astrophysics data system

Transition to SciX

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CENTER FOR ASTROPHYSICS HARVARD & SMITHSONIAN

NASA Partner

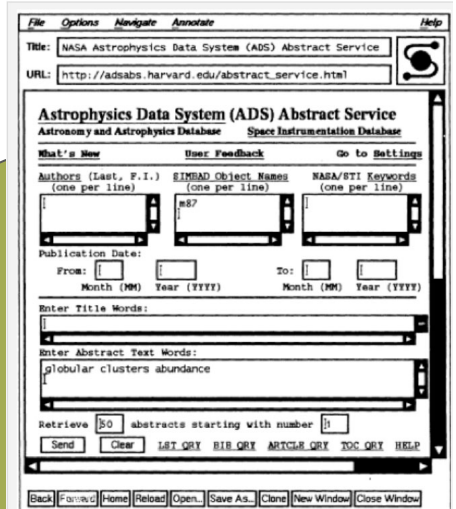
Road Map to Unification

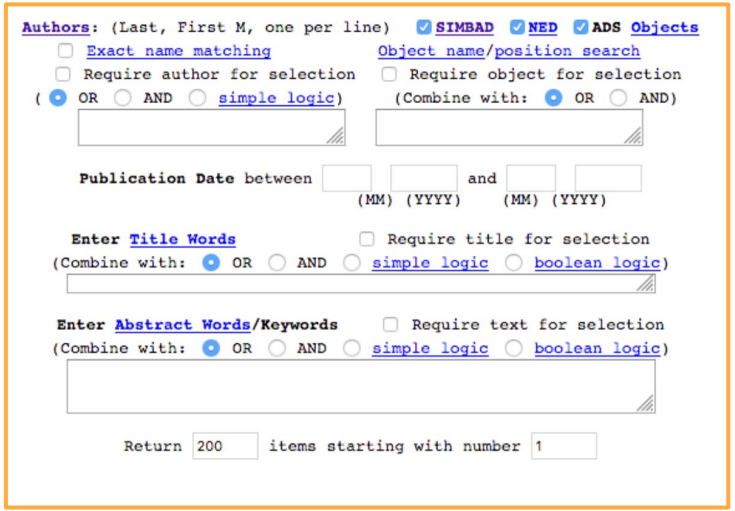
- 2024 proposal anticipated transition of astronomers to SciX by end of 5 year period of performance
- Reduced funding is driving a more aggressive timeline
- Current plan is single platform
  - Scenario 1: Absolutely NLT February 2027
  - Scenario 2: Possibly AEA February 2026

2024 Recommendation that we prepare a transition plan to facilitate moving astronomers to SciX.

Scenario 0 (2024 Proposal)

- Over the 5 year period of performance
  - SciX develops new features that motivate astronomers to switch
  - Several years to communicate value of expanded multidisciplinary system
  - Slow, steady adoption
  - Switchover complete by 2030



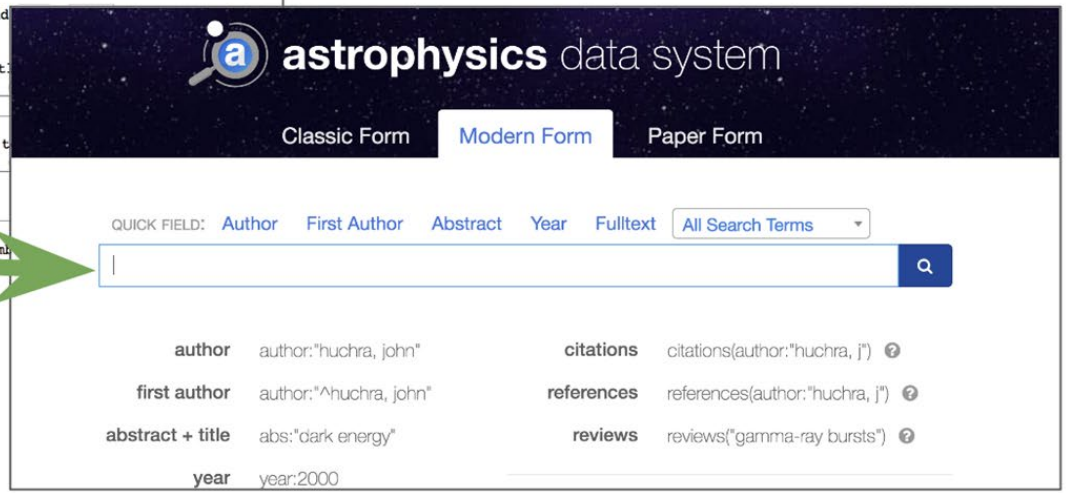


2019 ADS Transition

Classic ADS interface ended 2019

Modern ADS interface (AKA Bumblebee)

- ★ Development began in 2015
- ★ β ended in 2018



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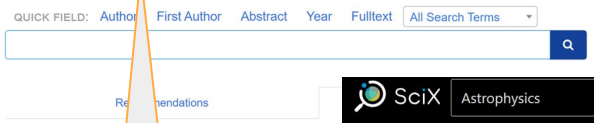
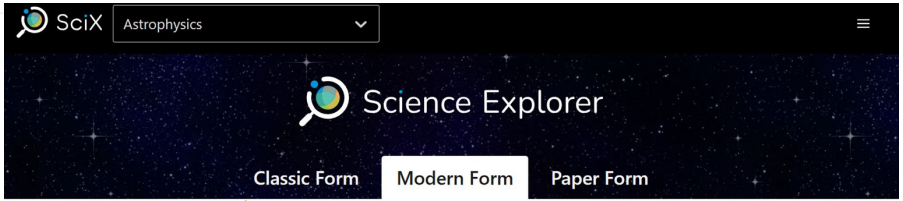
Lesson Learned





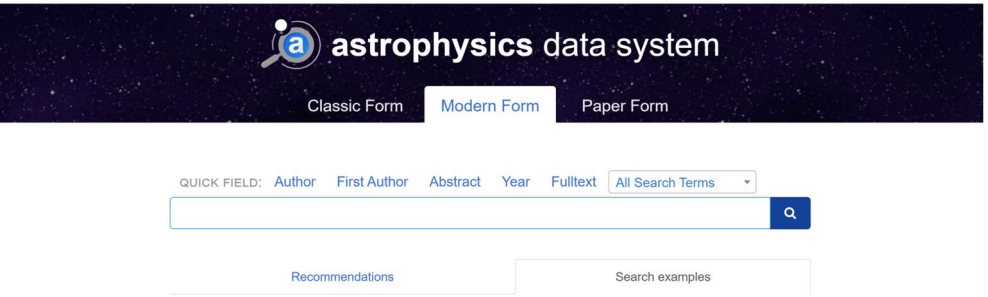
WELCOME TO THE **SciX Di**

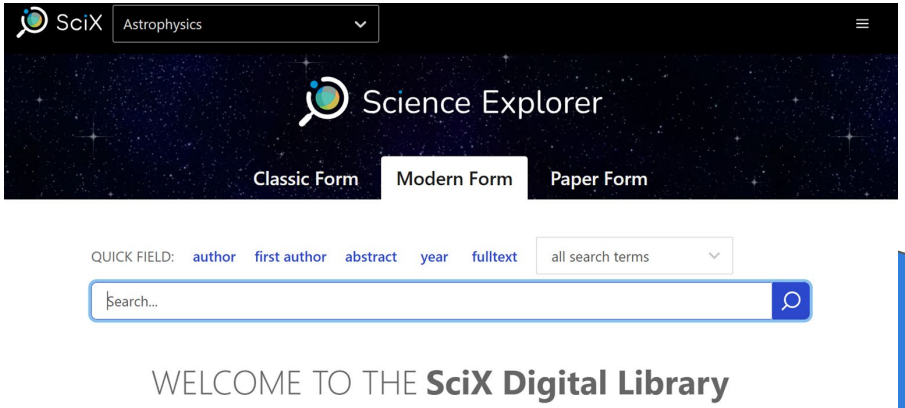
WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

Astronomers want their Classic

Not for everyone

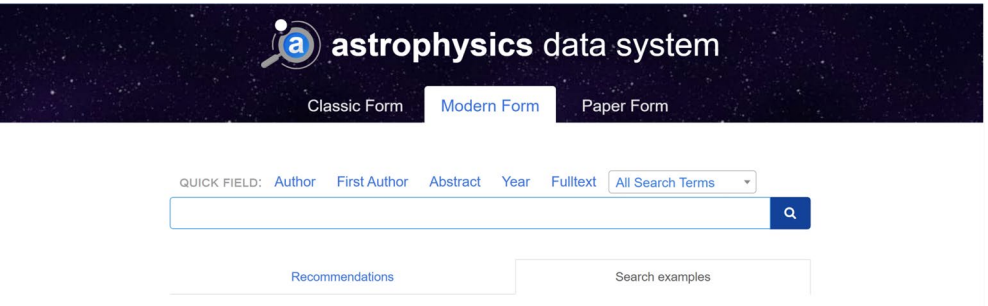
Scenario 1 (ADS+SciX Funding)

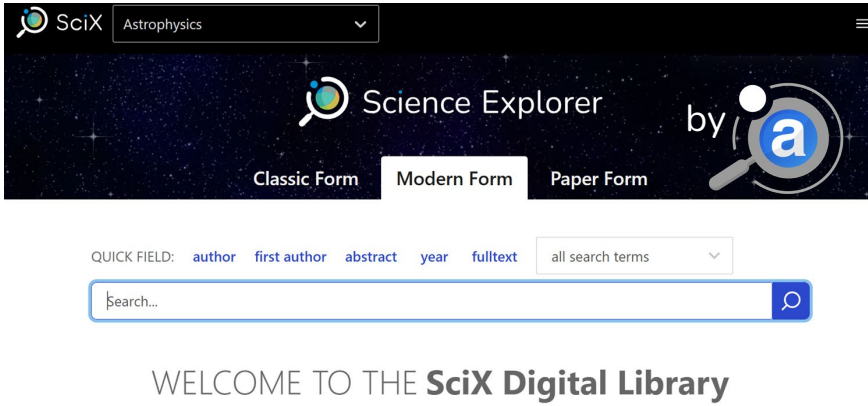




- Over next 14 months
  - SciX prioritizes new features that motivate astronomers to switch
  - Generate resources to support transitioning & new users
  - Communicate value of expanded multidisciplinary system
  - Communicate imminent transition
  - Steady adoption
  - Switchover complete by February 2027

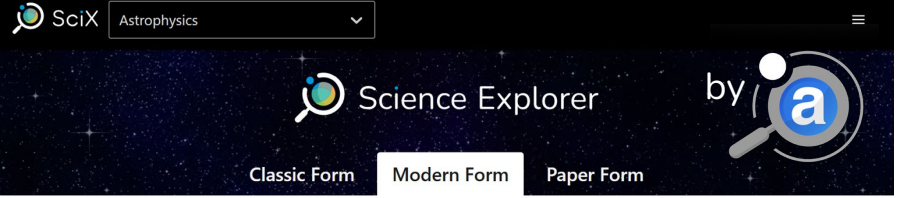
Scenario 2 (ADS Funding Only)





- Over next 2 months
  - Generate resources for transitioning users
  - Address pain points as identified
  - Empathize connection, continuity with ADS
    - Same database, same search engine
    - Links, Libraries, accounts unchanged
    - Familiar fields, workflow
  - Communicate imminent transition
  - Communicate value of expanded multidisciplinary system
    - More connections, more features
  - Switchover complete by February 2026

Caution: Relevance vs. Date sort



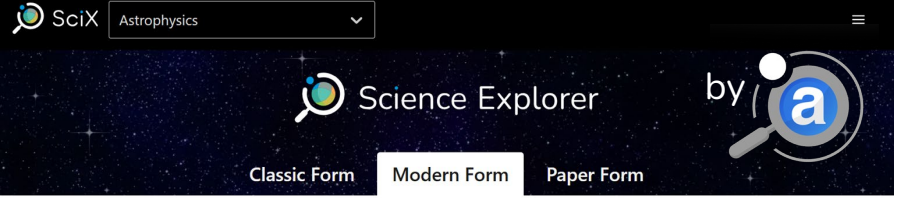
Scenario 2: Preparations

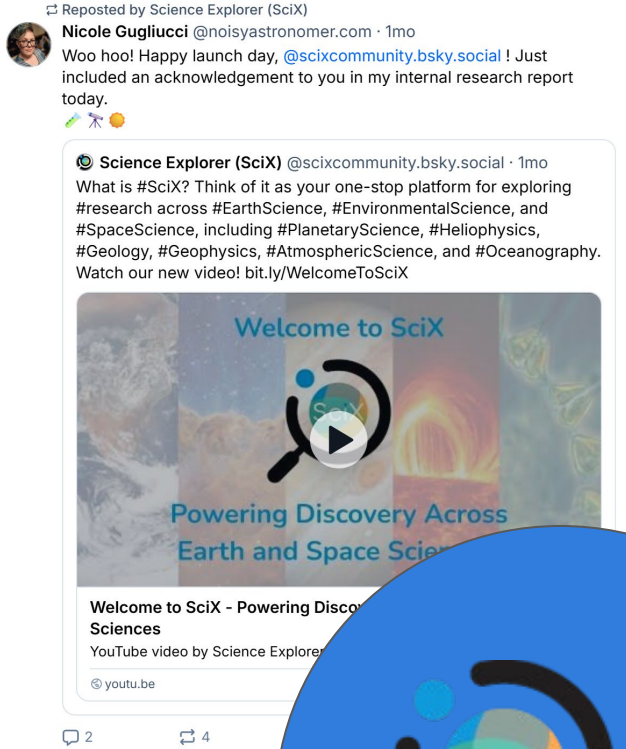

Pexels 2016 via Pixabay

- Goal: ready technically for hard switchover 31 January 2026
  - Add ADS branding to Astrophysics version of SciX interface
  - Pre-set SciX for Astrophysics if coming from ADS site
  - Prepare to redirect ADS site to SciX
  - Release online resources to encourage and support transition
    - Don't panic, SciX for ADS users
    - What's New? Quick Start for ADS users available soon
    - View this page in SciX button on all ADS pages available soon
  - Address identified pain points as able

Pause & take more time if funding allows

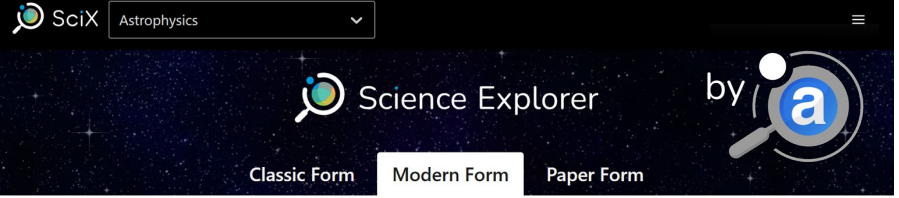
Scenario 2: Communication





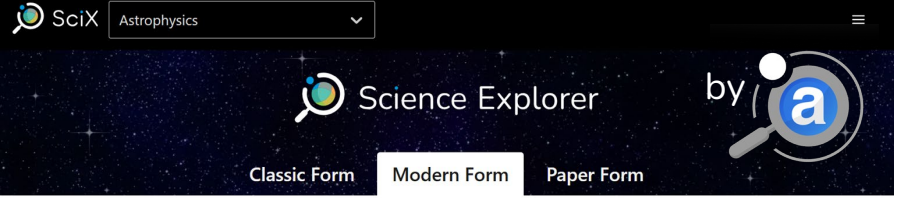
- Goal: communicate to astronomers value & need for switch
  - AAS Workshop scheduled afternoon of Sunday, January 4
  - CfA colloquium or seminar
  - 30-second tips & tricks videos for website, social media in planning discouraged during shutdown
  - Researchers being recruited for social media, blog endorsements
  - *Astrobites* “SciX for Astronomers” in draft
  - Light editorial “Why SciX is good for astronomers” in draft
- Uncertainties
  - When to announce date: enough certainty, enough lead time
  - What channels successfully reach astronomers

Assess & take more time if funding allows



Scenario 2: Interface

- Moving to SciX Astrophysics interface rather than retaining ADS Modern
  - Development has focused on SciX for 4 years
  - SciX provides more features to users, including astronomers
    - Metadata tags visible in abstract view, copy/paste citations, searchable facets & author lists
    - Planetary Features, UAT keywords, Credits/Mentions (reduced funding will slow development & reduce ongoing support)
  - ADS interface/website is aging
  - SciX more sustainable for reduced staff
  - 80% technical effort is shared between SciX & ADS; same back end



Scenario 2: Branding

- Moving to “SciX by ADS” rather than returning to just “ADS”
  - Leaves door open to future re-expansion, if opportunity presents
  - Astronomers benefit from
    - Interdisciplinary collection with extensive network of references & citations
    - Economies of scale for metadata enrichment and feature development

BrickBard 2024
, Samuel1983 2015,
AcatXlo 2022
via Pixabay