

WP3-2 Technical Feedback on Data Publishing

Jonathan Tedds (IST),
Anita Richards (PCT) & Mike Watson (Board)

jat@star.le.ac.uk



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Online feedback to questionnaire

~19/45 non-advisors responded to online questionnaire

~2 responses by email

0 filled in paper version

BUT – lots of 1-to-1 detailed feedback recorded which will
be included in WP3-2 report



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Participants' background

- variety of different backgrounds
 - astronomers wishing to publish their own data
 - technical project team members with significant astronomical experience
 - software engineers
 - system administrators
- despite attempt to focus on large data centres we draw users with a very wide range of interests and requirements, *but...*

Programmers	System administrators	Astronomers
45%	45%	10%

Overview - What did you find most useful, and why?

- Overview of concepts, mechanisms, tools, standards and science examples
 - Most knew very little about the VO
- Following this with hands-on sessions using the tools available essential
- Elements deemed most successful were diverse
 - gaining an overview
 - then being able to try out a range of different VO publishing tools
 - identify tools matching requirements
 - opportunity to work directly with those already engaged with VO data publishing and development
 - see real working examples
 - identify relevant IVOA working groups and standards
 - catalogue publishing tools were the most popular in terms of number of attendees.



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Overview - What did you find least useful, and why?

- 1 or 2 participants: general overview not required
 - state when these will take place well in advance of the workshops
 - experienced users to join later
- significant time to assist those without datasets already in database
 - ensure we include database installation, data ingestion and management session(s)
 - particularly for those who want to publish smaller, private holdings
- 1 or 2 participants interested in simultaneous publishing theme/sessions
 - catalogues, images, spectra & VOevent
 - could arrange individually themed publishing workshops??
- Individual complaints
 - some tools limited only to certain operating systems (e.g. MEX limited to linux only)
 - too much to take in during one week



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Overview – general organisation

- 75% said general organisation was pitched at the right level and pace
- Individual complaints
 - only one complaint that they were too basic and slow
 - one that they were too complicated and fast
 - one that they needed more time within the sessions to experiment with their own data
- BUT the short notice regarding the installation of database software as a workshop pre requisite was also mentioned once again



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Achievement

- **3/19** already publish data to the VO
 - said workshop helped them improve this
- **9/19** are going to start publishing data to the VO this year!
- **4/19** need to know about VO data access for some other reason

Did the workshop help?

- **0/19** participants thought that they could not use the VO for their data
- **0/19** already use the VO but didn't learn much from the workshop
- **major barrier to achievement within workshop:** requirement to ingest data into DB
 - significant number had not done this beforehand
 - had to spend a significant amount of the workshop time on this
 - workshop helped them understand the work required to ingest, publish data
- participants saw as an important goal for their archive to publish to VO
- more information on registering VO resources during workshop
- support from the advisors was very good throughout



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Hands On Participation & feedback by Theme/Tool

Day 1	Catalogues	Images	Spectra	Transient
No of participants	28	10	17	-
Tool	DSA	MEX	DALtoolkit	-
Institute	AG	ESO	ESAC	-
Practical	90%	70%	100%	-

Note: shown by day since DB installation dominated time in day 1 then decreasing

Practical = response 1 or 2 in questionnaire

- 1 = Very useful, giving me something I can apply
- 2 = Fairly useful, will probably be of practical value
- 3 = Interesting but of no immediate use in my work
- 4 = Disappointing, not very useful
- 5 = Not what I was expecting



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Hands On Participation & feedback by Theme/Tool

Day 2	Catalogues	Images	Spectra	Transient
No of participants	14	11	-	11
Tool	SAADA	DALtool	-	VOevent/STAP
Institute	CDS	ESAC	-	AG
Practical	80%	100%	-	75%

Practical = response 1 or 2 in questionnaire

- 1 = Very useful, giving me something I can apply
- 2 = Fairly useful, will probably be of practical value
- 3 = Interesting but of no immediate use in my work
- 4 = Disappointing, not very useful
- 5 = Not what I was expecting



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Hands On Participation & feedback by Theme/Tool

Day 3	Catalogues	Images	Spectra	Transient
No of participants	8	11	13	-
Tool	DMmapper	SAADA	MEX	-
Institute	ESAC	CDS	ESO	-
Practical	100%	100%	60%	-

Practical = response 1 or 2 in questionnaire

- 1 = Very useful, giving me something I can apply
- 2 = Fairly useful, will probably be of practical value
- 3 = Interesting but of no immediate use in my work
- 4 = Disappointing, not very useful
- 5 = Not what I was expecting



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Summary – workshop planning

- start planning much further ahead!
- Ensure infrastructure planning
 - Network
 - Registry (test)
- Outline program advertised to potential and other participants when workshop announced, e.g.
 - when is intro session
 - which broad session themes and when
 - do not assume advisors can attend entire event
 - science context essential during intro
- Essential to include session on ingesting to suitable DB format
 - cannot assume participants will ensure this beforehand



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester

Suggested Priorities for Cycle 2

- target key potential publishers – new (WP3, ESO) & upgrades
- mini workshop, 2-3 days (WP3-2, Feb/Mar08, LU?) for upgrades re IVOA standards?
 - e.g 10-15 invited participants from previous workshops?
 - obtain more detailed IVOA standard feedback required for WP3-2
- know what to do for workshops – just need to prepare well ahead!
 - BUT record more 1-to-1 feedback
- common request: list of EuroVO contacts: people working in particular sci/tech areas, e.g.

Name Institute Sci/Tech Theme Tool(s)

- convince people they don't have to change their own DB if not wanted – easy to ingest into parallel DB then publish to VO



Jonathan Tedds,
University of Leicester