

MAST User Survey

The Multimission Archive at STScI (MAST) is the primary repository and access point for data from the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), and supports a variety of other astronomical data archives. The purpose of this survey is to gather information for the MAST Users Group, and to help us prioritize our plans for improving and expanding archive services at MAST. Please provide your input by answering the questions below. We also welcome general comments or suggestions, which may be entered in the text box at the end of the survey. We encourage you to leave your e-mail address there, so that we can get back to you on specific issues/suggestions, but this is optional. The results of last year's survey can be found [here](#).

1. How often have you used MAST in the past 12 months (including GALEX, the Guide Star Catalog (GSC), the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS), and the Hubble Legacy Archive (HLA) web interfaces)?

- never a few times a few times a month
 a few times a week daily

2. Which missions did you access? (check all that apply):

- HST FUSE IUE VLAFIRST
 GSC EUVE ASTRO-HUT ASTRO-UIT
 ASTRO-WUPPE ORFEUS-IMAPS ORFEUS-BEFS ORFEUS-TUES
 Copernicus HPOL GALEX XMM-OM
 Kepler DSS

3. Which operating system do you primarily use for your work?

- Solaris Unix Linux Mac OS X
 Windows Other (please specify): _____

4. Which web browser do you primarily use to access MAST?

- Netscape 7/Mozilla Microsoft Internet Explorer KDE Konqueror
 Netscape 6 or earlier OS X Safari Opera
 Firefox SeaMonkey Chrome
 Other (please specify): _____

5. Please rank the fraction of your MAST usage that is related to the following activities:

- Scientific research, including proposal writing primary secondary minor N/A
 - Observatory support and observation planning primary secondary minor N/A
 - Education/outreach primary secondary minor N/A
 - Amateur astronomy primary secondary minor N/A

Other/Comments: _____

6. Please select the description that best describes your experience with finding documentation within MAST.

- In general, I can find the documentation I need
 I sometimes have trouble finding documentation
 I often have difficulty finding the documentation I need
 I have major difficulties finding documentation
 No opinion

Suggestions/comments: _____

7. Please select the description that best describes how useful you generally find MAST documentation.

- Very useful
 Somewhat useful
 Not very useful
 Not at all useful
 No opinion

Suggestions/comments: _____

8. GalexView is a tool that MAST introduced last year to browse and download public release GALEX data. Please select the description that best applies to you:

- I always use GalexView to browse/download public release data.
 I use other search forms in addition to GalexView to browse/download GALEX data.
 I was aware of GalexView but always use other forms to browse/download GALEX data.
 I was not aware of GalexView and use other forms to browse/download GALEX data.
 I never tried to access GALEX data.

Comments: _____

9. We have enhanced GalexView's capabilities since its introduction. Enhancements include target upload lists, filtering on selected targets (with histograms), downloads via a shopping cart, and upgraded presentation details (some of these were recommended by user comments in last year's survey). Please help us prioritize future developments by ranking the following items in terms of how useful they would be to you. Enter other suggestions, or any other related comments, in the box.

	Very Useful	Moderately	Not Useful	Not Used
On-the-fly plots of object characteristics (including positions)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross matching between GALEX and other missions (e.g. SDSS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FITS cut-outs for single or overlapping tiles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to search for publications that make use of GALEX (or other missions) data in a particular area of the sky	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments: _____

The Hubble Legacy Archive (HLA) provides another interface to Hubble data, including enhanced combined images, extracted grism spectra, source lists, and user-contributed products. Through the HLA interface, users can quickly find which HST data have been taken in a given region of the sky, select them through a graphic footprint or tabular interface, and visualize science-grade images and spectra right from their browsers.

10. Have you used (or do you plan to use) the HLA for the following purposes? Check all that apply.

- Browsing HST data
 Identifying areas with sufficient coverage for science projects
 Downloading science-ready data products
 Preparing observing proposals
 Other: _____
 Have not used the HLA

11. Please rate the usefulness of the following HLA tools:

	Very Useful	Moderately	Needs Improvement	Not Useful	No Opinion
- Searching					
Advanced search options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uploading a list of positions to search	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inventory table sorting & column fitting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Footprint view of data on sky	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Browsing and retrieval					
Image previews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interactive display view	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Catalogs and HLA Source list overlays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downloading data via shopping cart	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- Help					
Help and FAQ pages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Movies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Please tell us about how valuable you would find each of these possible future HLA enhancements:

	Very Useful	Moderately Useful	Not Useful	No Opinion
Deep Combined Images	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wide-area mosaic images	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved source catalogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tools for browsing spectra	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Faster searches (e.g., for large input lists)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Footprints from other missions (e.g., Spitzer & Chandra)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
User accounts with persistent custom settings & history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved documentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other: _____

13. How can we do a better job of supporting your archive needs? Please suggest in the comment box other new features or improvements you would like to see. We also welcome your comments any time via e-mail to archive.stsci.edu

If you would like to make it possible for MAST staff to contact you in response to your comments or suggestions, please enter your email address here. This is entirely optional.
