Use of Telescope Statistics by Observatories

Publications, Citations, and the H Index

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Overview

- Telescope statistics
- Methods overview
- Introducing the *h* index in telescope stats
- Use of bibliometrics by observatories

Telescope Statistics

- Publications, citations, bibliometric analyses
- Scientific impact of facilities
- Funding authorities
- Comparison with other facilities

Common Methods of Evaluation

	Good	Bad
# Publications	productivity	no impact
# Citations	impact	can be inflated
"High-Impact Papers"	balanced	difficult to find

New measure: h index

- Jorge E. Hirsch, UC San Diego
 Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. vol. 102, 16569 (2005)
- Aim: quantify an individual's scientific research output

Definition

A researcher with index h has h papers with at least h citations.

index h = highest number of papers a scientist has that have each received at least that number of citations

h index

50 papers, 30 have 30 or more citations each: h index = 30

How to find it:

- list of all papers
- · ranked by citation count
- h: # citations = rank #

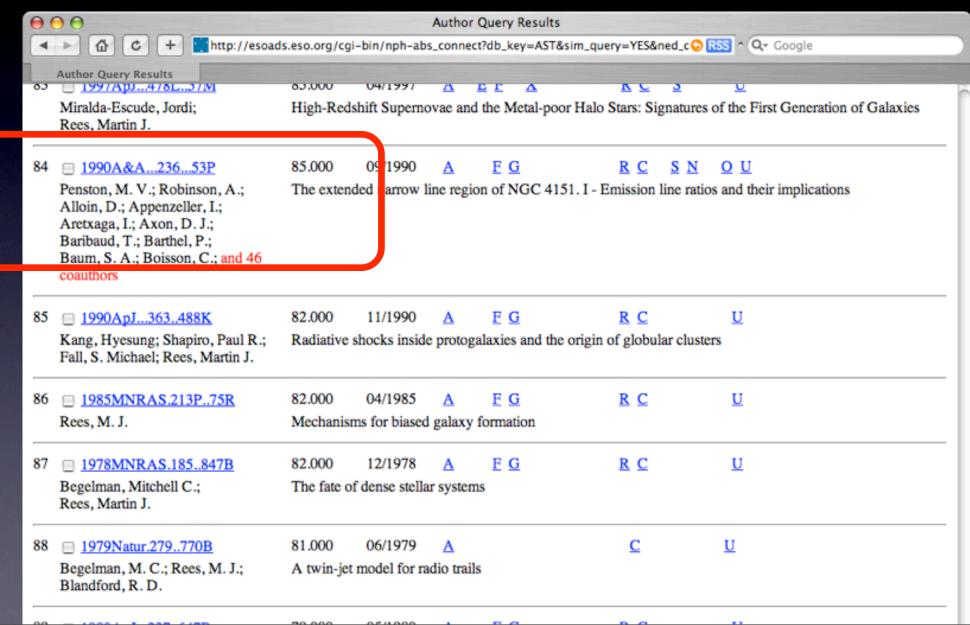
Finding h with the ADS

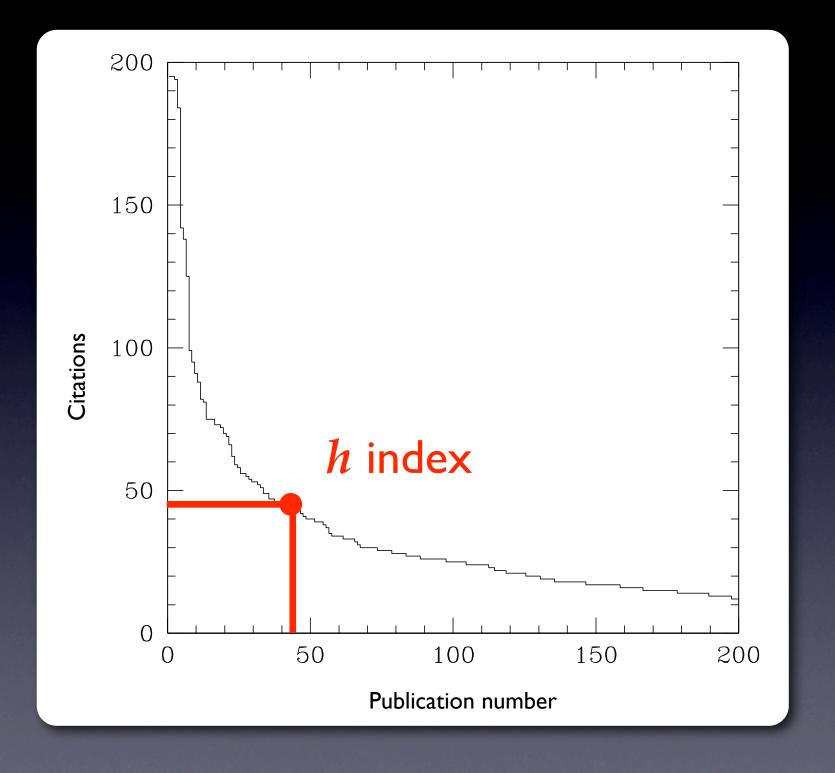
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Finding h with the ADS

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Finding h with the ADS





Common Methods of Evaluation

	Good	Bad
# Publications	productivity	no impact
# Citations	impact	can be inflated
"High-Impact Papers"	balanced	difficult to find
h index	productivity + impact	determined by years of operation

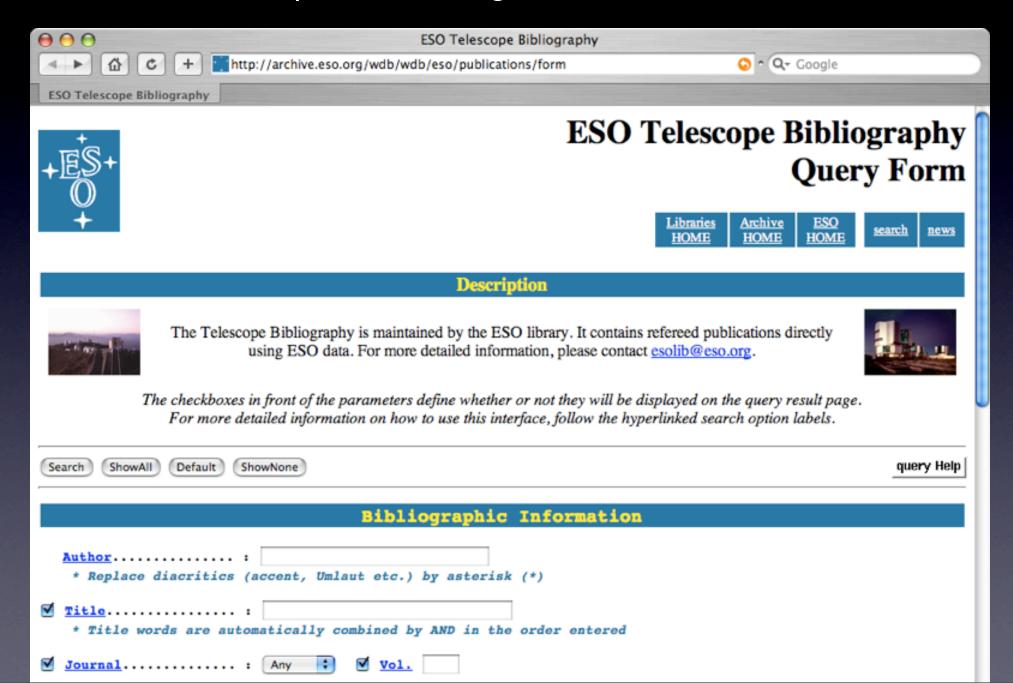
Applying h to observatories

Methodology:

- collect papers that use VLT, La Silla, CFHT, HST, Keck, or Gemini data
- ESO papers: retrieve citations through ESO telescope bibliography
- others: feed bibcodes into ADS
- sort by descending citations
- find h index

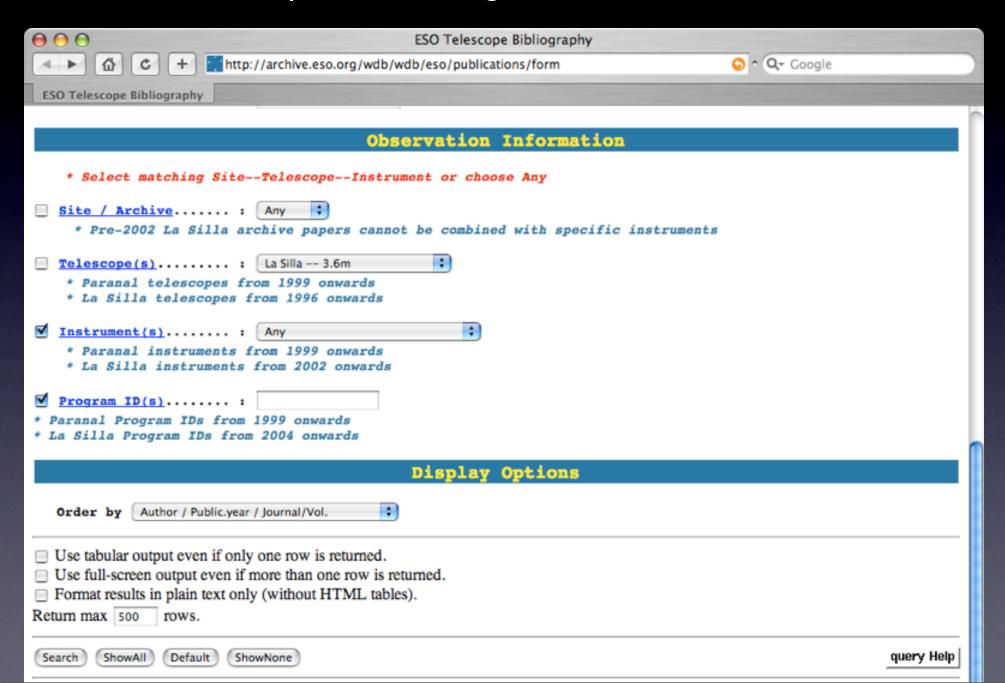
ESO Libraries homepage / ESO telescope bibliography

http://www.eso.org/libraries/telbib.html

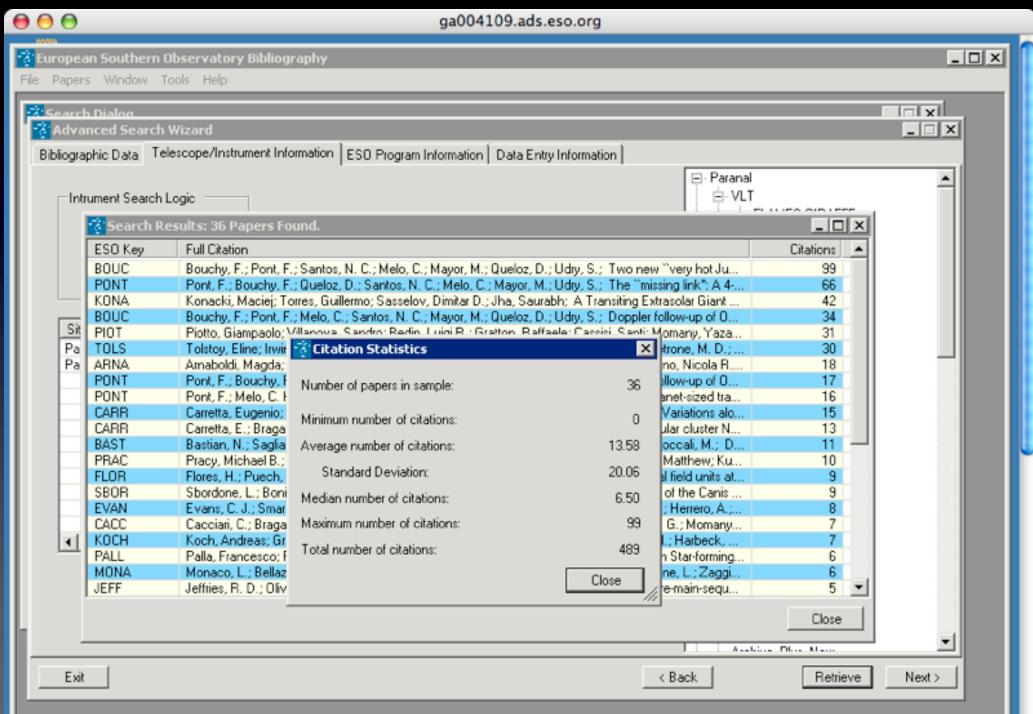


ESO Libraries homepage / ESO telescope bibliography

http://www.eso.org/libraries/telbib.html



ESO telescope bibliography, librarians' interface



ADS: HST, CFHT

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Entry Date:

ADS: ESO – no search on telescopes or instruments

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Our Sample

Telescope bibliographies made available by observatories

CFHT	1980 - 2005
HST	1991 - 2005
Keck	1996 - 2005
La Silla	1996 - 2005
VLT	1999 - 2005
Gemini	2000 - 2005

Comparisons

Beware!

Telescope statistics are **NEVER** totally comparable

Procedures

- criteria for paper selection not uniform
- methodologies for building telescope bibliographies vary

Telescopes

- ground-based / space-based observatories
- different apertures, different wavelengths

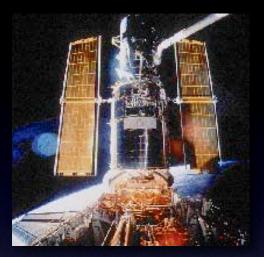
h index

		h index
CFHT	1980 - 2005	94
HST	1991 - 2005	131
Keck	1996 - 2005	105
La Silla	1996 - 2005	89
VLT	1999 - 2005	69
Gemini	2000 - 2005	26

h index



Timeline (of our sample)













1980 CFHT 1991 HST 1996 Keck La Silla 1999 VLT 2000 Gemini

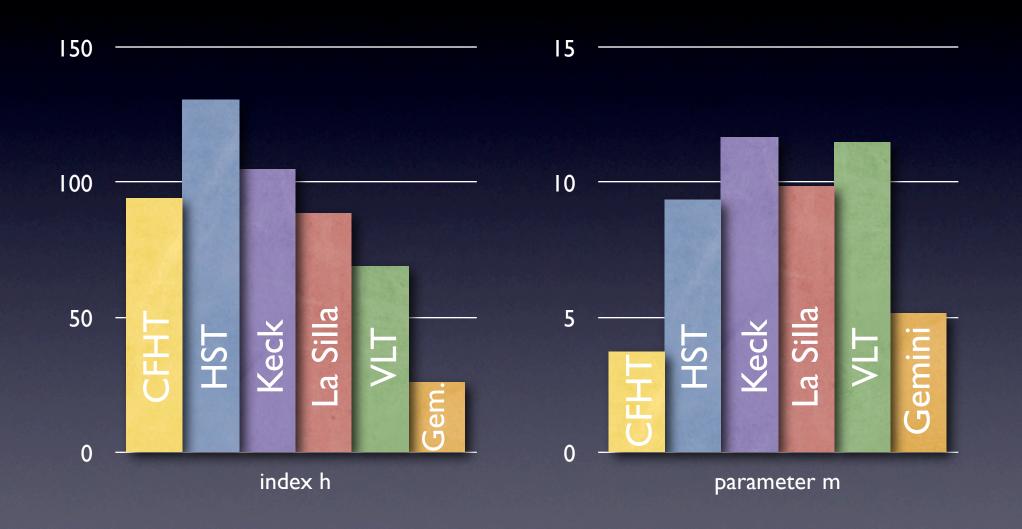
Parameter m

- m = h divided by number of years of operation (Hirsch 2005)
- h index 20 after 20 years $\rightarrow m = 1$ h index 40 after 20 years $\rightarrow m = 2$

Years since first paper / h / m

		Years since first paper	h	m
CFHT	1980 - 2005	25	94	3.76
HST	1991 - 2005	14	131	9.36
Keck	1996 - 2005	9	105	11.67
La Silla	1996 - 2005	9	89	9.89
VLT	1999 - 2005	6	69	11.5
Gemini	2000 - 2005	5	26	5.2

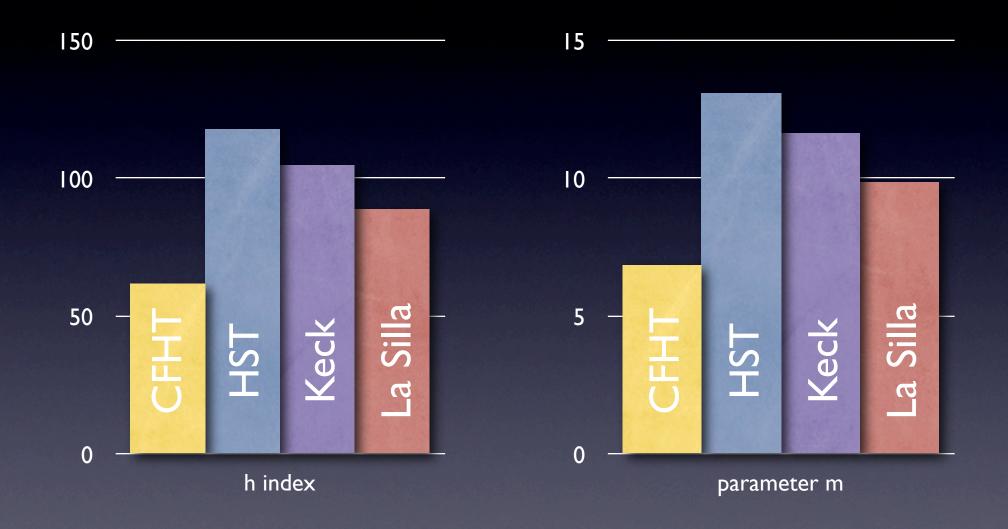
h and m since first paper



1996 - 2005 / h / m

		# years	h	m
CFHT	1996 - 2005	9	62	6.89
HST	1996 - 2005	9	118	13.11
Keck	1996 - 2005	9	105	11.67
La Silla	1996 - 2005	9	89	9.89

h and m 1996 - 2005



Conclusions h index

- Advantages of h index:
 - combines productivity and impact
 - (relatively) easy to find using the ADS
 - not sensitive to extreme values
- Disadvantages:
 - determined by # years of operation
 - needs to be combined with m for comparison

Telescope Statistics Questionnaire

Use of statistics by observatories

http://www.eso.org/libraries/telstats-questionnaire.html

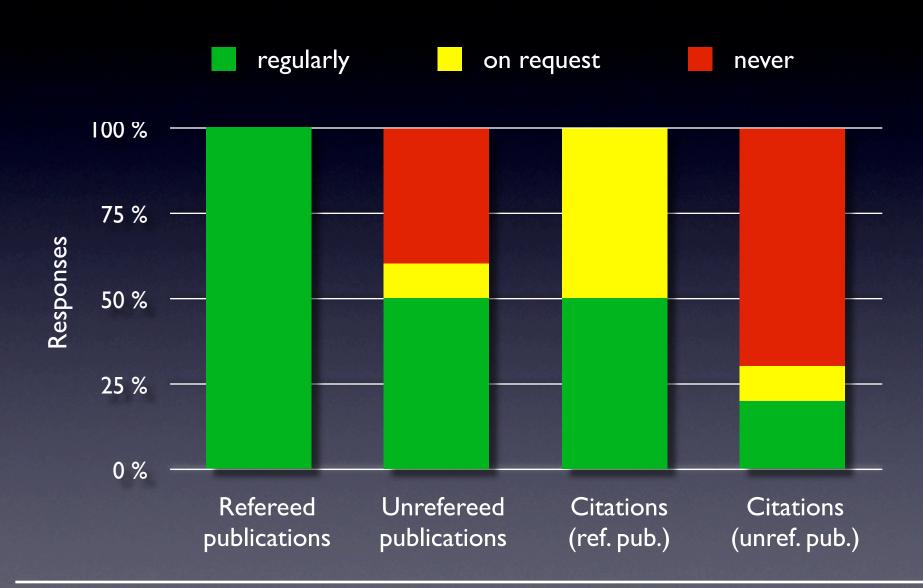
Results:

- CFHT, Gemini, ING, Keck, NRAO, Subaru, (ESO)
- Chandra, HST, XMM Newton

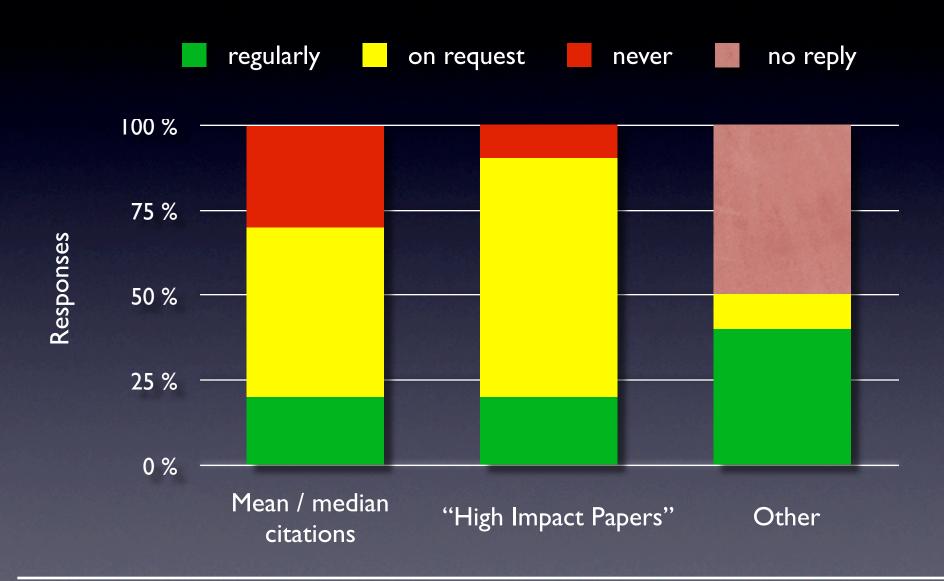
Who compiles the bibliography and derives statistics?

Librarians (occasional help from astronomers)	ESO, Gemini, NRAO
Data archive specialists	Chandra
Team of librarians, secretary, astronomers	CFHT, HST, ING, Keck, Subaru, XMM

Which Statistics? How often?



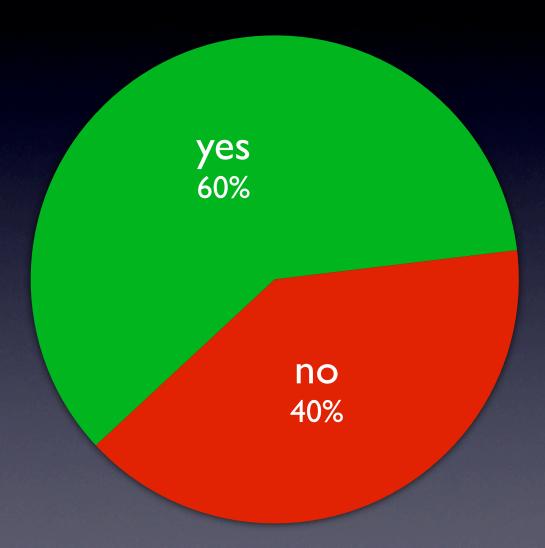
Mean/median Cites - "HIP" - Others



Which other Statistics?

Average	Publications / citations per instrument, program type, cycle, orbit etc.	
Ranking	Most productive instrument, program, individual author etc.	
"HIP"	across observatories: STScI	
h index	internally: ESO across observatories: ESO+STScl (LISA proc.)	

Comparisons with other Observatories?



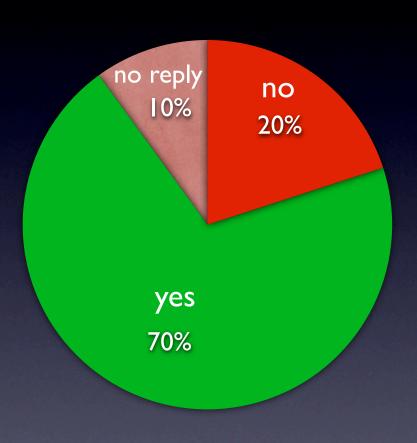
Facility/data set identifiers helpful?

• Yes, but...

...only if used widely and reliably

- Incentives for authors
- Mandatory use

Centralized compilation?



By whom?

- CDS, "Worldwide VO", IAU...
- not one single institution
- decentralized team

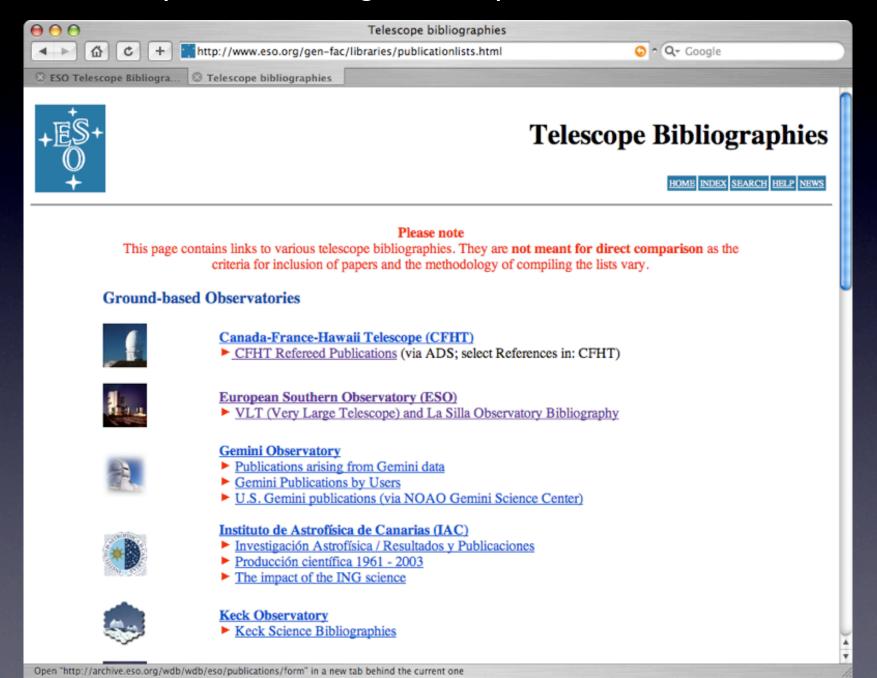
Bibliographies publicly available?

Dedicated webpage or through ADS (Filter)

Collection of publication lists at ESO Library

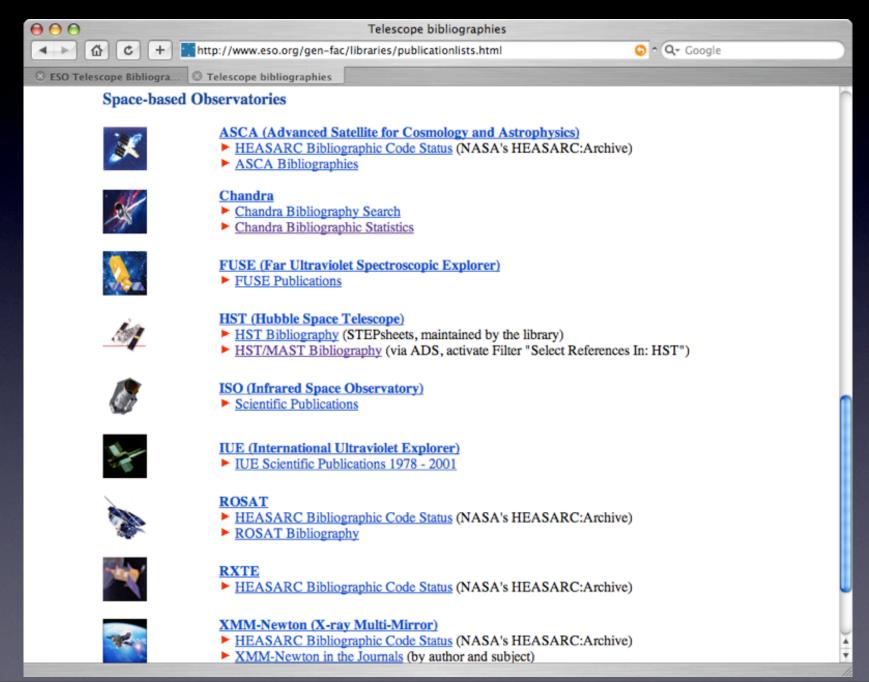
ESO Libraries homepage / Other telescope bibliographies

http://www.eso.org/libraries/publicationlists.html



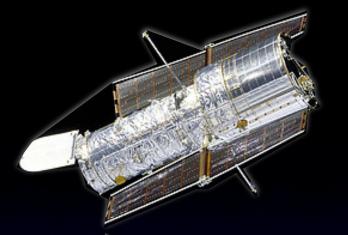
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http://www.eso.org/libraries/publicationlists.html





Prospects



- Better coordination of selection criteria and methodologies
- Meeting ?



