



IVOAT

Updating the IAU Thesaurus



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The IAU Thesaurus (IAU93)

- Created by an IAU committee for librarians
- Cross-checked by various IAU commissions
- Terms available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Russian
- Published by Shobbrock & Schobbrock (1993)
- Mentioned in IVOA SKOS vocabularies document (hence available in SKOS format)
- Very extensive
- Seriously out-of-date



IVOA

The IVOA and IAU93

Should the IVOA resurrect the IAU thesaurus as the IVOAT?

- IVOA is only logical party to do most of the work and show how it could be useful
- If updated, it would provide a large, standard vocabulary from which sub-vocabularies can be easily extracted and intercompared or translated
- Automatically provides a very simple ontology for a large variety of astronomical subject areas (e.g. variable stars, SN, galaxy types, instrumentation,...)
- Would provide a natural uniform labeling scheme for VO DataModels if modellers could be convinced (read coerced) to take their names from it.
- IAU commissions would be happy to rubber-stamp the work by the IVOA, especially if there is IAU commission input.



The IVOA Thesaurus (IVOAT)

- Proposed update of IAU thesaurus
- Preliminary English version available at www.astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de/~hessman/rdf
- Needs
 - preliminary double-checking by IVOA
 - Re-addition of languages (IAU political correctness)?
 - Use of an online platform for editing by representatives from IAU commissions: e.g. [PoolParty](#)
 - IVOA core team (Hessman, Gray,)
- Relatively simple task to get started
- Certainly not rocket science but would enable interesting rocket science (e.g. large scale surveys)