How documentalists update SIMBAD*

*Set of Identifications, Measurements and Bibliography of Astronomical Data

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Attending the meeting

The Strasbourg astronomical Data Center (CDS) has been existing for more than 40 years. It develops a service called SIMBAD with over 280.000 bibliographic references for over 7 million astronomical objects (18 million object identifiers). SIMBAD brings to the scientific community a value-added content that is updated daily by a team of documentalists in strong interaction with astronomers and IT specialists.

Scientific expertise on issues related to object identification, data coherence, priority of tables to be added in SIMBAD... Astronomers also update SIMBAD (big operations like cross-identification with the entire 2MASS catalog).

VizieR is another service developed at CDS. It provides access to the most complete library of published astronomical catalogs and data tables available on line. Tables are standardized, described in details and completed with information like links to other related catalogs and graphics.

DJIN* is a powerful tool, created at CDS, that recognizes astronomical object names in full text**. For each bibcode***, DJIN searches for object names (that are highlighted and linked to the SIMBAD database) by comparing the words with information stored in the Dictionary of Nomenclature of Celestial Objects. It then calls for the documentalists' expertise.

*Detection in Journals of Identifiers and Names
**Title, abstract, figures, text, very small tables
***Bibliographic code that identifies each article

Aladin is an interactive sky atlas developed at CDS by the IT specialists. It is a major tool for cross-identification of astronomical sources providing access to images at different wavelengths, SIMBAD data and VizieR catalogs.

The SIMBAD astronomical database provides basic data, cross-identifications, bibliography and measurements for astronomical objects outside the solar system.

The COSIM (Comparison of Objects for SIMbad) program developed at CDS compares the astronomical data from journals with SIMBAD. It generates statistics and an output detailed file about the existence of the objects in SIMBAD and the compatibility of data. This semi-automated procedure is used by the documentalists team to include catalogs and tables in SIMBAD with systematic cross-identification.