

IVOA Committee on Science Priorities  
Minutes of Meeting 20 May 2010

Present: M. Allen, C. Arviset, D. De Young (chair), G. Fabbiano, F. Genova, A. Kembhavi, G. Lemson, M. Ohishi, P. Padovani, F. Pasian

The two science priority projects that have come under CSP responsibility were briefly reviewed. These are the “SED builder” and the capability to search for classes/lists of objects. In response to the request from the TCG, the CSP has identified persons who will act as primary coordinator and CSP liaison for each of these. Evanthia Hatziminaoglou will be the coordinator for the SED project, with liaison with Paolo Padovani, and Mark Allen will be the contact and coordinator for the “search for classes/list of objects” project.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to describing and defining the processes that the CSP will use in its interaction with the TCG and the IVOA in general as these and other (future) projects evolve.

1. First, the Exec must approve proposed projects. This discussion and approval will also serve as an initial notification to the individual national projects of what projects have been approved.
2. The TCG then discusses these projects and identifies a preliminary list of the relevant WGs and IGs that will be involved in defining the needed standards and structures.
3. The CSP then identifies one or more individuals, either inside or outside the CSP, who are willing to act as a liaison between and TCG and the CSP and to act as a coordinator of progress on the project. Because there is no single person on the TCG that serves as a contact point for a given project, this CSP liaison plays a crucial coordinating role. The liaison will communicate with all the relevant WG and IG chairs, will organize any initial telecons, and may organize one or more subsequent face-to-face meetings or one day workshops as the project progresses. Needless to say, the TCG Chair and the CSP Chair need to be informed at all levels as well, and the current CSP liaisons should also be invited to attend the TCG telecons and meetings and to present short progress reports at these meetings.
4. In addition, this liaison will act as a communicator and coordinator with any national projects who wish to become involved with the particular project and to solicit contributions from other national projects if they are needed. In addition, the national projects will be kept informed of progress on these projects via the CSP twiki page, plus additional contacts via the liaison as needed. If a national project wishes to participate in a particular CSP project, contact should be made with the relevant CSP liaison.

It was agreed that there should be no more than 3 or 4 CSP projects in active development at any one time. It was also agreed that the two projects now underway is a good number for now, given the “early learning curve” state of this overall process.

A final topic was the manner in which new initiatives are to be discovered by the CSP. There are many possible inputs for this, including VO schools, various VO science advisory bodies, and other outreach activities. A very important source of information

about coming areas of emphasis in astronomy research are the periodic large scale reviews which are carried out by various high level national and supranational committees, such as the AstroNet review and the US Decadal Survey. In addition, the various data centers have information about the demands of their users, and these organizations should be polled periodically for current information on this topic

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