

# Outreach and User Support

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ADS Users Group Meeting - 11/28/2018



# Outreach

*From the 2017 ADSUG report:*

“The ADS groups has grown in size, and it may be possible to entertain new relationships and activities. As a form of public service, ADS could host a ‘hack day’ or sponsor an intern program.”

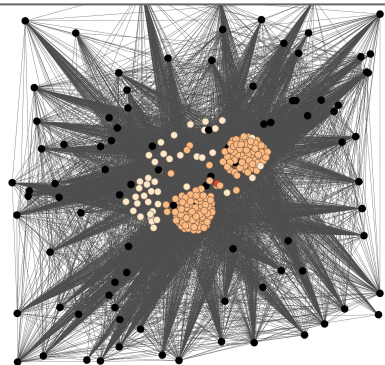
# First-ever ADS hackathon

- Held at the CfA on May 22, 2018
- 20 registered participants (7 non-CfA)
- Participation from ASCL, Chandra archives, STScI, NED, CfA library



# Conference workshops & hack days

AAS 231 - winter 2018



Hack day project:  
Who is astronomy's  
Kevin Bacon?

**Event Title:** Collaboration and Hacking Space

**Event Notes:** This event is a co-working space intended for use by collaborative projects. Contributors and developers from the Astropy Project and the Astrophysical Data System (ADS) are planning to sprint on projects and other projects are welcome to use the space.

AAS 232 - summer 2018



**Advanced Searching in the New ADS: On the Web and Using the API**

Sunday, 6 January | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Organizer: [Kelly Lockhart](#), Astrophysics Data System, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

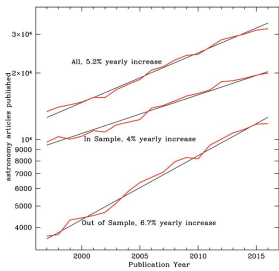
No Fee

AAS 233 - winter 2019

The new ADS interface has been the official face of the Astrophysics Data System for nearly a year. While it supports the same features that could be done in the Classic system, it's also capable of a whole lot more. Join us to see the new features in the web interface of the new ADS. We'll also show you how to use the new interface programmatically, using command line tools and Python scripts. Completion of

# ADS blog and AstroBetter blogs

- ADS blog: 10 posts since November 2017
  - ~11,000 unique pageviews
- AstroBetter blog: 3 posts/cross-posts since November 2017



Citations to Astronomy Journals 1: The growth of interdisciplinary

20 Aug 2018

This is the first of a series of blog posts measuring the journals which publish research astronomy articles, using citation statistics. In this post we describe the measurement process and the sample. The tables with the entire data set used...

author: Michael J. Kurtz and Edwin Henneken category: general



What We Wish We'd Known: 3 Former Astronomers Turned ADS Staff Share Their Wishlists

06 Aug 2018


Though the vast majority of astronomy researchers, faculty, and students worldwide use ADS on a daily or weekly basis, most stick with searching on a combination of first author name and publication year for a known paper. While this is...

author: Kelly Lockhart, Sergi Blanco Cuaresma, and Matt Templeton category: general




# Other outreach


- Local events
  - Seamless Demofest
  - ADS tutorials for summer student researchers, CfA committee
- Social media
  - Twitter
  - Astronomers group on Facebook

S [redacted] The new ADS is terrible!  1

Like · Reply · 4d

 **Kelly Lockhart** We take feedback from our users very seriously; if you have specific pain points or recommendations, please email us at [adshelp@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:adshelp@cfa.harvard.edu) so we can improve.

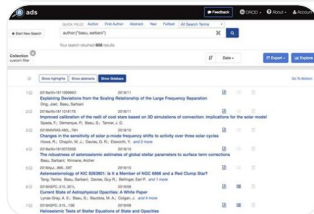
Like · Reply · 3d

S [redacted] **Kelly Lockhart** It is non-intuitive, takes a long time to load, too many mouse clicks needed to get to what one needs, the format on the screen is not optimal (why waste screen space by keeping the two side bars?).  1

Like · Reply · 3d

 **Alberto Accomazzi** Does using this form help?  
<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/#classic-form>


And have you tried removing the side bars via the "Hide Sidebars" button (see below)?

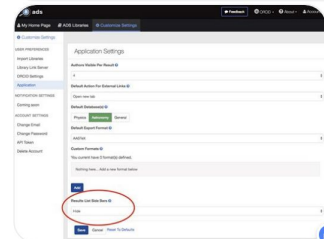


Like · Reply · 2d

S [redacted] Yes and no. The search is still not the same, try putting ^Basu, S.\$ in new v/s old.... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 2d · Edited

 **Alberto Accomazzi** Regarding the single author search, it is currently handled correctly if you start from the ADS classic search page ([http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract\\_service.html](http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html)) and then click on "Send query to the new ADS". I'll add a task to perform the same tr... [See More](#)



Like · Reply · 2d

S [redacted] Thanks!

Like · Reply · 2d

# Potential future outreach

- Online Slack/chat channel for users
  - Searchable knowledge base
  - Pro: users helping users
  - Con: one more communications channel to maintain
- ADS Ambassadors program
  - Potential participants: power users and librarians
  - Role: to answer questions and offer training locally
  - Training: with us at AAS or online

# User support

- Email support
- Video
- Help pages/API Jupyter notebooks
- Soliciting feedback via a usability study and survey



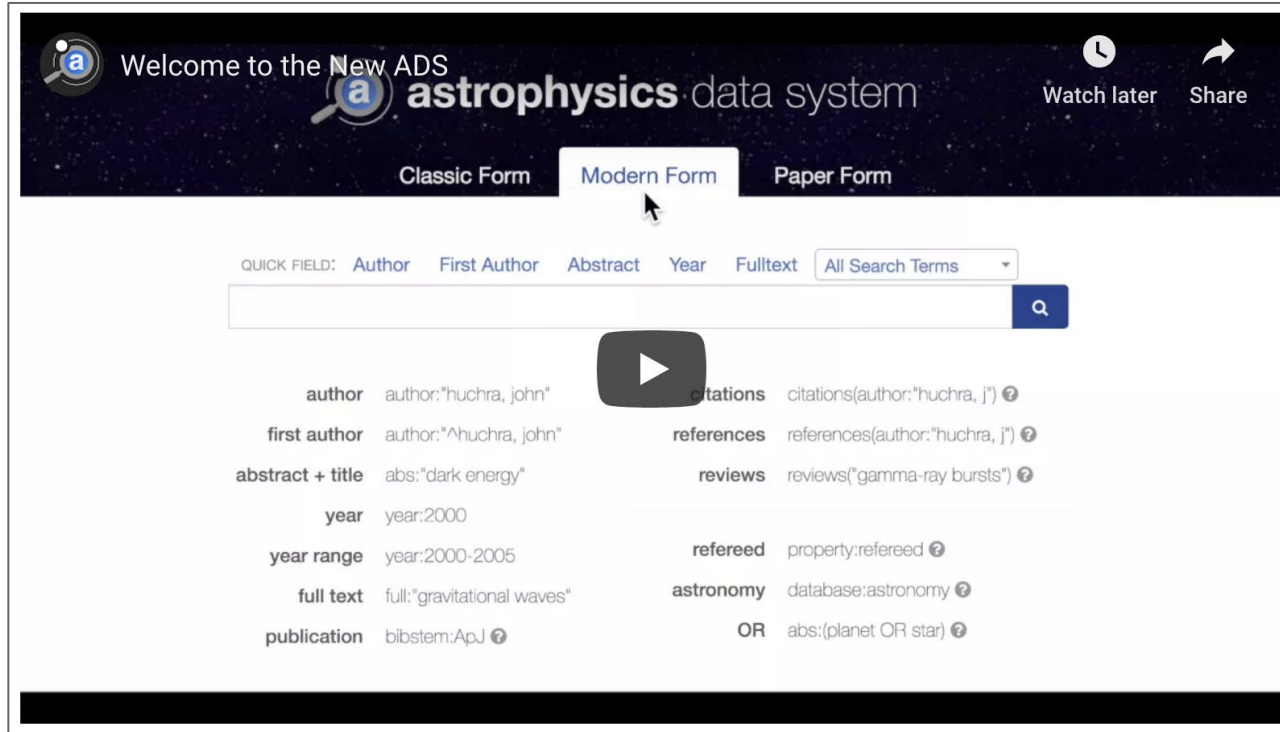
# Hiver

The screenshot shows a Gmail interface with the Hiver extension. The email is from 'adshelp' to 'adshelp' with the subject 'Bumblebee Feedback from Peter Young (pyoung9@gmu.edu)'. The email body discusses a BibTeX URL issue. The Hiver sidebar on the right shows the 'Shared Mailbox' 'ADS Help', assigned to 'Golnaz Shapurian', and a list of activities including notes and assignments. Three red arrows point to the Hiver extension's top bar, the 'Closed' button, and the 'Activity' section.

- To reduce duplication of effort
- To develop a knowledge base of answers
- To share responsibility for follow-up
- To continue to offer efficient response time

# Introduction to New ADS video

- <http://adsabs.github.io/help/>
  - >100 views



# API Jupyter notebooks

- Available on Github  
<https://github.com/adsabs/adsabs-dev-api>
- Bibliographic research  
<http://adsabs.github.io/blog/concepts-at-work>

614 lines (613 sloc) | 32.9 KB

Raw Blame History

## Search API

This notebook explains how to use the API to search the database using either search terms or a set of bibcodes. Lists of query parameters and search fields are also given.

The base URL (denoted as {base\_url} in the examples below) for queries is <https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search>.

All queries to the API must include an HTTP header that specifies your API access token, e.g.

```
curl -H 'Authorization: Bearer <token>' 'https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?q=star'
```

In the examples below, {token\_header} is used to denote -H 'Authorization: Bearer <token>', where <token> is your personal API access token as described in the top-level [README](#).

Notes:

- All examples use the default HTTP method GET, unless otherwise specified.
- the API examples in this notebook generally assume you're using `curl` statements from the shell command line--you'll see `%%bash` at the top of a cell if its contents should be run in the shell instead of in Python. Guidelines for translating bash `curl` statements into Python can be found in the [converting curl to python notebook](#). If you prefer, you can use the unofficial Python package instead; see the top-level [README](#) for more information.

## Contents

- [Search API](#)
- [Query parameters](#)
- [Fields](#)
- [Examples](#)
- [Advanced search syntax](#)

## Get search results

```
curl {token_header} {base_url}/query?q=search+term&fl=field1,field2
```

To search, construct a URL using the base URL given [above](#), along with your search parameters as detailed in the [Query Parameters](#) section below. All text must be UTF-8 and URL encoded. For example:

```
In [1]: import sys

v = sys.version

# accented letters, special characters, and spaces need to be encoded
# Python has a package for this, though the functionality is slightly different between python 2 and python 3
if int(v[0]) == 2:
    import urllib
    query = "author:martínez neutron star"
    encoded_query = urllib.quote_plus(query)
else:
```

# Usability study and survey

- Study: in progress
  - Grad UI/UX class at Simmons University
  - In-depth usability study of 4 ADS users
- Survey
  - Too many volunteers for usability study! Sent remaining 33 volunteers a survey, replies from 15
  - Initial results:
    - Users who are exclusively using new ADS are happy
    - Some users made feature suggestions
    - Many would prefer faster loading speed
  - *"I already feel like a kid in a candy store!"*
  - *"Keep doing what you're doing, and thank you thank you thank you!"*
  - *"The new site is beautiful and I love the attention given to various statistical metrics. Thank you!"*