



Online events: Some experiences and thoughts

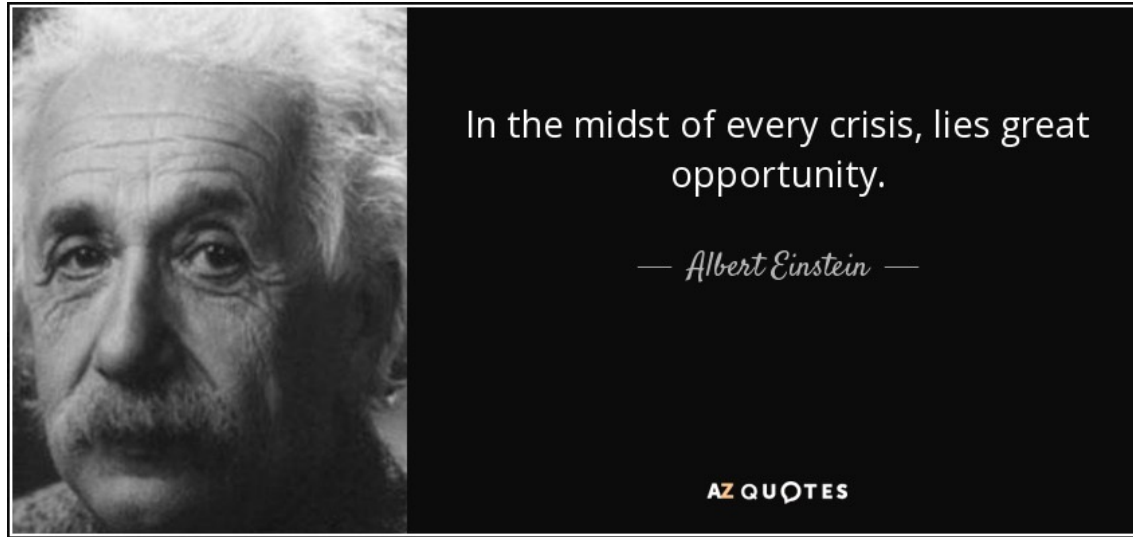


Rogério Rosenfeld
Instituto de Física Teórica – UNESP 



Brazilian Physical Society

Dark Energy Survey & LSST



We are in the midst of the second great revolution on the accessibility of Science brought by the internet.

1st revolution: the arXiv

PREPRINTS IN PARTICLES AND FIELDS

A. Rosenteld, R. K. Wakerling, L. Addis, R. Gex, and R. J. Taylor

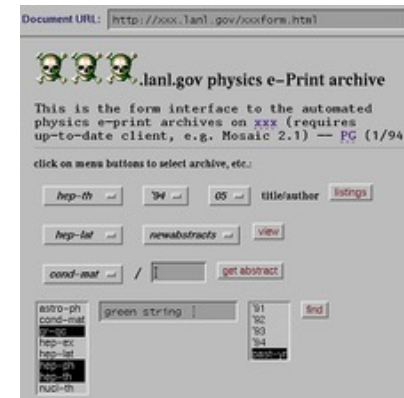
January 1970

The result was "Preprints in Particles and Fields" (PPF), which began weekly publication at SLAC in January 1969, with financial support from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Division of Technical Information for an experimental 18-month

Also SPIRES -> INSPIRE

May 2008, the physics laboratories [CERN](#), [DESY](#), [SLAC](#) and [Fermilab](#) therefore announced that they would work together to create a new Scientific Information System for high energy physics called INSPIRE.

arXiv begun on August 14, 1991



A screenshot of the arXiv taken in 1994, using the browser [NCSA Mosaic](#). At the time, [HTML forms](#) were a new technology. From Wikipedia.

2nd revolution: online events

- Started mostly with international collaborations
- First platforms (that I remember): GoToMeeting, CERN Vidyo and Zoom
- We started at the BPS an online event called “Física ao Vivo” in October 2019 – very few people knew Zoom!
- In 2020 everything changed
- BPS organized first online event in November 2020 – transition was not easy for the team and organizers - Zoom
- First online events at ICTP-SAIFR in June 2020 – Zoom + Slack

2nd revolution: online events

Advantages:

- More inclusive participation. We had record numbers of registration in several events from different parts of the world.
- Reduced impact in the environment – less travel
- Cheap to organize
- Can use asynchronous talks/round tables (we had a whole workshop like that – Latin American Workshop on Observational Cosmology – done asynchronously)
- New and more interactive platforms being developed – Sococo, Discord, Webex, Jitsi
- Platforms that emulate meetings atmosphere (coffee rooms, random interactions, etc)
I'm sure more new and interactive platforms will appear (3D virtual reality?)
- Use of Jupyter notebooks with Google Colab platform for lectures (Huterer course in IV Joint ICTP-Trieste/ICTP-SAIFR School on Cosmology)

2nd revolution: online events

Disadvantages:

- Lack of personal face-to-face interactions
- Different time zones
- Reduced schedule to avoid burn-out

2nd revolution: online events

Future:

- I believe we will not go back to the old regular in-person only events
- Hybrid events will be the norm
- Hybrid events must be carefully planned to avoid very different experiences from in-person and remote participants
- From the perspective of a Society: must carefully re-think registration fees

Thank you