

News from the ESO Science Archive Facility

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Latest developments of the ESO archive including timely access to proprietary data, a new science-oriented query form and new data releases are presented.

PI access to own proprietary data

As of 1 April 2008, Principal Investigators (PIs) can access their own raw proprietary data at any time through the ESO archive. This new feature is an upgrade of the current User Portal system released last year (see Tacconi-Garman 2007). To this end, the archive system was modified and the archive web interfaces were adapted to reflect this change. The results of archive web searches are now colour coded. Datasets for which the proprietary period is over are highlighted in green and are publicly available. Datasets that are still proprietary are highlighted in red and can only be downloaded by the corresponding PI. The data request itself requires authentication through the User Portal. Note that anybody can request proprietary data, e.g. the datasets highlighted in red can also be requested by non PIs, but that only PIs will be able to actually download them. This mode was made necessary to allow all users, irrespective whether they are PIs of ESO data or not, to freely browse the ESO archive without any prior authentication.

PIs with proprietary data should note two important items with regard to accessing their data via the ESO archive:

First, an archive query may return a result for data which are not yet in the archive (thus currently unavailable for download). This is caused by the fact that: (a) the information returned for queries is derived from FITS header information which is available very soon after the data file has been created; and (b) the ingest of the data into the archive can only be done after they are physically transferred to Garching. This latter process typically takes 10–14 days from the time the data were obtained. If a data request is made for data that appear in a query result, but are not yet in the archive, those files requested will not be available and the

requester will be informed that they have N status ("Not available"). The request will be closed and the user should simply try again after waiting for an appropriate time.

Second, the one-year proprietary period for the data requested begins when the corresponding archive request is successfully completed (i.e. data files are made available to the requester). This is consistent with the policy that whenever data are made available to the PI (e.g. through a DVD shipment), then the proprietary clock starts.

Science-oriented query form

A new archive query form was released in May 2008 as a common entry point to search among all the collections of both imaging and spectral ESO advanced data products. See http://archive.eso.org/eso/eso_archive_adp.html.

For the first time at ESO, it is now possible to search the archive by high-level astrophysical parameters: redshift, object class, radial velocity, and wavelength. In addition, dynamic consistency cross-checks of user input are performed on the search screen to restrict the input to what is actually correct for the search. This new interface provides users with a unified access to all advanced data product releases and sets the path towards a scientific search engine. This new service supersedes the query form for only spectral advanced data products released in October 2007.

New data releases

Several major scientific data releases have taken place through the ESO archive over the past few months and are summarised here.

Science Demonstration (SD) data from the Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics Demonstrator (MAD, see Marchetti et al., 2007) were released through the ESO archive in February 2008. MAD SD runs took place in November 2007 and January 2008 and largely follow the philosophy applied to the Science Verification of the VLT instruments.

The GOODS/VIMOS spectroscopy data (version 1.0) was released in February 2008. It contains the results of the first half of the GOODS/VIMOS spectroscopic campaign of the ESO/GOODS large programme 171.A-3045 (PI C. Cesarsky) using two different grisms (Low resolution Blue, 3500–6900 Å, and Medium resolution Orange, 4000–10000 Å) between 2004 and 2006. 3312 fully reduced and calibrated spectra of 3121 unique sources down to i_{775} (AB) magnitude of 25, along with a catalogue of 2000 redshifts, of which 985 are classified 'high quality' (grade A), are being released. The 1-sigma redshift accuracies are ~ 300 km/s and ~ 200 km/s for the low- and the medium-resolution observations, respectively. A full description of the survey can be found in Popesso et al., 2008.

Version 1.1 of the GaBoDS WFI data release (Hildebrandt et al., 2006) took place in March 2008. As part of the ESO Deep Public Survey (DPS), imaging observations were carried out in *U, B, V, R, I* bands, using the Wide Field Imager (WFI) mounted at the 2.2-m telescope at La Silla. This survey consisted of three square degrees in three well-separated regions (Deep1, Deep2 and Deep3) split into four adjacent WFI pointings (named a, b, c, d). GaBoDS combines the data from this survey with data from most other ESO programmes that coincide with the original DPS regions, up until December 2006. Compared to the original release from April 2006, there are five more images plus associated weight maps. The new images include a U/38 image of the field Deep2c and U/50 and B/123 images in the Deep1c field. Additionally, V/89 and I/203 images of the Deep1c field now include more data resulting in increased depth.

For the latest information about the ESO archive, or to subscribe to the archive RSS feed, please see <http://archive.eso.org/>. For any questions or comments contact us at archive@eso.org.

References

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 Marchetti, E., et al. 2007, *The Messenger*, 129, 8
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