2013 Fall InterOp, Waikoloa, Hawaii

State of the IVOA

David Schade, Canadian Virtual Observatory
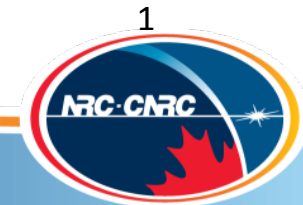
Thanks to Bob and LOC for their great work getting this meeting together

Items of Business

Web pages and Document Repository

- As the US-VAO effort winds down these responsibilities need to be transferred

- There have been a number of generous offers

- Bob will distribute information calling formally for offers to take on specific responsibilities

New Chairs and vice-Chairs for WGs and IGs

- In May 2014 there will be a great deal of turnover

- Please put some thought into the possibilities and communicate with Exec before May 2014

State of the IVOA

Funding:

- there have always been ups and downs and this continues to be the case

Process:

- We now have processes that work well for standards development and we can solve problems
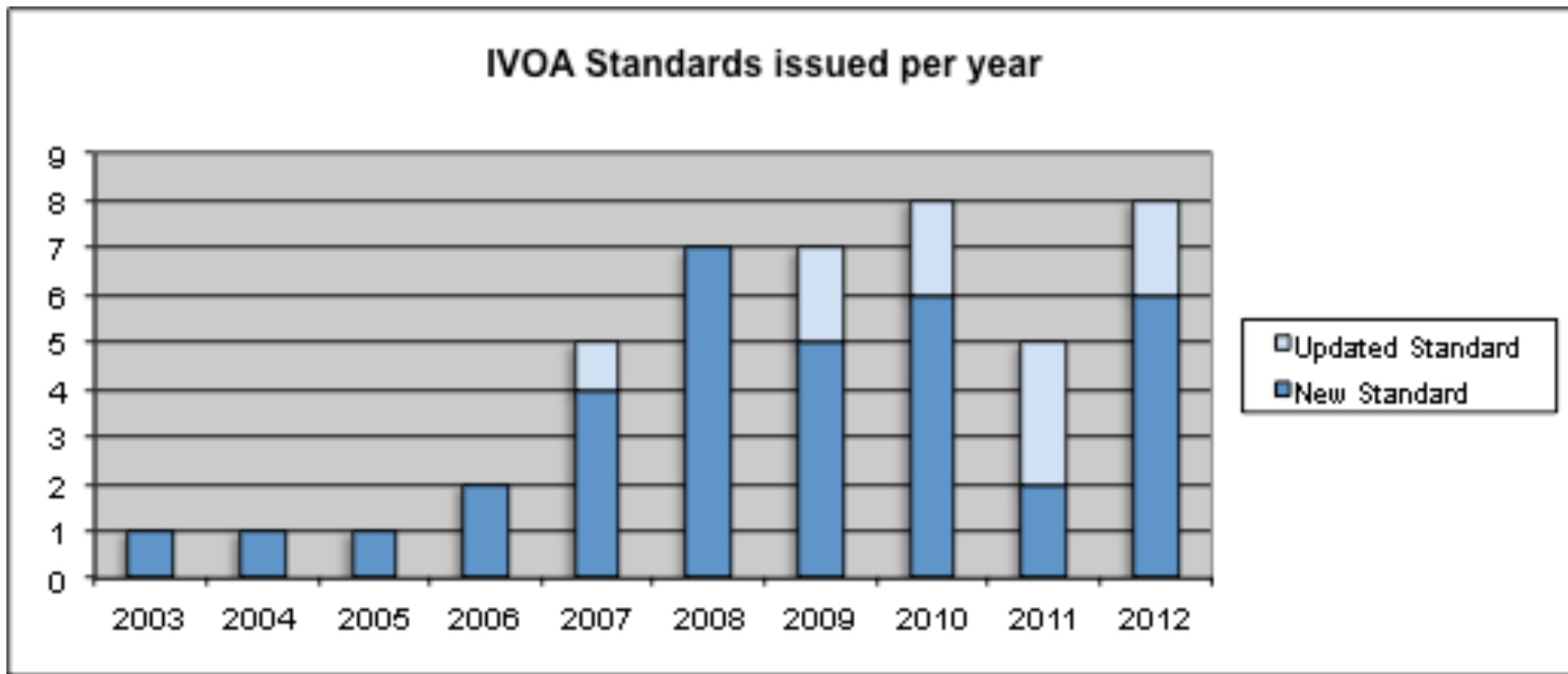
Productivity:

- Many individuals continue to make contributions which should earn them "Hero of the Virtual Observatory" status.

State of the IVOA

Productivity:

Where are we now:

- Ramping down of some efforts: US-VAO, AstroGrid, ESO

- Many, many projects are vigorous and healthy

- Continued interest in new membership: Ukraine, South Africa, Chile

- Many individuals continue to make contributions which should earn them "Hero of the Virtual Observatory" status.

Highlights from member projects:

Argentina: NOVA

- Starting to manage survey data (VISTA and HI)
- Plate scanning
- Nova Workshop June 2013 had 70 participants
- AstroGrid

AstroGrid

- Now an informal project with UK VO staff working through EURO-VO projects and through data centre and mission activities (VISTA, GAIA, ALMA, EUCLID)
- Latest initiative is Astrotrop: tropical rainforest monitoring

Highlights from member projects:

China-VO

- Opening the first WWT planetarium on October 21st
- China-VO and AstroInformatics 2013 workshop will be held in November with involvement of IT companies

Canadian Virtual Observatory

- Working on datacubes, datalink
- Major migration of our data collections to CAOM-2 which will support VO functionality

Highlights from member projects:

EURO-VO

- CoSADIE activities include engagement with data providers
- VO school for PhDs and post-docs help Feb 5-7 in Madrid
- GAVO hosted a Data Centre Forum in June
- Active in Educations and Outreach
- Research Data Alliance (FrancoiseGenova)

France-VO

- Annual meeting March 11-12 in Paris
- VO Theory, planetary and heliopheric physics using VO tools
- IVOA work continues at CDS, Paris, Toulouse

Highlights from member projects:

GAVO

- Runs data centres in Potsdam and Heidelberg
- IVOA: relational registry, datalink prototype, server side, manipulation of spectra
- CoSADIE Data Centre Forum in Heidelberg in June

Vobs.it

- VO for Education and Outreach
- Relational Registry, OGF Distributed Computing Infrastructures
- Engage with radio astronomy for access to multi-dimensional data

Highlights from member projects:

VAO

- Working ok Key close-out activities
- Datacube discovery and access
- Python bindings for VO protocols and SciDrive (VOBox)
- There may be continuing VO core activities supported at HEASARC, IPAC, and MAST

RVO

- Work on General Catalogue of Variable Stars and plate collection
- Binary Star Database
- Digitization of astronegatives

Highlights from member projects:

SVO

- Healthy: 7 FTE's
- SVO Thematic Network (institutes with interest in VO) is composed of almost 200 participants from 30 labs

Common Themes

- Engagement with data managers
- Engagement with user community
- Education and outreach
- Encouraging implementation and use

Conclusions

- Great diversity among the projects
- Lots of vigorous activity
- In general, IVOA is healthy

New Member

- Chile has been accepted as the newest member of IVOA

- Welcome to ChiVO

Heidelberg

Focus Sessions

These transformed the tone of the meeting and emphasized that IVOA needs to interact vigorously with user communities

Datacube access was a major topic and is a major focus of the meeting that we start today

Software management: should IVOA somehow be more involved?

Status of IVOA

- Funding has always has its ups and downs

- The bedrock of the IVOA has always been the commitment, talent, and creativity of the individuals who participate in the Working Groups and Interest Groups

- I see no decline in that personal commitment and enthusiasm for the work that we do and the belief that IVOA work is valuable and worthwhile

Status of IVOA

- Enjoy Hawaii

- Let the games begin