

A journal for the astronomical computing community?



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Outline

- Introduction – Bob
- Discussion – Norman
- More information: www.roe.ac.uk/~rgm/bof.html

Why we might need a journal

Best discussed with reference to what
is good and bad about the ADASS
Conference Proceedings volumes

ADASS Proceedings: Pros

- **Only outlet for much astro computing material**
 - Astro journals publish only astro research
 - CS/IT journals don't want very astro-specific stuff

Who will publish our stuff?

- Abstracts from five 2009 ADASS papers sent to six journals to see whether they would consider them
- Journals
 - Astrophysical Journal
 - Monthly Notices
 - Astronomy and Astrophysics
 - (Experimental Astronomy)
 - Earth Sciences Informatics
 - CODATA Data Science Journal

Five papers

1. Bayesian methods for classifying transients
2. WorldWide Telescope progress report
3. IDL image processing pipeline
4. Java and HPC for Gaia
5. HEALPix in Aladin

Selected to span the range of papers at ADASS

Results reflect journal scope,
not quality of paper

Results

	ApJ ¹	MN ²	A&A ³	ESIn ⁴	DSJ
Bayesian transient classification	Y?	N	Y?	Y	Y
WWT progress report	N?	N	N?	Y	Y
IDL pipeline for image processing	Y?	N	?	N?	Y
Use of Java & HPC for Gaia	N	N	N	Y	Y
HEALPix in Aladin	Y?	N	N?	Y	Y

1. Supplements; in series also presenting science results
2. Software only if accompanied by science derived from it
3. Must be of interest to sizeable fraction of readership
4. "Astronomy informatics a sister domain to Earth Sci Inf"

Abstracts and full responses at www.roe.ac.uk/~rgm/bof.html

ADASS Proceedings: Pros

Is that true
in your
experience?

- **Only outlet for much astro computing material**
 - Astro journals publish only astro research
 - CS/IT journals don't want very astro-specific stuff
- Known resource
 - Likely readers know to look there – c.f. more generic science/computing journals

ADASS Proceedings: Cons


Jim's
discussion

- Out-of-date snapshot of fast-moving field
- Driven by annual cycle, not project milestones
- Unrefereed
 - Authors not pushed to explain, justify, acknowledge,...
 - **Limited value for authors' CV**
- Fixed lengths for articles
 - Some material doesn't get the treatment it deserves

How important is refereeing?

Summary

- Having only ADASS Proceedings means that
 - Some valuable material gets lost
 - Career progression is not being supported
- There is a good case for having a journal
- Open source e-journal management platforms exist
 - *Open Journal System* used for >6000 journals
 - Simplify submission, refereeing, publication, but will the community put in the effort to make this work?



Do you agree?

Questions for discussion

Do we need a new journal?

Where do you publish?

Can you publish all you want?

Have you been rejected by a mainstream astro journal?

Have you published in the CS/IT literature?

Does your CV need a journal?

If so, what should it be like?

What should its scope be?

E-journal and/or paper?

Independent or linked to publisher or learned society?

Linked with ADASS or not?

Refereed or not or partially?

Shows of hands: Do you think you would...

Read such a journal? Publish in such a journal? Cite papers in it?

Be prepared to referee papers? Be willing to help edit it?