Sources of Documentation

Everyone says they want it.
Some people actually use it (if they can find it).
Nobody likes to write it.

- Archive documentation

  We have control of this type of documentation, but it is hard to keep it up to date. Sometimes users can't find it.

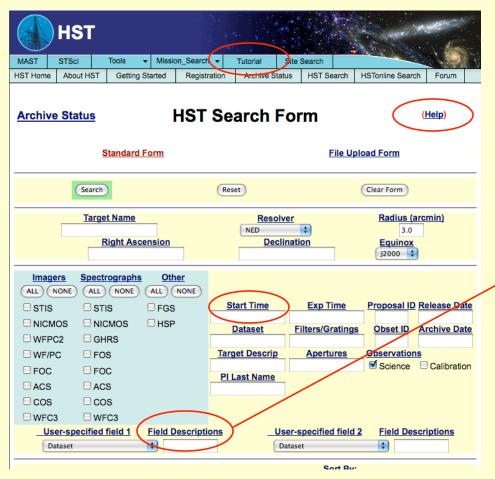- Documentation about missions, instruments, pipeline, and data:

  We are dependent upon project for this type of documentation. Often it's written during the mission lifetimes, maintained by the project, with links from the archive site. (Notification to MAST of docs changed at the project site is rare.)
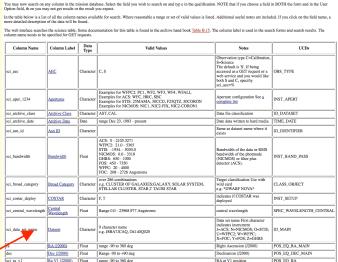
- Small missions have not posted public documentation. (Mining exercise.)

Archive Documentation

Variety of types of documentation for use of archive services e.g. tutorials, handbooks, movies, help pages, FAQs, and files that accompany data.

We do find it a challenge to keep these totally up-to-date.

Types of Project Supplied Documentation
(not applicable or not provided by all missions)

- Archive guidelines

  http://archive.stsci.edu/mast_guidelines.html

  http://archive.stsci.edu/hlsp/hlsp_guidelines.html

- Types of documentation

  – Product / Table / Field / Keyword definitions with delivery methods/timelines

  – Instrument and Data Properties Documentation

  – Processing pipeline

  – Data / delivered products

  – GO office documentation (if applicable)

- Some documentation is under copyright protection (SPIE papers etc.)

Discussion