



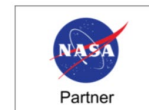
Transition to SciX

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ADS Users Group Meeting, 20-21 Nov. 2025



CENTER FOR
ASTROPHYSICS
HARVARD & SMITHSONIAN



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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





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

The 1994 interface is a basic web form with a menu bar (File, Options, Navigate, Annotate, Help) and a title bar. It includes fields for Title and URL. The main section is titled "Astrophysics Data System (ADS) Abstract Service" and contains sections for "What's New", "User Feedback", and "Go to Settings". There are input fields for Authors (Last, F.I.), SIMBAD Object Names, and NASA/STI Keywords. A "Publication Date" section has "From" and "To" fields with month and year sub-fields. There are also fields for "Enter Title Words" and "Enter Abstract Text Words". At the bottom, there is a "Retrieve" section with a "Send" button and a "Clear" button.

1994

The 2018 interface is a more modern web form with a menu bar (File, Options, Navigate, Annotate, Help) and a title bar. It includes fields for Title and URL. The main section is titled "Astrophysics Data System (ADS) Abstract Service" and contains sections for "What's New", "User Feedback", and "Go to Settings". There are input fields for Authors (Last, F.I.), SIMBAD Object Names, and NASA/STI Keywords. A "Publication Date" section has "From" and "To" fields with month and year sub-fields. There are also fields for "Enter Title Words" and "Enter Abstract Text Words". At the bottom, there is a "Retrieve" section with a "Send" button and a "Clear" button.

The 2019 interface is a modern web form with a menu bar (File, Options, Navigate, Annotate, Help) and a title bar. It includes fields for Title and URL. The main section is titled "Astrophysics Data System (ADS) Abstract Service" and contains sections for "What's New", "User Feedback", and "Go to Settings". There are input fields for Authors (Last, F.I.), SIMBAD Object Names, and NASA/STI Keywords. A "Publication Date" section has "From" and "To" fields with month and year sub-fields. There are also fields for "Enter Title Words" and "Enter Abstract Text Words". At the bottom, there is a "Retrieve" section with a "Send" button and a "Clear" button.

2019

2019 ADS Transition



[Sitemap](#) [What's New](#) [Feedback](#) [Basic Search](#) [Preferences](#) [FAQ](#) [HELP](#)

Databases to query: ☒ [Astronomy](#) ☐ [Physics](#) ☒ [arXiv e-prints](#)

Authors: (Last, First M, one per line) ☒ [SIMBAD](#) ☒ [NED](#) ☒ [ADS Objects](#)

☐ [Exact name matching](#) ☐ [Object name/position search](#)

☐ Require author for selection ☐ Require object for selection

(☒ OR ☐ AND ☐ [simple logic](#)) (Combine with: ☒ OR ☐ AND)

Publication Date between and
(MM) (YYYY)

Enter [Title Words](#) ☐ Require title words

(Combine with: ☒ OR ☐ AND ☐ [simple logic](#))

Enter [Abstract Words/Keywords](#) ☐ Require abstract words


(Combine with: ☒ OR ☐ AND ☐ [simple logic](#))

Return 200 items per page. Sorting with number of citations

Modern ADS interface (AKA
Bumblebee)

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

Classic ADS
interface ended
2019

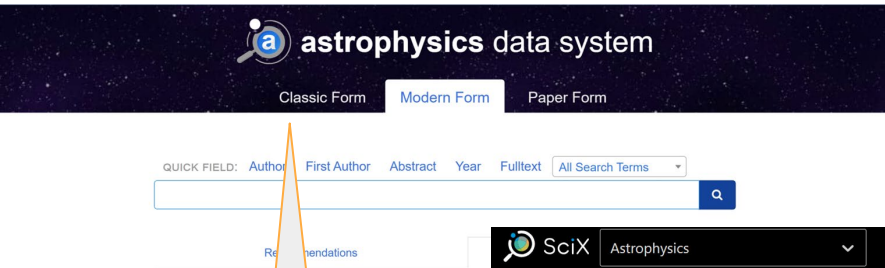
 **astrophysics** data system

Classic Form **Modern Form** Paper Form

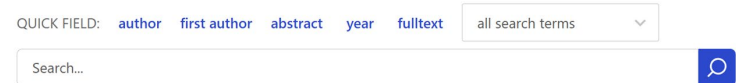
QUICK FIELD: [Author](#) [First Author](#) [Abstract](#) [Year](#) [Fulltext](#)

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| author | author:"huchra, john" | citations | citations(author:"huchra, j") ? |
| first author | author:"^huchra, john" | references | references(author:"huchra, j") ? |
| abstract + title | abs:"dark energy" | reviews | reviews("gamma-ray bursts") ? |
| year | year:2000 | | |

Lesson Learned



WELCOME TO THE SciX Di

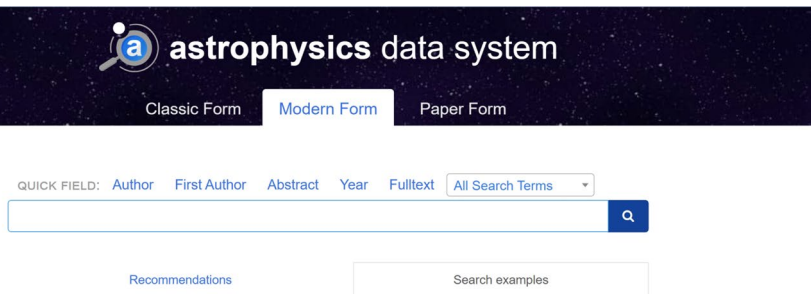


WELCOME TO THE SciX Digital Library

Astronomers
want their
Classic

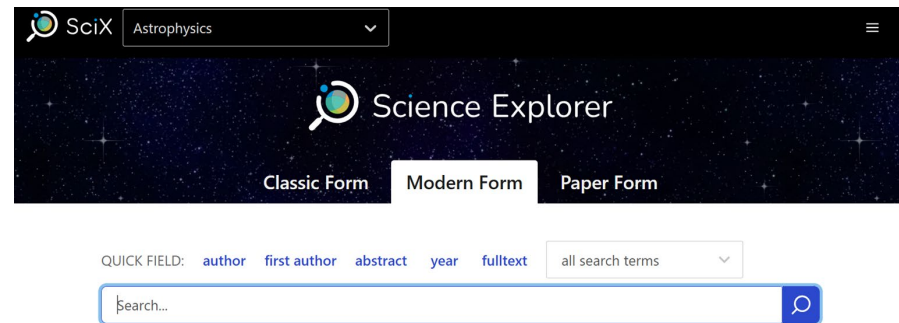
Not for
everyone

Scenario 1 (ADS+SciX Funding)



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the astrophysics data system. It features the logo and the text 'astrophysics data system'. Below the navigation bar, there are three tabs: 'Classic Form', 'Modern Form' (which is selected), and 'Paper Form'. A search bar is visible with a dropdown menu for 'QUICK FIELD:' containing options like 'Author', 'First Author', 'Abstract', 'Year', 'Fulltext', and 'All Search Terms'. A search button with a magnifying glass icon is to the right of the search bar.

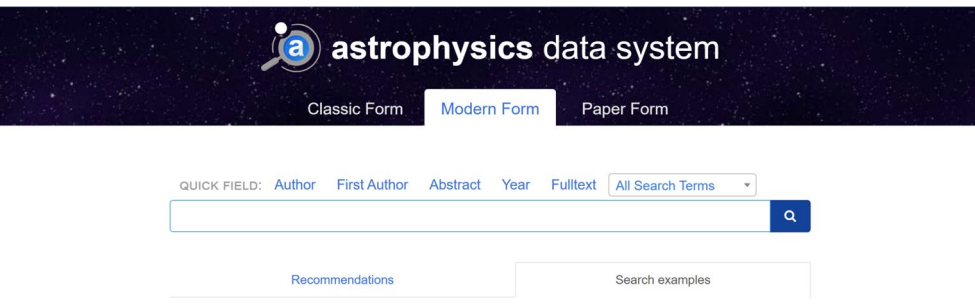
- ★ Over next 14 months
 - ◆ SciX prioritizes new features that motivate astronomers to switch
 - ◆ Generate resources to support transitioning & new users
 - ◆ Communicate value of expanded multidisciplinary system
 - ◆ Communicate imminent transition
 - ◆ Steady adoption
 - ◆ Switchover complete by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



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the SciX Science Explorer. It features the SciX logo and a dropdown menu for 'Astrophysics'. Below the navigation bar, there are three tabs: 'Classic Form', 'Modern Form' (which is selected), and 'Paper Form'. A search bar is visible with a dropdown menu for 'QUICK FIELD:' containing options like 'author', 'first author', 'abstract', 'year', 'fulltext', and 'all search terms'. A search button with a magnifying glass icon is to the right of the search bar.

WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

Scenario 2 (ADS Funding Only)



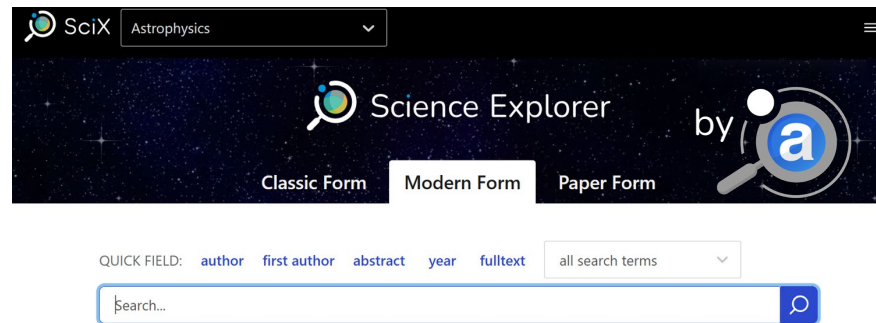
★ Over next 2 months

- ✦ Generate resources for transitioning users
- ✦ Address pain points as identified
- ✦ Empathize connection, continuity with ADS



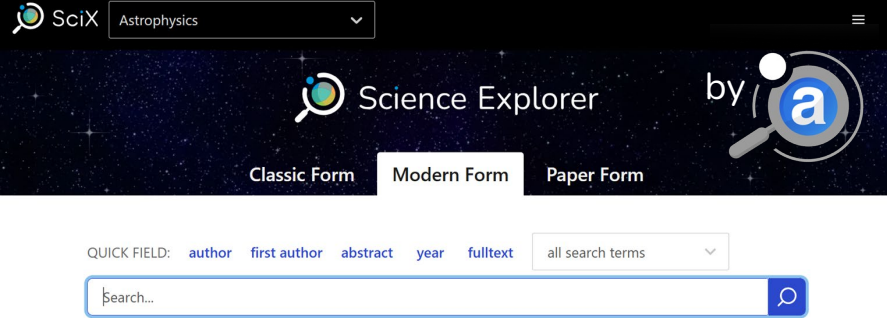
Same database, same search engine
Links, Libraries, accounts unchanged
Familiar fields, workflow

- ✦ Communicate imminent transition
- ✦ Communicate value of expanded multidisciplinary system
- ✦ More connections, more features
- ✦ Switchover complete by February 2026



WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

Caution:
Relevance vs.
Date sort



Scenario 2: Preparations

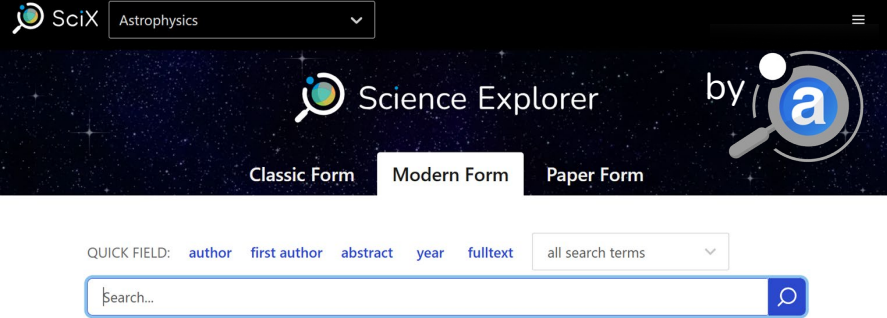


WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

- ★ 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





WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

★ 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: Communication

Reposted by Science Explorer (SciX)



Nicole Gugliucci @noisyastronomer.com · 1mo

Woo hoo! Happy launch day, @scixcommunity.bsky.social ! Just included an acknowledgement to you in my internal research report today.



Science Explorer (SciX) @scixcommunity.bsky.social · 1mo

What is #SciX? Think of it as your one-stop platform for exploring #research across #EarthScience, #EnvironmentalScience, and #SpaceScience, including #PlanetaryScience, #Heliophysics, #Geology, #Geophysics, #AtmosphericScience, and #Oceanography. Watch our new video! bit.ly/WelcomeToSciX



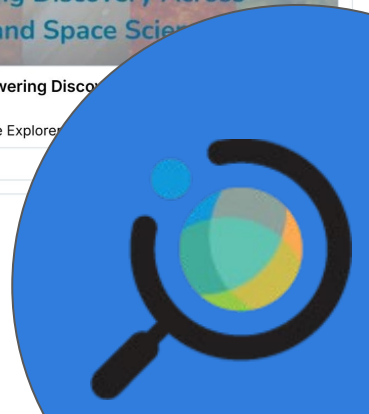
Welcome to SciX - Powering Discovery Across Earth and Space Sciences

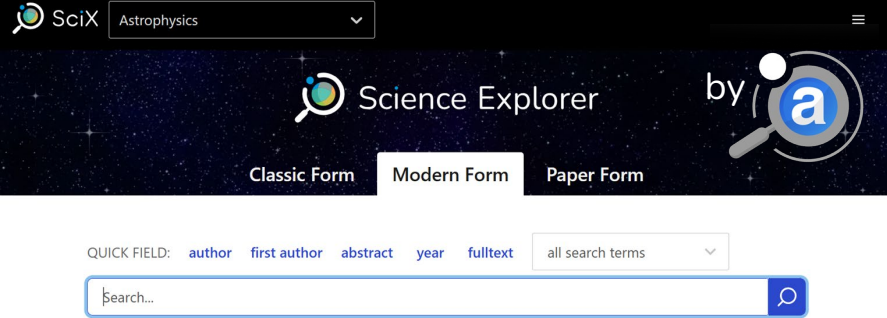
YouTube video by Science Explorer

© youtube.be

2

4





Scenario 2: Interface

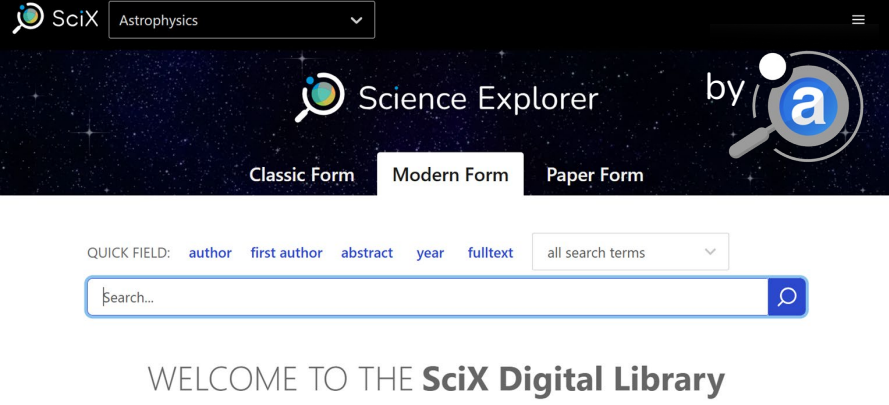


WELCOME TO THE **SciX Digital Library**

★ 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