**Swift Publication Statistics and the Comparison with Other Major Observatories**

Sandra Savaglio and Uta Grothkopf
Max-Planck-Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) / European Southern Observatory (ESO)

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**Summary**

Swift is a satellite aiming at detecting gamma-ray bursts (GRB), the most energetic stellar explosions. Launched at the end of 2004 and funded until 2016, it is equipped with y-ray, X-ray, and optical-UV instrumentation and discovers, localizes and collects data for more than hundred GRBs per year. We studied the bibliometrics produced with Swift data and found that it is one of the most successful medium-size missions ever. The production in 2005 was 24 papers, and has steadily increased to 328 in the year 2013, surpassing Keck. If this trend continues, Swift may soon be approaching the publication numbers of XMM-Newton and Chandra. Also the number of citations shows a great success for Swift. The Swift users community publishes mostly in ApJ/S (almost 50% of the papers) as well as A&A and MNRAS (approx. a quarter each). In the years 2005–2013, 47 papers (2.7%) were published in the high-impact journals Nature and Science.

**Methodology**

For all telescopes, but XMM and Chandra, papers are selected consistently. The system used by us is FUSE (Full-Text Search tool), developed and maintained by the ESO Library. It identifies papers that mention Swift. These are then carefully inspected to make sure that Swift data were used.

**Productivity: Number of Publications**

The first Swift data papers were published in 2005, only a few months after the launch. With a continuous increase, Swift produced 328 papers in 2013, 50% more than Gemini and three times as many as Subaru, and surpassed Keck (Fig. 1 and 2).

**Impact: Number of Citations**

We obtained citations of HST, VLT, Gemini, Subaru, and Keck data papers for publication years 2005–2013. Fig. 3 shows that Swift papers on average are cited as often or more frequently than papers from other major observatories (Fig. 3).

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**Swift Journal Distribution**

The journal distribution of Swift, VLT, Keck and HST papers 2005–13 are all distinct. With regard to ApJ/S and A&A, the behavior of the Swift community is similar to that of HST users. The fraction of papers in the high-impact journals Nature and Science is 2.7% for Swift, 3.4% for Keck and below 2% for VLT and HST for these years (Fig. 4).

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*Fig. 1: Total number of refereed papers 2005–2013 for Swift and other observatories. The methods used for Chandra and XMM (dashed lines) are different from the others. In the comparison, strictly speaking their numbers should be considered as upper limits.*

*Fig. 2: Number of refereed papers for the first 9 years of publication. Years indicated next to the facilities. Symbols as in Fig. 1.*

*Fig. 3: Citations/paper of Swift, HST, VLT, Gemini, Subaru and Keck papers published 2005–2013.*

*Fig. 4: Journal distribution of Swift, VLT, Keck and HST papers 2005–2013.*