

NOAO is sponsoring a splinter session workshop on mining data from public archives at the January AAS meeting in Grapevine Texas. This workshop is one of a series sponsored by the US Gemini Office. These workshops have speakers from NOAO and Gemini and feature topics of importance to the Gemini user community. This year's topic came out of work by Andy Adamson (Gemini) and Letizia Stranghellini (NOAO). Publication statistics from Gemini and other major public observatories show that less than half of the programs scheduled result in a publication. Statistics at Gemini show this to be independent of instrument, mode of observation, and whether or not raw or pipeline reduced data are delivered. Even the percentage of the program completed does not have a strong impact for programs over 50 percent complete. The average time between observation and publication is two years with the number publications after two years declining roughly exponentially.

All data taken at public observatories enters the public record after the proprietary period expires. Observatories and their funding agencies are anxious for the data to be used. With observational astronomy transitioning from a strong dependence on PI driven research to survey science, the discovery and use of archival and survey data is becoming important. Archived data resulted from highly ranked peer reviewed proposals.

The workshop will start with observatory metrics and conclude with tools for mining archived data. Two of the major archives, MAST and IPAC will be reviewed. STScI aggressively promotes the use of its archived data through MAST. Survey and other data available through IPAC have become a fundamental part of many research programs. The splinter session features talks by Andy Adamson on Gemini publication statistics and the Gemini archive, Scott Fleming on MAST, Harry Teplitz on IPAC, and Knut Olsen on the NOAO DataLab project. DataLab is an ambitious project at NOAO to provide access to the large imaging surveys currently taking place with NOAO telescopes and with the intent to extend the archive to include other surveys and archived data. Data Lab includes tools well suited to mining both survey and archival data.

The splinter session will be held Friday January 6 from 2 - 3:30 PM in the San Antonio 4 room of the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center. You must be registered at the AAS meeting to attend but no extra registration or fees are required to attend. The room will accommodate 50 and seating will be on a first come basis.