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Open House at ESO

On Saturday, October 12, 1991, ESO Headquarters in Garching again opened its doors to the public. More than 2000 persons took the opportunity to visit the organization and learn about science and technology at our organization; this corresponded to 1 person every 10 seconds. There was a lot of interest and curiosity, especially about the VLT and the Hubble Space Telescope, the latter being presented by the ESA/ESO Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility, installed at ESO HQ. Visitors of all ages could choose among various attractions; they saw some of the ESO video films, were introduced to the virtues of large CCDs, admired the rear-

lighted Milky Way panorama and finally filled out the "Star-Quiz" to participate in the lottery with ESO books and posters as main prizes.

About 20 ESO staff members took part in the preparations for this event



Astronomy from Large Databases II

Strasbourg Observatory – 14–16 September 1992

A follow-up event to the 1987 conference on "Astronomy from Large Databases" (Eds. F. Murtagh and A. Heck, ESO Conf. and Workshop Proc. 28) is timely. The area has seen much progress. "Astronomy from large Databases II" will allow archival research results from various experiments to be reviewed.

Much has happened in the area of astronomical databases in recent years. HST is in full operation; some such as EXOSAT have stopped growing and now function for retrieval purposes only; NED has come into being; etc. Hundreds, or even thousands, of papers have been based on data retrieved from archives. Archived material from various sources is increasingly combined with data obtained through joint observational campaigns involving ground-based and space-borne experiments working in different wavelength ranges.

Technically databases have evolved. SIMBAD 3.0 is fully operational. User interfaces now include windows and point-and-click access mechanisms, hypertext and hypermedia. Commercial products have considerably improved. Distributed databases are now highly relevant, pointing to the important role of networks. CD-ROMs and other storage media are more and more widely used. The 1987 conference predates the births of ISIS and ADS, among many other developments.

Scientific Organizing Committee:

M.F. A'Hearn (University of Maryland, College Park); P. Benvenuti (ST-ECF, Garching); R. Bonnet (ESA, Paris); M. Crézé (Strasbourg Observatory) (Chairman); R. Giacconi (STScI, Baltimore); B. Hauck (Institut d'Astronomie, Lausanne) A. Heck (Strasbourg Observatory) (Proceedings Editor); G. Helou (IPAC, Pasadena); F. Murtagh (ST-ECF, Garching) (Proceedings Editor); S. Nishimura (NAOJ, Tokyo); G. Riegler (NASA, Washington); P. Giommi (ESRIN, Frascati); M. Strickman (NRL, Washington); P.A. Vanden Bout (NRAO, Charlottesville); H. van der Laan (ESO, Garching); and H.-U. Zimmermann (MPE, Garching).

The Proceedings will be published by the European Southern Observatory.

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Fionn Murtagh, Space Telescope – European Coordinating Facility, European Southern Observatory. Tel.: + 498932006298; Fax: + 498932006480; E-mail: fmurtagh@eso.org, murtagh@scivax.stsci.edu.

and were present during seven hectic hours to guide the many visitors. There was a continuous, very lively interaction and by the end of this long day, the good result lit quite a few smiles on otherwise worn-out faces.