

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus Update

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Actors

- Norman Gray (Glasgow University, UK)
- Alberto Accomazzi (ADS/CfA, US)
- Graham McCann (Institute of Physics Publishing, UK)
- Mark Cassar (American Institute of Physics, US)
- Chris Biemesderfer (AAS, US)
- Chris Erdmann (Wolbach Library/CfA, US)
- Justin Soles (McGill University, Canada)
- Hopefully many more, including you?

Tentative Plan

- Merge existing divergent thesauri into an open, interoperable thesaurus covering all areas of A&A
- Work out legal issues related to copyrights, use; seek IAU blessing eventually
- Develop a stable maintenance process that maximizes UAT adoption and use in our community
- Allow for input from community to be incorporated in a timely and transparent way
- Provide well-curated, periodic releases of the UAT

Accomplished So Far

- AIP and IOP have formally donated the astronomy parts of their thesauri to AAS
- AAS owns the thesaurus, will sponsor its enhancement by merging it with the IAUT and release it under CC
- Development will be managed by a stewardship group which we expect will include the usual suspects (IVOA, IAU, AAS, RAS, IOPP, AIP, ADS, CDS, etc.)
- Input from community incorporated by editors through a web-based portal
- Revisions and updates regularly incorporated (by UAT curator) via a formal release mechanism

Use Cases - Literature

- Provide a consistent concept space to support document classification and indexing
- Enhanced search via semantic query expansion
- Text mining of ADS's full-text using a uniform concept scheme
- Faceted filtering & browsing of documents
- Enhance recommendations and notifications
- Example: ScienceWISE annotations of arXiv papers:
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1210.3612>

More in general

- UAT one component in larger astronomy Linked Data Ecosystem
- Link additional authority files to UAT concepts, e.g.
 - ▶ Object types
 - ▶ SIMBAD, NED object names
 - ▶ Facilities, Telescopes, Instruments
 - ▶ Funding agencies, grant numbers
 - ▶ Institutions, Collaborations

For more Info

- A more thorough description of the project, including the governance and maintenance process is available now at:
<http://astrothesaurus.org>
- We are looking at available options to support the curation process we envision, suggestions welcome
- There will be a poster at the AAS meeting in Jan 2013 with updates on the project
- We need your help, please contribute