



IBVS - novel features of a small OA astronomical journal



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Abstract

The Information Bulletin on Variable Stars (IBVS) is a small, specialized astronomical journal. Since 1961 it has been serving the variable star community. An Open Access electronic version was started in 1994. This electronic version offers innovative services to the reader: the use of third-party tools for visualization (Aladin) and third-party name resolution services (Simbad or GCVS for objects, and ADS for author names) for search. Considerable efforts have been made to interconnect the journal with other electronic resources: publications, databases, archives, like CDS, ADS, GCVS, NED, WFPDB and WEBDA. We will discuss other aspects of this small electronic journal: archiving policies, copyrights and the use of OAI-PMH.

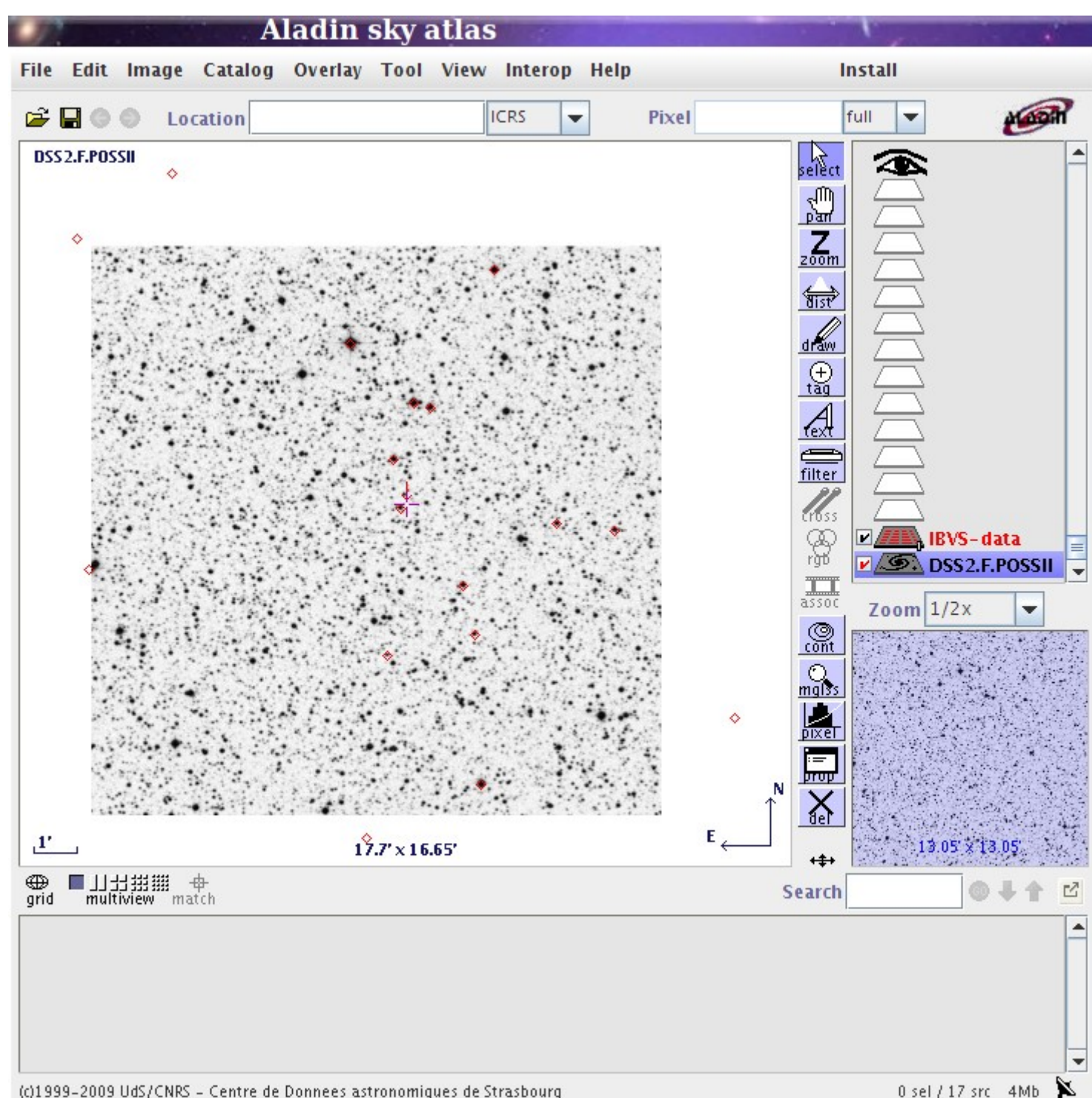
IBVS - the journal

IBVS is a small OA journal in the field of variable star research, published by Konkoly Observatory, Budapest, on behalf of the Division V. of the IAU. All the issues are available on-line - the journal appeared on the web in 1994 (although the articles became available in HTML only six years later).

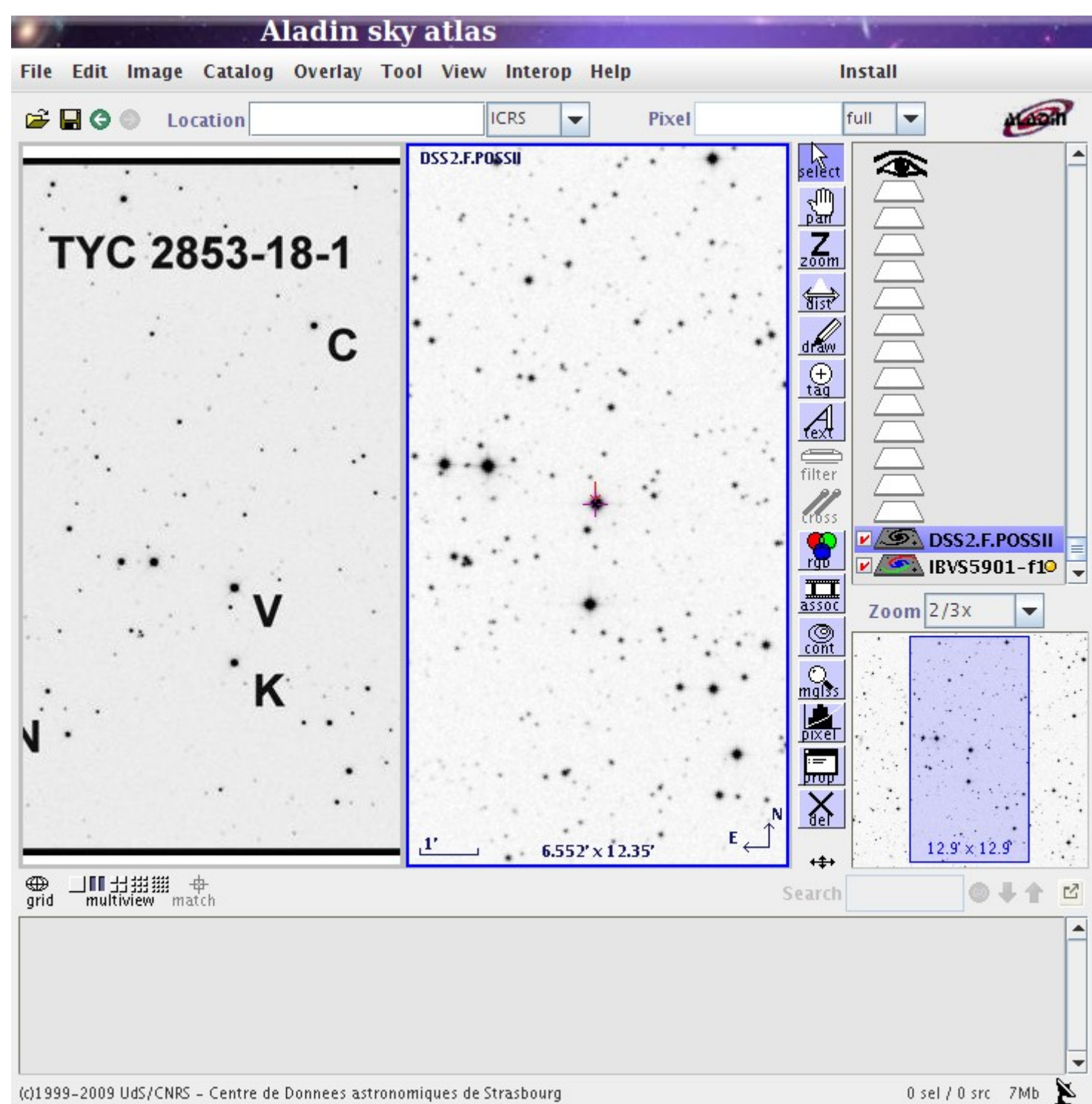
Novel features of IBVS

- Use of third-party visualization tool: the CDS Aladin

IBVS traditionally publishes tables and data files containing stars in a relatively small area: comparison and check stars around a variable, or a photometric sequence containing a larger number of stars. These stars could be better visualized, or examined using a Celestial Information System (a term I use for the analogue of GIS software). IBVS could not - and should not - develop things which are already widely used, so we decided to use the CDS Aladin. The reader can invoke Aladin following a link in the journal. The URL embedded in the link contains a small macro, which instructs Aladin to request the data file from IBVS, which IBVS provides in VOTable format.



Another variant of this tool makes it possible to compare a map published in IBVS with a WCS-referenced POSS image using Aladin.



- Semantic search

IBVS - as many other electronic journals - has a comprehensive search facility. Its novelty is the ability to search for objects and authors instead of strings (instances of object or author names). The same astronomical object is known by many names - just as the same author might use different variants of her/his name. Though we can use local dictionaries for handling aliases, we recognize that others are much better in this job: SIMBAD (and GCVS in the case of variables) keeps track of star names, and ADS collects information on authors. When the reader checks some of the external name resolution options in the search form, the name is forwarded to the third-party database, which responds with a list of the known aliases. The search tool then searches for all the returned aliases.



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IBVS - Advanced Search Tool

[General Search Settings](#) - [Full Text Search](#) - [Article Metadata Search](#) - [Figure Search](#) - [Data File Search](#) - [Help](#)

General Search Settings

Case sensitive: ☐
Show [all](#) results.
Search from No. to No.
Object name resolution:
☒ none ☐ Local ☐ GCVS ☐ Simbad
Author name resolution:
☒ none ☐ Local ☐ ADS

Full Text Search

Text:
Regular Expression ☐
[Start complex search](#) [Clear all forms](#) [Top Help](#)

Article Metadata Search

Title words:
Author List:
Abstract Text:
Object Name:
Publication Date: Between and
[Start complex search](#) [Clear all forms](#) [Top Help](#)

Other features: OAI-PMH, linking, archiving, copyright

- Use of OAI-PMH

At present metadata is sent to ADS and CDS by e-mail, by the script uploading an article to the website. However, files holding meta-information are updated quite often. The use of OAI-PMH would be better for keeping ADS and CDS up-to-date. The Directory of Open Access Journals would also harvest journal article metadata with OAI-PMH.

A possible tool for the task is YAR (Yet Another Repository), which is a static repository, a simple way to implement OAI-PMH for relatively small datasets. There is only a test version operating yet.

- Extensive linking

IBVS links to different object databases: SIMBAD, GCVS, NED, WEBDA using macros available to the authors. As we think the observational data an article based on should be made easily available for the readers, we experiment with linking plate lists to WFPDB. Reference links (mainly to ADS, but to arXiv and Vizier as well) are produced from the LaTeX source, using a system based on CDS software.

- Archiving

IBVS seeks archiving partners. Though we hope to be able to provide access for a long time, archiving partners would be needed for short term backup and long term insurance.

- Copyright

As we do not think the absolutely free model described in BOAI is appropriate for scientific journals, we developed our own copyright formula. We call for comments on it.

- No Redistribution / Except Author

The articles of the journal are not redistributable (no third party can make them available without explicit permission - EXCEPT the author(s), or entities on behalf of the authors(s): their employers, organizations, funding agencies. So the author(s) can deposit the paper to a repository, put it on his/her/their personal/departmental/institutional website, if he/she/they belong to an organization, the article could be made available at the organization's website, etc.

- Publisher's PDF can Be Used

We allow the author (see above) to deposit the publisher's PDF version - we even recommend it.

- Scientific / Educational Use Permitted

All uses common and accepted in the scientific / educational community are allowed, as in "fair use".

- Archiving by Agreement

The publisher would like to decide where the journal content could be archived.

- No Commercial Use

As we provide the journal for free, we do not allow third parties to sell access to the full text.

- Data Mining / Mass Download by Agreement

We decide what part of the content could be mass-downloaded for external data mining (or indexing). Because of technical reasons, we do not want every kind of items we serve to be mass downloaded without prior agreement. Here is what is allowed without prior negotiation: ASCII text of scanned archival issues and LaTeX source of modern issues could be freely downloaded en masse.

- Reference to Publisher's Copy Required

Authors must refer to the proper bibliographic data, and preferably the URL of the article on the Publisher's website when they deposit.