

requests from the community to enhance the content of the more standard data archives. Because of this overwhelming data flow, archive architectures are evolving (e.g., at ESA), independent data centres are being set up (e.g., the European University Institute Data Centre at the Royal Observatory of Belgium) and interoperability among different archives remains an important item on the agenda of future efforts.

Community and user support

The final session to be reviewed here is the one on Community and User Support. This was a session heavily dominated by presentations (seven out of ten) on tools and user-support schemes implemented at ground-based (as opposed to space-based) facilities. ALMA and VLT/I user support implementations were compared in detail, including the main sets of tools that are provided to the users to prepare their observations. All other contributions were geared more towards user services for data processing, handling and distribution. We learned about the challenges that the APEX facility had

to overcome in making the data available rapidly (i.e., within two days) to its users via the ESO Archive and which services and interfaces the AGILE Science Data Centre at the Italian Space Agency provides to its user community (especially in terms of web-based tools for quick-look and online data analysis).

At the end of the day, what really counts is how successful a facility/mission is or has been. This is rather challenging to assess: it clearly relies on a variety of — if not all — the operational aspects that were scrutinised during the meeting, from the call for ideas and conception of a new mission/instrument to the detailed definition and implementation of ancillary tools/interfaces that make the new facility as user-friendly as possible. Yet, the loop needs somehow to be closed so that we can measure the research output of a facility/observatory/mission as one of the possible indicators of success. One such attempt was presented in the presentation on the ESO telescope bibliography telbib, aimed at correlating scientific productivity to the amount of time invested in science observation. A huge but very rewarding effort!

Towards a follow-on conference

As the first attempt in gathering people involved in science operations at large, the success of the meeting was not guaranteed from the start. However, a large majority of the attendees agreed in declaring this event a success and something worth pursuing further. Overall, more open discussions on specific operational topics would have been beneficial; on the other hand this meeting provided a very detailed overview of all ongoing and future projects, both ground- and space-based (though mostly European). This, now common, understanding is essential for further exploration of synergies. There was a clear push from the audience in continuing this forum and we hope that the next such meeting will be able to take advantage of what we all learned this time, so that it can foster more concrete innovative developments and strengthen collaborative efforts.

Links

¹ Conference website and programme: <http://www.sciops.esa.int/sciops2013>

Announcement of the ESO Workshop

Herbig Ae/Be stars: The missing link in star formation

7–11 April 2014, ESO Vitacura, Santiago, Chile

This workshop on Herbig Ae/Be stars is dedicated to the formation and pre-main sequence (PMS) evolution of intermediate-mass stars. These stars bridge the transition between the distinctly different scenarios for the formation of low- and high-mass stars. Over the past 20 years, new instruments have opened up the milli- and sub-milliarcsecond spatial scales where the disc physics takes place and planetary formation processes occur. ALMA will complement spatially, and advance spectrally at high resolution, the connection between the inner discs and the outer, dusty discs as observed by space-based observatories. The workshop aims to elucidate the evolution

of the circumstellar material from the formation phases, during the star's PMS contraction, and into the dispersal and debris phases. Topics include stellar interiors and surface physics accretion and ejection processes, evolution of the discs and the connection with debris discs and planet formation.

The workshop format will consist of invited reviews, contributed talks and posters. There will be ample time for discussions. The conference venue has the capacity for 100–120 participants.

The ESO 2014 Herbig AeBe workshop will commemorate of the life and works of

George H. Herbig (2 January 2 1920 – 12 October 2013). George Herbig pioneered the field of star formation, especially that of young stars and their nebulous surroundings. His legacy includes the identification and first description of the Herbig Ae/Be stars and the Herbig–Haro objects.

Full details can be found on the workshop web page: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2014/haebe2014.html> or by e-mail to: haebe2014@eso.org

The abstract and registration deadline is 31 January 2014.