred talk time

flexible

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