

IVOA Exec Meeting: TM75

Tuesday, Mar06, 2018 @ 15:00 UTC

Notes: JE

Original: Mar12

Updated: Apr 10 – corrected few typos and included clarifications

Distribution to exec@ivoa.net

Present:

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Regrets:

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Glossary:

NOVA – Argentina Virtual Observatory <http://nova.conicet.gov.ar>
ArVO – Armenian VO <http://www.aras.am/Arvo/arvo.htm>
AstroGrid – UK VO initiative <http://www.astrogrid.org>
Aus-VO – Australian Virtual Observatory <http://aus-vo.org.au/>
BRAVO – Brazil Virtual Observatory <http://www.lna.br/bravo/>
China-VO – Chinese Virtual Observatory <http://www.china-vo.org>
ChiVO – Chile Virtual Observatory <http://www.chivo.cl>
CVO – Canadian Virtual Observatory <http://www1.cadc-ccda.hia-ihp.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/cvo/>
ESA-VO – European Space Agency Virtual Observatory <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/esdc>

Euro-VO – European Virtual Observatory <http://www.euro-vo.org>
GAVO – German Astrophysical Virtual Observatory <http://www.g-vo.org>
HVO – Hungarian Virtual Observatory <http://hvo.elte.hu>
JVO – Japanese Virtual Observatory <http://jvo.nao.ac.jp/index-e.html>
OV-France – VO-France <http://www.france-vo.org>
RVO – Russian Virtual Observatory <http://www.inasan.ru/eng/rvo/>
SA³– South Africa Astroinformatics Alliance <http://www.sa3.ac.za>
SVO – Spanish Virtual Observatory <http://svo.cab.inta-csic.es>
UkrVO – Ukraine Virtual Observatory <http://www.ukr-vo.org/>
USVOA – US Virtual Observatory Alliance <http://usvoa.cfa.harvard.edu>
VO-India – Indian Virtual Observatory <http://vo.iucaa.ernet.in/~voi/>
VObs.it – The Italian Virtual Observatory <http://vobs.astro.it/>
IVOA – International Virtual Observatory Alliance <http://www.ivoa.net>

Agenda:

1. Roll Call and Agenda
2. Minutes of [TM74](#)
3. Review of Exec [Actions](#)
4. Project Reports [Significant Events Only]
5. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Item]
6. Overall TCG status
7. Update to the main IVOA web page with an IVOA Vocabularies Page. (M Louys).
 - See test page: <http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/VocabularyTestPage>
8. Overall CSP status
9. Term Expirations in Northern Spring 2018 Meeting (see list below)
10. Update on Northern Spring 2018 - Victoria, Canada (May28 – Jun01)
11. Exec change for Brazil (Paula Coelho->Rafael Santos)
12. Open Universe Meeting follow-up (NGO follow-up)
13. IVOA article in the [AstroGeoInformatics](#) book in frame of the [BigSkyEarth](#) project (Areg Mickaelian)
14. Future Interops
 - Northern Autumn 2018 – College Park, MD (Nov 8-10); (ADASS Nov11-18)
 - Northern Spring 2019 – Paris, Fr (May 2019)
15. AOB
16. Date of Next Exec Meeting
17. Review of Action Items

Appendices – reports from VO projects see the wiki at:
<http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingTM75>

NEXT EXEC MTG: *Telecon is May 08 @ 15:00 UTC*

1. Roll Call and Agenda

The participants' names were recorded.

2. **Minutes of TM74**

The TM74 minutes were accepted.

3. **Review of Actions**

Action 74-1: Exec - Send input on Chair/Vice Chair positions for May to PF/MA – **WORKING** – *Exec encouraged to send further inputs to Pepi/Mark*

Action 74-2: PF find the date for the January COPUOS meeting; Need few slides of who we are – Pepi and Mark will work. **DONE** – *MA gave a presentation at the UN in January. PF & MA worked on the presentation and received advice from Rudy Albrecht & Piero Benvenuti. MA noted that at this point the IVOA has been mentioned in UN documents and that is good visibility. The statements are along the lines that the IVOA is the standards body for Interoperability in Astronomy.*

Action 74-3: FP look into NGO with Italy. **DONE** – *FP sent email to the Exec mailing list on Mar04 outlining the steps taken so far and reviewed those points in the meeting. Email excerpt:*

Within the Italian legislation an NGO (ONG - Organizzazione non Governativa) is a non-profit organisation (ONLUS - Organizzazione Non Lucrativa di Attività Sociale) concentrating its activities on cooperation to development. An ONLUS can instead have a wider scope (among the topics which can be of IVOA interest: education, promotion of culture, and scientific research). To become an ONLUS one has to formally constitute an association (defining a statute or constitutive act), register the association and wait to be approved as an ONLUS (and hence obtain fiscal advantages). This should be quite feasible, although not extremely fast. Getting recognised as an ONG requires a further step (which might be difficult given the requirement of working on cooperation to development).

There is another possibility: Trieste is the location of an International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), an international organisation funded by UNESCO and the Italian Government; on January 30th I had a meeting with the ICTP vice-Director. He suggested the possibility of establishing IVOA as an independent organisation directly under the auspices of UNESCO. He wanted to be sure that there is no overlap with IAU, so I called Piero Benvenuti, the IAU Secretary General, who confirmed that IVOA is complementary with respect to the current activities of the IAU, and that an independent IVOA organisation could be profitably interfaced with Commission B2 "Data and Documentation" of the IAU Division B. Having been re-assured on the lack of conflicts between IAU and IVOA, ICTP is willing to support IVOA in a path for becoming an UNESCO-endorsed organisation.

Discussion centered on 3 options going forward that FP highlighted: UNESCO, NGO, or Do nothing.

PF noted that US members will need to check with their agencies if participation under UNESCO is a possible way forward. MA noted that there was an invitation to the IVOA to be present at COPUOS and he asked: Do we really need a status? PF noted that we should discuss with Piero first, then establish a solid working relation with IAU, and then we may be OK as is. MA noted that we could work this when in Vienna for the IAU. AK noted that he is willing to help in any way. PF encouraged AK to talk about it with Piero at

the upcoming Vienna meeting. FG noted that the "IAU appears above our standardization process to be used as a host if needed at some point. On the other hand, several of us have maintained a working group including virtual observatory." FP noted that the IAU organization is such that IVOA can only propose to be considered within Division B, as a Working Group or something similar; in his opinion IVOA would need a higher visibility, thus the creation of an independent formal organization would be advisable. **PF suggested that the group revisit this topic in Victoria.**

Action 73-1: MA – IAU Booth organization and planning – **WORKING** – MA reported that sign up for the IAU booth is completed and now efforts need to turn to planning booth activities, handouts, staffing (10-15 to cover 2 weeks), etc. His plan is to start organizing and solidify plans in Victoria.

Action 71-3: Exec – Major Data Centers look into cost sharing IAU booth. – **DONE** – MA welcomed further help because there are audio & visual charges and handouts still to cover.

Action 71-4: Exec – TCG asking the Exec to identify a future lead for STC requirements. – **OPEN** – MG highlighted that the TCG is looking for a technical lead; PF/MA have had conversations with possible candidates. FG noted that this person would need endorsement of the Exec and suggested a session in Victoria to demonstrate that STC has become simplified and meaningful. JE noted that a telecom is needed to review current STC status, the effort looking forward, and the role of a technical scientist to help out. Exec, TCG, and possible science leads we noted as good attendees for the the telecom. JE took an action to organize. MA/MG to help with possible science lead invitations.

***New: Action 75-1:** JE – coordinate a telecom to review the current STC status, the effort looking forward, and the role of a technical scientist to help out. Include Mark C-D to present and coordinate with MA/MG to invite technical scientist to the telecom.

Action 70-2: BB – Organize email list of relevant people/groups for mailing/notification of IVOA News such as the IVOA Newsletter – **DONE** – BB noted that the action was completed and a list was sent to the Media group. **PF asked that the list be sent to the Exec as well. BB agreed to send.**

Action 70-3: Media group – Take first steps to organize what needs to be done with regard to Web Pages – **WORKING** – **J Budynekiewicz reported the following via email** - Not too much work has been done on the full site organization. Main focus has been on the front page; making sure we highlight the important / useful info from the home page.

Action 70-4: Media Group/CSP – Coordinate and report to the Exec with a proposal to address the IVOA Web Portal. – **WORKING** – **J Budynekiewicz reported the following via email** - The Media Group and CSP had a meeting end of January to discuss what the IVOA portal should be. Main ideas:

- Easy-to-find links to important information for VO newbies. Box links out into categories like Standards & Protocols, Tools & Services, Tutorials, Data, Publishing in the VO, etc.
- Technical blurbs: new standards/tools/services, upcoming meetings

- *Latest science publications done with VO technologies*

Action 69-2: Media Group/PF/MA/FG – Review/update IVOA Top Web page for content (exec member input) and addition of new media attributes (e.g., twitter, FB) by media group. – **WORKING** – **J Budynkiewicz reported the following via email** – *We decided that the front/home page of the IVOA website should be the portal page. IVOAastro has been tagged a lot in the past couple weeks on Twitter. We need to come up with some social media protocols / rules for the media group.*

***New: Action 75-2: JE** – coordinate a telecom with the Media group, Exec, and CSP to review actions from the Jun 2017 meeting and make plans for Victoria.

Action 65-2: PF/MA – Review Guidelines of the IVOA. Report findings/recommendations for update to Exec. – **DONE** – *PF/MA met at the January AAS meeting to discuss the action. Over all they concluded that the guidelines are at the right level for the organization. They are not very precise but that may be an advantage. As written, the guidelines enable the Exec to review topics as they arise and be flexible if needed. FG noted that flexible and informal was good and that they may need to get more formal in the future.*

4. **Project Reports [Significant Events]**

Project summaries are available at the following link:

<http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/IvoaExecMeetingTM75>

- FP noted that when he met with the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) regarding action 74-3 (see above) he learned ICTP has an activity to bring education to developing countries. ICTP is interested in using the VO for education. They will write a proposal that incorporates these ideas and present it. FP noted that any plan will be coordinated with the Edu IG and the Exec will be kept informed.
- BB noted that NAVO is working on their PPBE (Annual review by NASA) where activities for the next year are reviewed and evaluated. The presentation is scheduled for April 5 at NASA headquarters in Washington DC.
- PF noted that the USVOA had a face to face meeting at the January AAS meeting. The idea came up that we should write a White paper for the Decadal Survey review. PF also gave a talk at CfA that was well received and she encouraged others in the Exec to do that same at their organizations. PF offered her slides to anyone who might like them on request.
- MA noted that in the Euro VO, the ASTERICS project was in its 3rd year. A number of events are planned to get European partners ready for the next IVOA meeting. A Technical and Data Forum are planned over the next few months.
- CA noted that he participated in a meeting at STScl last week on Science Platforms. His impression is that the VO has a branding problem in the US and that PF's talk presented things much better. He suggested PF give her talk at ST. LSST was there and didn't buy into the negative discussion. FG noted that it was difficult to understand how this problem in the US came to be. BB noted that LSST is taking up the VO. He also noted they've been working on Professional outreach and making python interfaces available to help change the tone. Some folks thought the problem goes back to NVO and how the VO was oversold in the US.

***New: Action 75-3 – PF – Initiate an internal discussion on “VO in the US” then discuss with Exec in a splinter meeting in Victoria.**

5. Approval of new IVOA Recommendation(s) [Standing Items

NONE

6. Overall TCG Status

MG highlighted recent TCG activities

- There was a telecom on Feb 22.
- Two proposals were endorsed – XML & Discovering Collections
- Recs at RFC stage – VODML 1.0, VOSPACE 2.1, Reg Interfaces 1.1, VOResource 1.1, UCD1+ controlled vocabulary 1.23
- The TCG also feels it is time to update the Architecture documents that were last updated in 2010. The plan is to **review them in May** and decide an action going forward.

FG noted that data people use the architecture diagrams all the time and that they easily illustrate the FAIR principle. If the problem is that they are too simple, then the TCG needs to reconsider. FP also noted that the simple diagrams have been useful to describe the IVOA efforts. MG highlighted that L0 and L1 were fine but that the lower L2 were too busy. An overall review to bring them all up to date was needed too.

7. Update to the main IVOA web page with an IVOA Vocabularies Page. (M Louys).

- See test page: <http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/VocabularyTestPage>

The **Exec decided that the May Interop would be a better time to visit this proposal.**

8. Overall CSP Status

***New: Action 75-4 – BM – Consider a Focus Session in Victoria. Meeting schedule and invitations to consider if it is to go forward.**

9. Term Expirations in Northern Spring 2018 Meeting

Discussed in action portion of meeting (Action 74-1) – contact PF/MA with suggestions. Terms up for expiration highlighted below.

IVOA Terms expirations in May 2018:

("no extension" means the person has already been extended and term will end; "1 year extension" means a 1 year extension is available)

- WG: Applications: Pierre Fernique - Ch (no extension), Tom Donaldson (no extension) - V Ch
- WG: Data Access: Francois Bonnarel - Ch (no extension), Marco Molinaro (no extension) - V Ch
- WG: Registry: Markus Demleitner - Ch (no extension), Theresa Dower (1 year extension) - V Ch
- WG: Data Model: Mark Cresitello-Dittmar - Ch (1 year extension) , Laurent Michel (1 year extension) - V Ch

- WG: Grid & Web Services: Brian Major - Ch (1 year extension), Guiliano Taffoni (1 year extension) - V Ch
- WG: Semantics: Mireille Louys - Ch (1 year extension), Alberto Accomazzi (1 year extension) - V Ch
- IG: Data Curation & Preservation: Françoise Genova (no extension) - Ch
- IG: Operations: Tom McGlynn - Ch (1 year extension), Mark Taylor (1 year extension) - V Ch
- TCG: Matthew Graham - Ch, Patrick Dowler2 - V Ch
- Exec: Pepi Fabbiano - Ch, Mark Allen - V Ch

10. Update on Northern Spring 2018 - Victoria, Canada (May28-Jun01)

DS noted that the meeting web site for the May 2018 IVOA InterOp Meeting is available (Pat Dowler sent email on Feb 18):

<http://wiki.ivoa.net/twiki/bin/view/IVOA/InterOpMay2018MeetingtPage>

The normal meeting runs from May 28 to June 1 with the TCG face-to-face and an Exec meeting is on Sunday May 27.

Information on travel, venue and hotel bookings is available from the above meeting page. The LOC has arranged a room block at the venue (Laurel Point Hotel) and encourages participants to take advantage of this; please book via the link on the meeting page above.

11. Exec change for Brazil (Paula Coelho->Rafael Santos)

JE noted that Rafael came to the Exec meeting in Santiago for Paula. He was introduced to Exec members at that meeting. The Exec welcomed Rafael as the BRAVO representative on the Exec. JE will have him added to the Exec mail list.

12. Open Universe Meeting follow-up (NGO follow-up)

Discussion for this item was noted in Action 74-2 and 74-3 above.

13. IVOA article in the *AstroGeoinformatics* book in frame of the *BigSkyEarth* project (Areg Mickaelian)

AM provided the following information via email and provided details at the telecom. He noted: In frame of the **COST Action BigSkyEarth** (where 29 European countries are participating) we are preparing with Springer a book on **AstroGeoinformatics**. I am the Co-Editor and person in charge for the astronomical chapter. There will be papers on Astronomical Surveys, Catalogs, Databases, Archives, VOs. I would like to ask you and our community take responsibility for a **paper on IVOA activities**. It would be nice to give a summary of IVOA and a recent update. AM suggested there could be an overview and then a highlight from each individual project participating in the IVOA.

AM added that any calculations, modeling paper, visualization, astrostatistics, and a VO special article to highlight the activities of the VO were all welcome. OM added that a review on catalogs and machine learning were also topics to be considered.

The timeframe is 1 or 2 months. When asked about the paper length AM replied on order 15 pages. FG asked if Springer would have open access to the articles. AM thought yes but took an action to check. The book needs to go to the publisher in July.

***New: Action – 75-5:** AM – Confirm that the Springer publication of BigSkyEarth will be open access

***New Action – 75-6:** FG – Initiate outline for a VO paper; Identify author list – CA/PF/FP made initial offers

14. Future Interops

- Northern Autumn 2018 – College Park, MD (Nov 8-10); (ADASS Nov11-18)
- Northern Spring 2019 – Paris, Fr (May 2019)

15. AOB

NONE

16. Date of Next Exec Meeting

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