

# Birds of A Feather Session Summaries

BoF 1 – ADASS Proceedings

BoF 2 – IRAF

BoF 4 - FITS

# BoF 1 – ADASS Proceedings

- More and more sentiment to get away from the printed page and go completely electronic
  - Remove or at least enlarge the page limit for articles (currently 4 pages in PASP Conf. Series format – small)
  - Quicker turn around time between conference and publication
- However there were concerns
  - Long term curation
  - Citations – for many at the conference this is a major portion of their publication list
- There was also discussion of starting a refereed journal related to astronomical computing topics but it didn't go very far
  - Turns out this is in the scope of PASP
  - Could potential merge with Earth Science Informatics Journal

# BoF 2 - IRAF

- IRAF is still alive
- V2.15 to be released soon (any day)
  - Alpha version for Linux and Mac has been out since March for testing
  - First version with 64bit support
  - Full details for those interested at <http://adass2010.cfa.harvard.edu/ADASS2010/incl/presentations/BoF2.pdf>
- On going work to replace the adhoc FITS kernel with one built on CFITSIO from GSFC.

# BoF 4 - FITS

- Current work in CFITSIO is focusing on improved compression for binary tables similar to that implemented for images
  - Preliminary trials indicate a factor of about 1.6 or more improvement over just simply gzipping the entire file
  - Could potentially have an impact for Fermi public data which is all FITS binary tables – sent Bill Pence a link to where he could grab Fermi data from the Science Support Center for testing
- Large discussion on why FITS is outdated.
  - There are lots of things people would like to see changed or think are wrong with the standard
  - No real suggestions on how to actually fix or replace things
- On a side note someone pointed out that the Vatican has decided to adopt FITS as the format of choice for storing all the images that is going to generate in a project to digitize all of its document archive (about 80000 documents comprising 40 million pages)