Resource and service metadata for the Virtual Observatory

Comments on Version 5 (October 2002)
Baltimore interoperability meeting (October 17, 2002)
Notes from F. Genova

- Implementation neutral. Dublin Core mechanism to describe high level metadata

- To be included: date of publication

- For multiple sources, include a list rather than multiple entries

- Creator: should include a logo to permit propagation of branding

- Publication of an archive: describe what a publication is; value is a single date (last revision)

- Version of the service should be included. e.g. Web Service running SExtractor. Books have edition dates in Dublin core, cf. version of code/version of service

- Objective: find a resource of interest; curation: who is responsible for the resource (e.g. GSFC)

- It is difficult to make a difference between resource and service. e.g. resource URL/service URL. Human readable/computer readable?

- VOTypes: also Outreach. Another type is 'material of potential interest but not yet ready'

- Outreach: Services which can be understood grade (or age) n and lower.

- Coverage: compatible with Simple Image Access Protocol and Space-Time coordinates document. Can be Northern hemisphere, all sky (e.g. HST). Need to combine boxes. The answer may depend on the question and may be no/maybe (e.g. all sky, 1% of sky, ...). Towards users: a snapshot of coverage; towards computers: a numerical representation of the sky. Similar requirement for bandpass: bounding box, spectral range, answers such as yes/maybe/no. The three aspects of coverage are rather analogous. Spectral coverage should be pre-defined, in a loosely defined way (?) e.g. soft X-ray; hard X-ray. wavelength/frequency energy?? e.g. Halpha, spectral bandpass, narrow/wideband

- General comment: one strong requirement is that it is easy enough for system managers to fill the form quickly. One page form. Keep it simple. but spatial, spectral, time resolution? I support UCD:X: cone search, etc

- Discovery URL – "google-type", "umbrella" registry: HEASARC links to 100 services, central site which points at many different services. Register each service separately would mean 100 updates. This is a high level description. A pointer can be given to the detailed description, service specific, e.g. a "UCD search service" provided by each registered service, at another level (e.g. SDSS has 1300 UCDs).

- Small university groups may want to participate.

- Entries can change their entries

- An exercise will be done by the AVO Interoperability Work Area (WA2) (European archives): objective is less than 10 minutes to fill the form; report difficulties, questions and comments

- IUA Astronomy Thesaurus: usability? updates?

- Next steps: one more iteration, start implementation. A topic for next interoperability meeting.