# Improvement of Service Searching Algorithm in the JVO Portal Site

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#### 1. An Ocean of VO

- The Virtual Observatory (VO) is a gigantic database for astronomy, and would hide treasure ships that enable us to unveil mysteries of the universe.
- Experts in VO can salvage them.
- But new comers often lose their way in a sea of VO; they don't know how to get to their interested data...

#### 2. JVO's Goal

- ➤ Our (= Japanese VO team: JVO) goal:
  - ➤ To make VO much more friendly to everyone, including experts in VO.
- Now working on implementing a smart algorithm to support user's search easily and quickly in our portal site.
- Report our approach and the current status.

#### 3. Observation versus VO

- A standard procedure of an observation...
  - 1. Choose targets,
  - 2. Select a telescope and its instruments according to the nature of the targets, the flux in the observational wavebands, etc,
  - 3. Observation,
  - 4. Data analysis.

Astronomers are familiar with telescopes and instruments!

- > A possible procedure in VO...
  - 1. Choose targets,
  - Select VO services
     (cf. selection of a telescope and instruments),
  - 3. Send a request and get the results
  - Perform quick looks and select interested data to download (cf. observation),
  - 5. Data analysis.

Very similar to real observations, but how can *astronomers who are new to*VO find useful VO services?

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# 4. Strategy

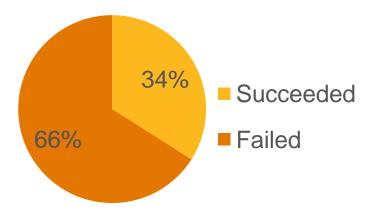
- Astronomers don't know much about VO services well, but they are familiar with telescopes and instruments.
- ➤ Bridging the gap will improve the data service functionality and usability!

The problem is how to construct the correspondence relations between services and telescopes /instruments...

# 5. Generation of a Dictionary (1)

- Two important keywords in the resource metadata:
  - > Facility: Telescope,
  - > Instrument.
- But they are not always filled in most cases...
  - We can create a telescope dictionary based on items holding the two keywords.
  - Can we automatically reconstruct the keywords from titles and descriptions with the dictionary?

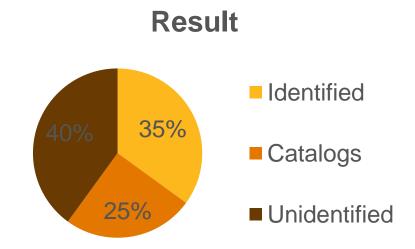
#### Result



34% items holds or can be reconstructed only telescope names, but not instruments.

# 6. Generation of a Dictionary (2)

- Does manual modification of the auto-generated dictionary improve the success rate?
- Why are there so many services that cannot be identified the telescopes of?



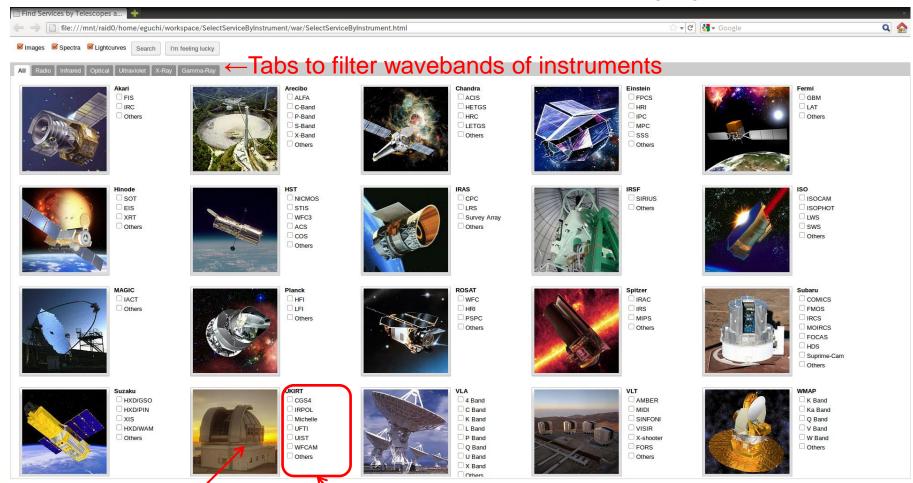
- ➤ The manual modification contributes only 1% improvement.
- Most catalogs have little information about telescopes.
- Most of remains (unidentified) are services for cataclysmic variables with minor telescopes.
- Cannot recover the information of instruments...

The algorithm using a dictionary succeeded to reconstruct the telescope keyword.

# 7. User Interface (1)

- We adopt a manually-generated dictionary because we can include arbitrary information about telescopes and instruments (wavebands, etc).
- Do you think it is easy to use if you can select telescopes and instruments visually?
- For a fast development, we adopt Google Web Toolkit.

# 8. User Interface (2)



Arbutton to check/uncheck all the instruments with a picture of the telescope

Instruments for the telescope

1920 pixels × 1080 pixels

## 9. User Interface (3)

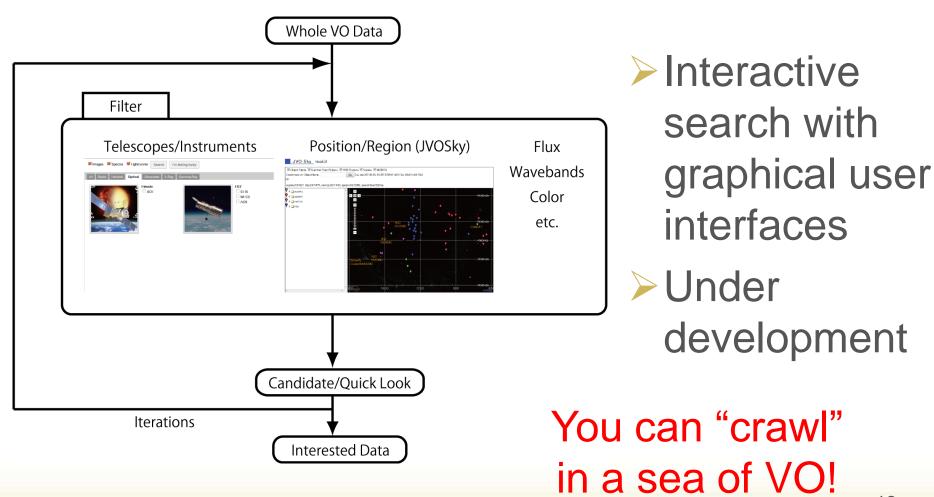


#### It is a very smart user interface, isn't it?

#### 10. VO Crawler

- We have been developing VO Crawler (see Komiya et al. at the conference: P071).
- ➤ It provides much simpler access to the whole VO data in the world.
- This also means that we can filter data with not only the metadata but also themselves, e.g., the range of the wavelengths.

#### 11. Combination of New Features



## 12. Summary

- We JVO team are aggressively developing new functionalities which will evolve VO into a very powerful tool for astronomy.
- > These will be available in a few months.
- So, please check our portal site jvo.nao.ac.jp/portal/ frequently!