

Virtual Observatory Compliance for Press Release Images

L. Frattare, Z. Levay, & F. Summers

The beauty and splendor of astronomical images has made an enormously positive impact with the media and public alike. As a leading provider of astronomical imagery, the outreach division of STScI recognizes the importance of making press release images compliant with virtual observatory standards for inclusion in databases and repositories. A small working group has been formed to define and evaluate the procedures for making outreach images accessible by VO applications, and more specifically, to establish a World Coordinate System for these images, which have none. We report on the status of various software techniques that can be used to easily and accurately transform coordinates on images, using reference images and astronomical star catalogs when available. Funding for this work comes from the Virtual Cosmos Project (Berkeley/STScI).