

INAF Contribution

Istituto Nazionale Astro Fisica

Inside INAF (Italy – National institute of Astrophysics) there is a conspicuous production of software for different needs: for example, from control systems of large and small telescopes and instruments, data handling and archive systems, data simulations and data analysis. In 2014 were identified at least 90 independent packets, whose management (publication, maintenance and release) is delegated to the individual researcher or group without nor a definite rule nor a single repository.

This means that often the effort is sterile: its existence is unknown because the developer/s does not advertise properly and/or he/she is afraid to advertise it for the risk of losing its intellectual property.

In the international astrophysical community already exist some organizations such as the Astrophysics Source Code Library (ASCL) (www.ascl.net) and the Astrophysics Software Library (ASL) outlined by Astronet European project, but their use inside INAF, if it exists, it is not coordinated.

Target of the The unit VI of the Scientific Directorate - ICT, is first of all to create a complete census of the software and the developers currently in INAF, and simultaneously making contacts with international activities dedicated to astrophysics, see above, and coordinating/collaborating with the national for a management and exploitation of the software development. This becomes important do the big economic investment and effort made from INAF staff.