

Building the IVOA - Programatic Challenges

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The International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA; <http://www.ivoa.net/>) was formed in June 2002 with a mission to facilitate the international coordination and collaboration necessary for the development and deployment of the tools, systems and organizational structures necessary to enable the international utilization of astronomical data archives as an integrated and interoperating virtual observatory. By February 2006, the IVOA has grown to include 16 funded VO projects from Armenia, Australia, Canada, China, Europe, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This membership is now being expanded to include representation from projects constructing and planning new observatories and astronomical facilities, as well as emerging astronomical communities that seek to benefit from the global availability of VO facilities and technologies.

IVOA has been acting as a standardization body among above mentioned VO projects for their interoperation, and succeeded to adopt several recommendations. Some VO projects implemented such recommendations, and consequently succeeded to interoperate to each other. VO projects in Canada, Europe, France, Japan, Spain, the UK and the US have been connected successfully.

My talk will including practical approach adopted in IVOA and future prospects of VOs in the world.