Observatoires Virtuels France

F-VO



The CDS

- CDS, created in 1972, had been a major member of collaborations for networking astronomical online resources
- It had expertise in pre-VO functionalities developed for its own needs (e.g., the GLU = registry, collab. Astrores (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)

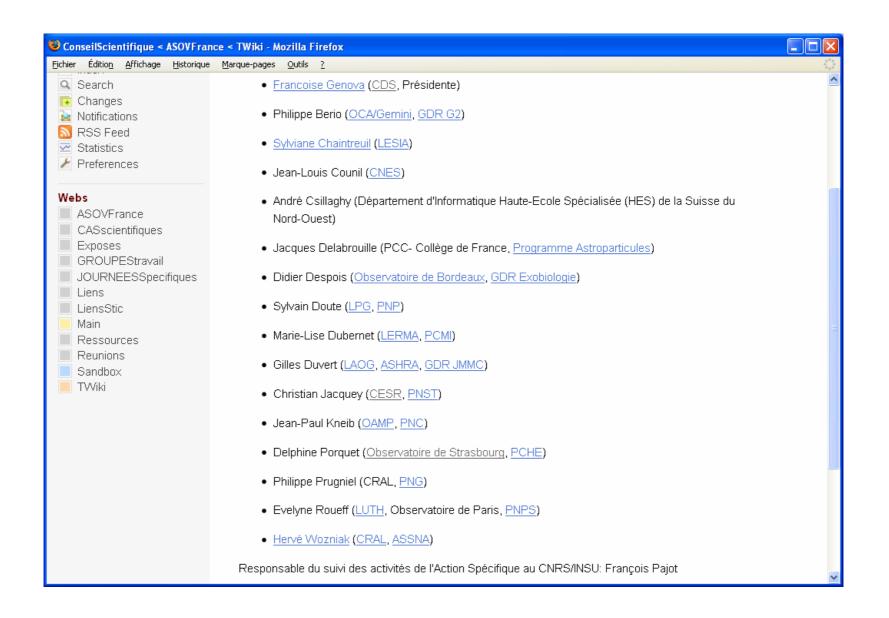
- Created in 2004 by INSU (National Institute for Universe Sceinces) with support from CNES (French national space agency)
- Objectives:
 - Coordinate French participation to IVO
 - Astronomy, Space Plasma Physics, Sun,
 Planetary Sciences
- A bottom-up approach



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 develoment to be found elsewhere local support, projects, etc







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





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?

