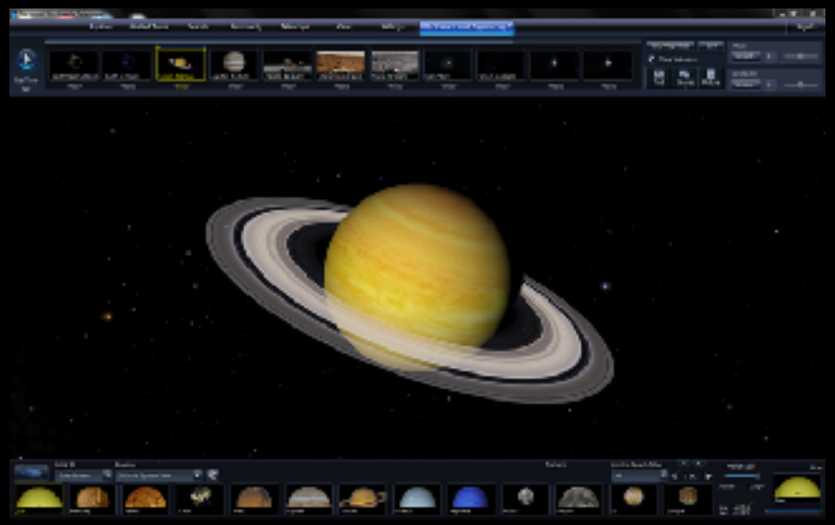
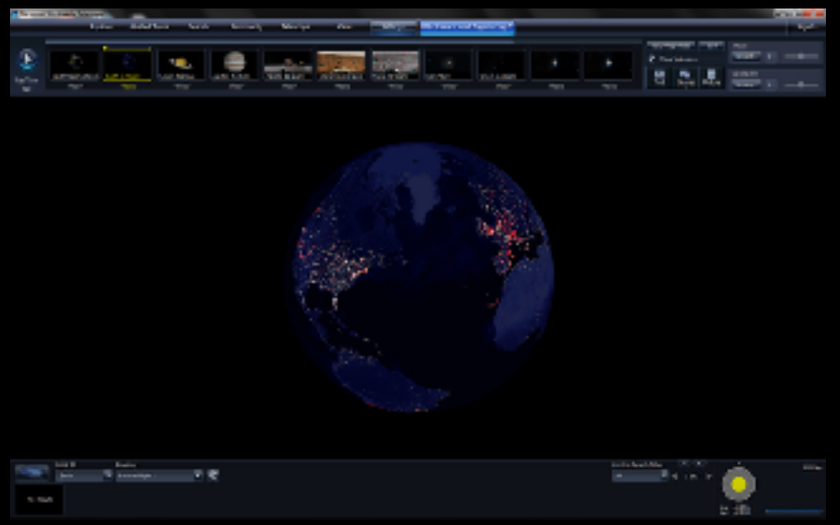
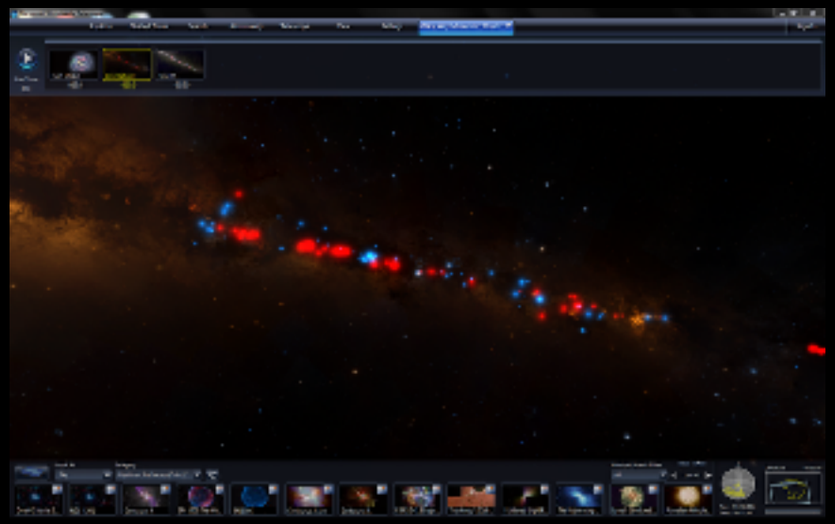
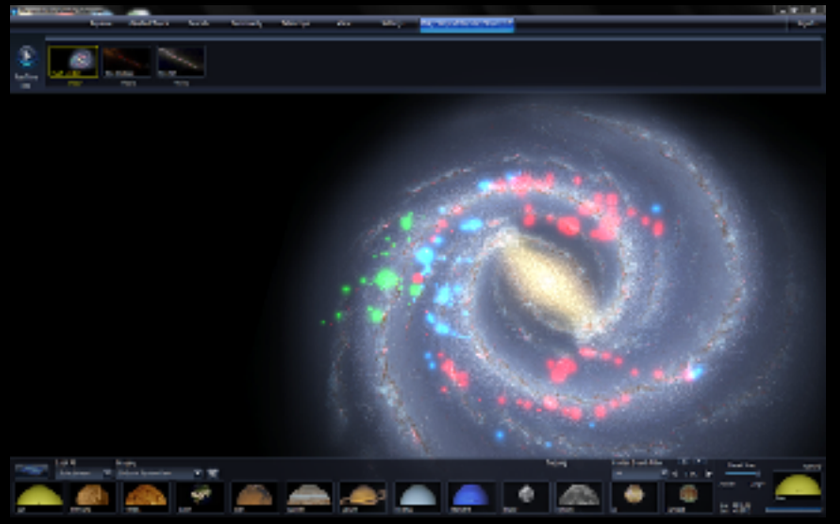
How does seamless access to all that's known about the Universe change research, and education?

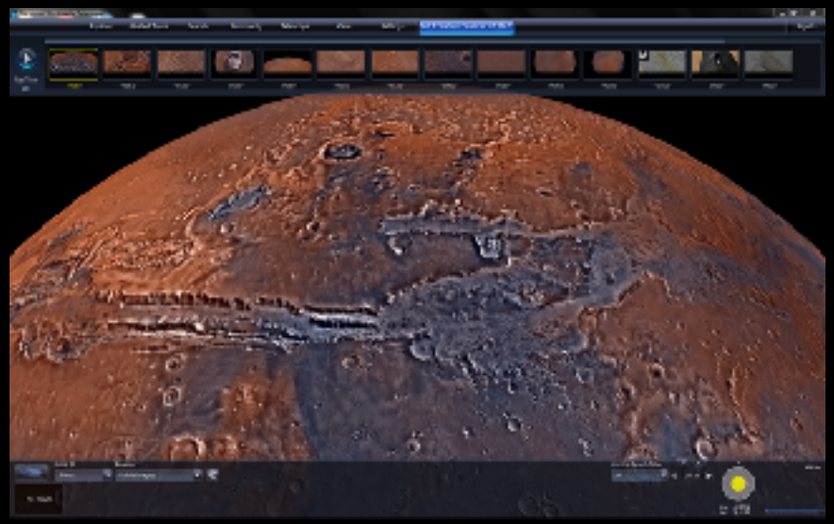
a few answers from Alyssa Goodman (@aagie), Harvard University, offered on May 20, 2016, at WGBH

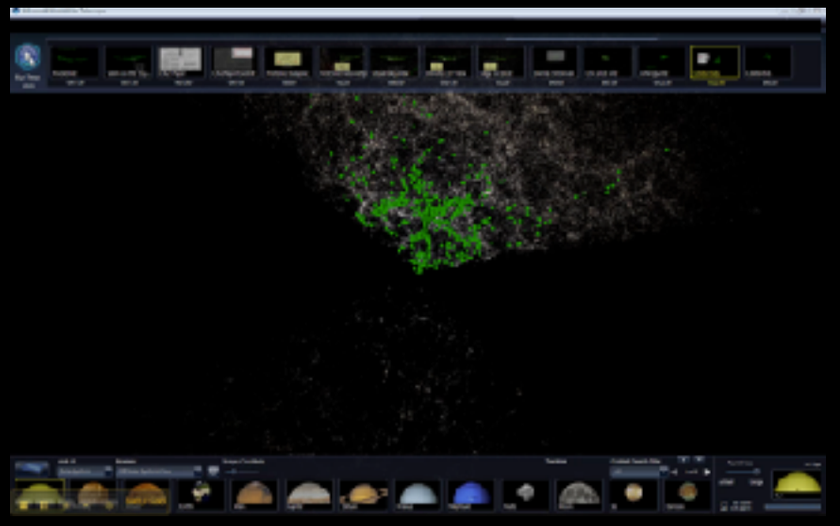












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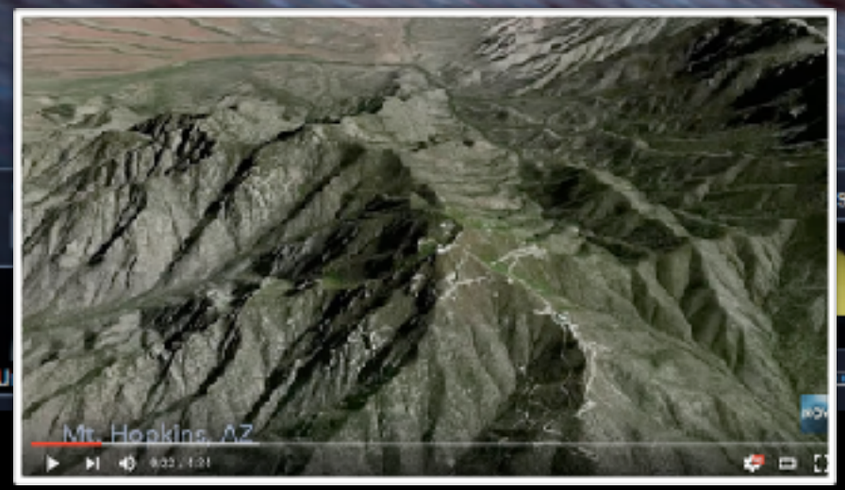
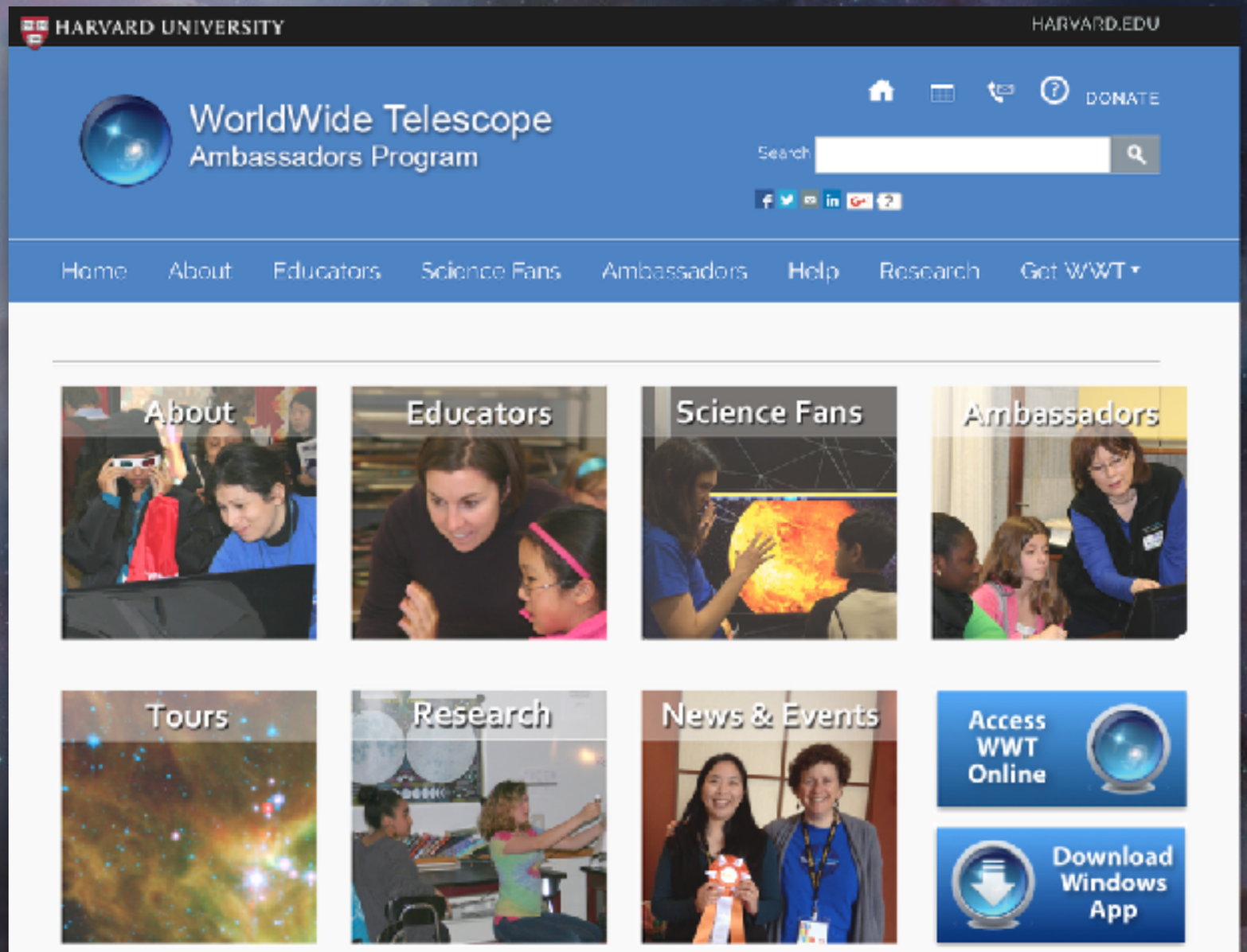




wwtambassadors.org

Think Spac

LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

NASA NSF

John Templeton Foundation

photo credit Jenny Mottar

The "Paper" of the Future

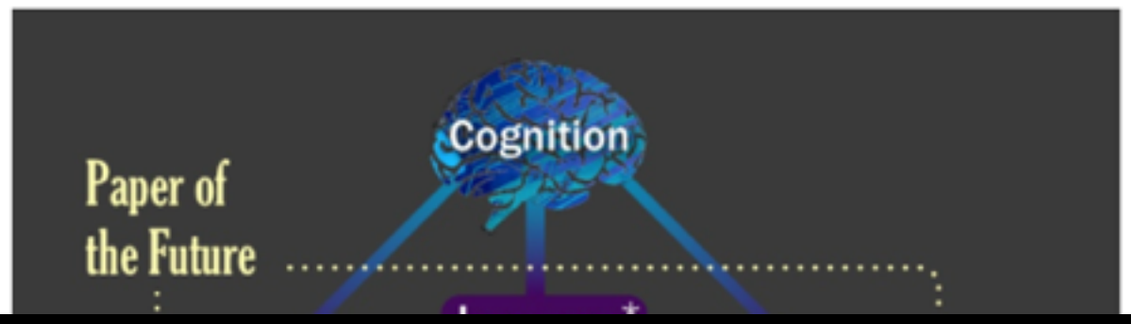
Alyssa Goodman, Josh Peek, Alberto Accomazzi, Chris Beaumont, Christine L. Borgman, How-Huan Hope Chen, Merce Crosas, Christopher Erdmann, August Muench, Alberto Pepe, Curtis Wong + Add author Re-arrange authors

A 5-minute video demonsration of this paper is available at this YouTube link.

1 Preamble

A variety of research on human cognition demonstrates that humans learn and communicate best when more than one processing system (e.g. visual, auditory, touch) is used. And, related research also shows that, no matter how technical the material, most humans also retain and process information best when they can put a narrative "story" to it. So, when considering the future of scholarly communication, we should be careful not to do blithely away with the linear narrative format that articles and books have followed for centuries: instead, we should enrich it.

Much more than text is used to commuicate in Science. Figures, which include images, diagrams, graphs, charts, and more, have enriched scholarly articles since the time of Galileo, and ever-growing volumes of data underpin most scientific papers. When scientists communicate face-to-face, as in talks or small discussions, these figures are often the focus of the conversation. In the best discussions, scientists have the ability to manipulate the figures, and to access underlying data, in real-time, so as to test out various what-if scenarios, and to explain findings more clearly. **This short article explains—and shows with demonstrations—how scholarly "papers" can morph into long-lasting rich records of scientific discourse**, enriched with deep data and code linkages, interactive figures, audio, video, and commenting.



Konrad Hinsen 3 days ago · Public
Many good suggestions, but if the goal is "long-lasting rich records of scientific discourse", a more careful and critical attitude towards electronic artifacts is appropriate. I do see it concerning videos, but not a word on the much more critical situation in software. Archiving source code is not sufficient: all the dependencies, plus the complete build environment, would have to be conserved as well to make things work a few years from now. An "executable figure" in the form of an IPython notebook wil...
more

Merce Crosas 3 days ago · Public
Konrad, good points; this has been a concern for the community working on reproducibility. Regarding data repositories, Dataverse handles long-term preservation and access of data files in the following way: 1) for some data files that the repository recognizes (such as R Data, SPSS, STATA), which depend on a statistical package, the system converts them into a preservation format (such as a tab/CSV format). Even though the original format is also saved and can be accessed, the new preservation format gua...
more

Konrad Hinsen 1 day ago · Public
That sounds good. I hope more repositories will follow the example of Dataverse. Figshare in particular has a very different attitude, encouraging researchers to deposit as much as possible. That's perhaps a good strategy to change habits, but in the long run it could well backfire when people find out in a few years that 90% of those deposits have become useless.

Christine L. Borgman 4 months ago · Private
"publications"

d3po/Authorea: Peek, Price-Whelan, Pepe, Beaumont, Borkin, Newton; PoF: Goodman, Peek; WWT: Wong, Fay et al.; Astrometry.net: Hogg, Lang, Roweis et al.

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Image Crossfade

Tracking: GLIMPSE/MIPSGAL
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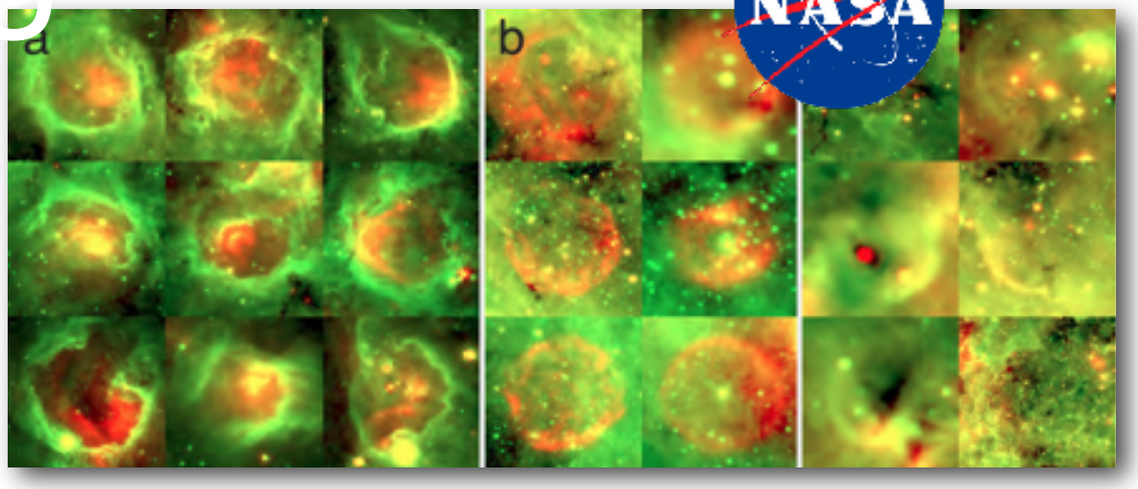
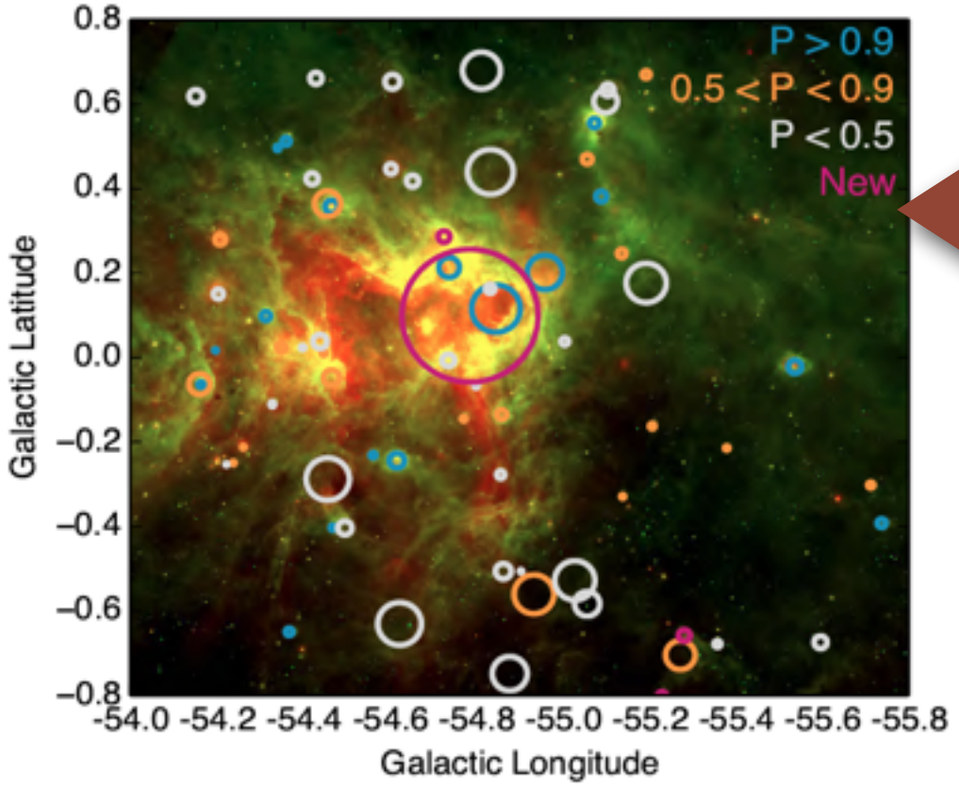
BIG DATA and "Human-Aided Computing"

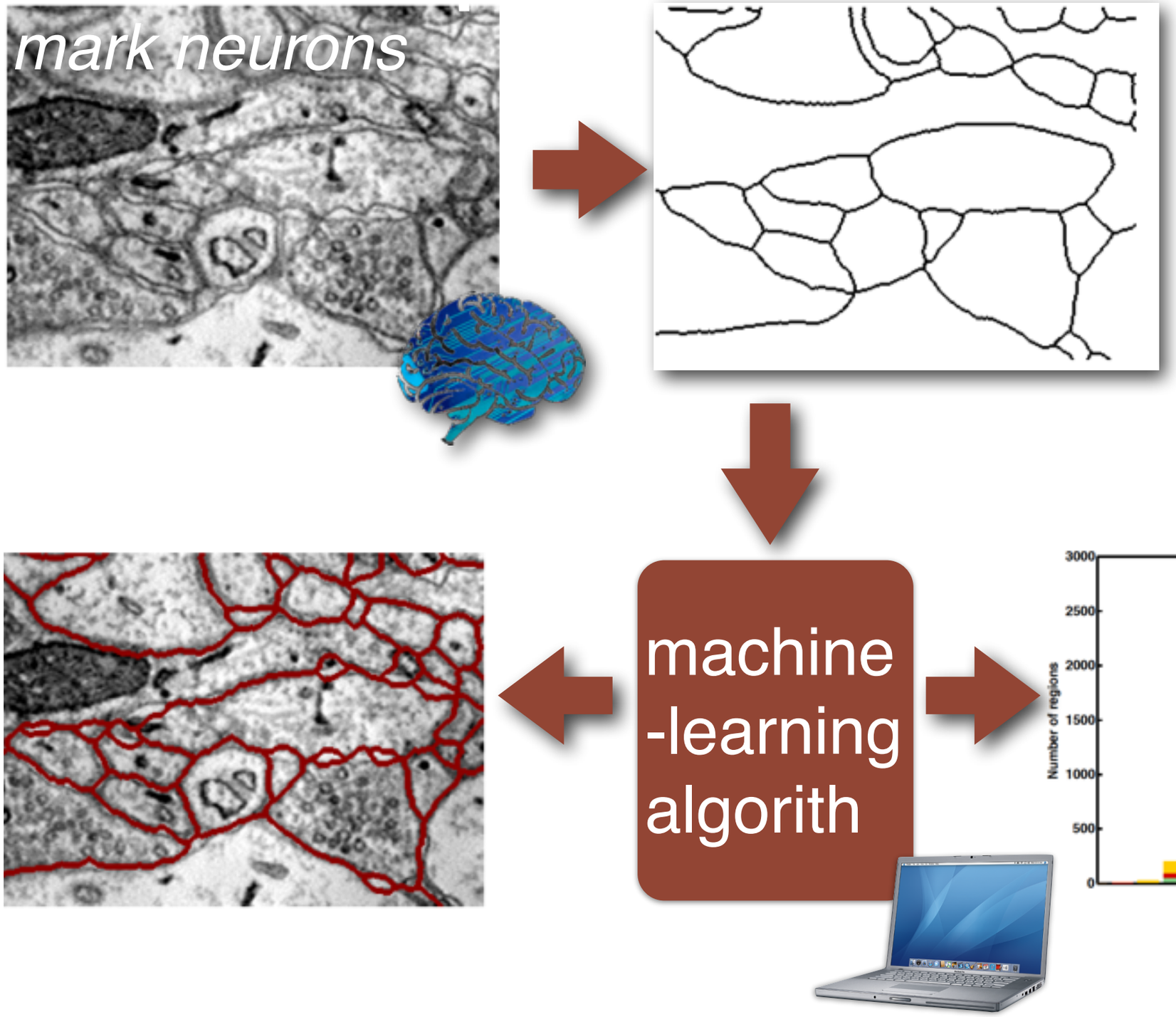


machine-learning algorith

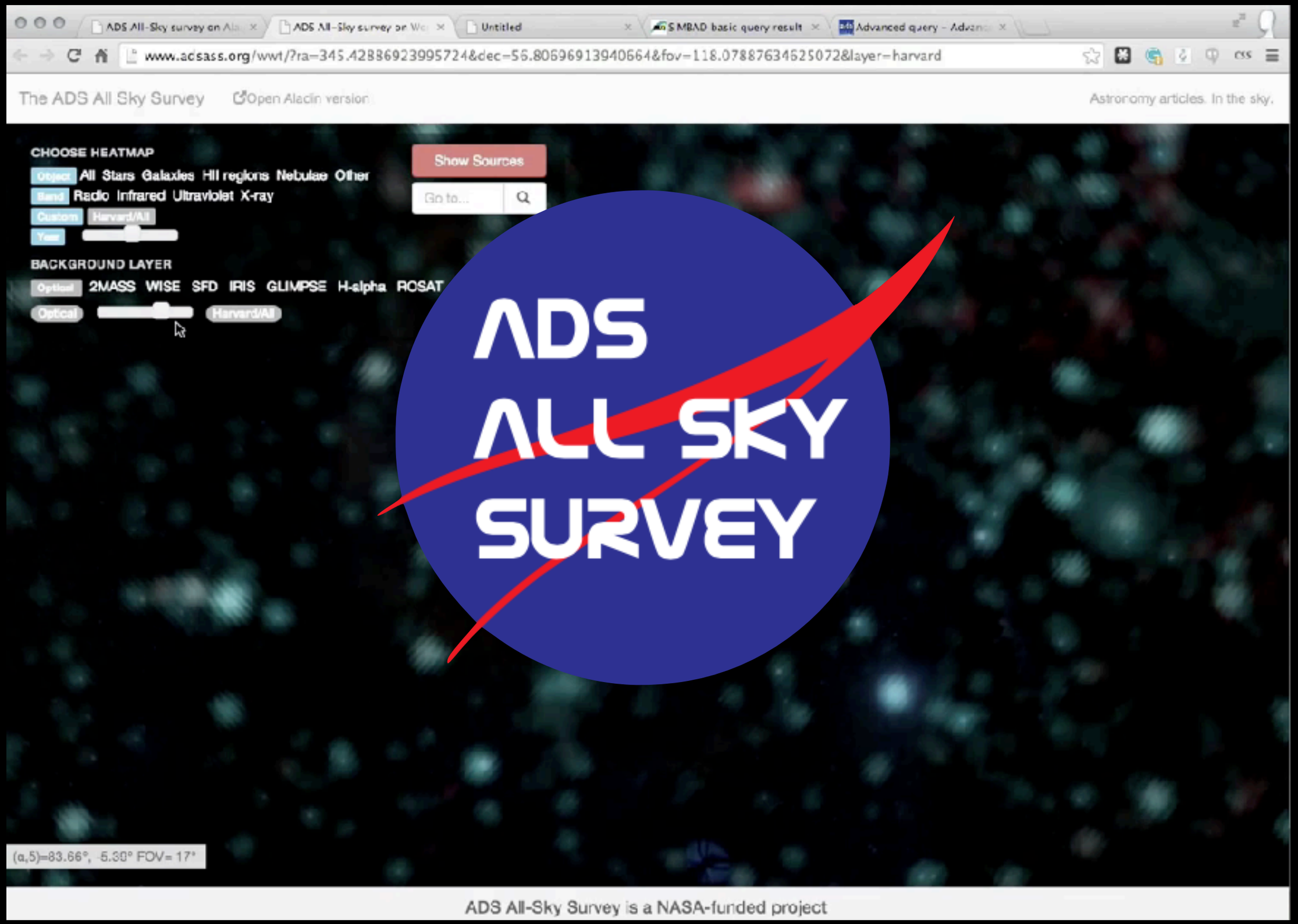


example here from: ***Beaumont****, Goodman, Kendrew, Williams & Simpson 2014; based on* ***Milky Way Project*** *catalog (Simpson et al. 2013), which came from* ***Spitzer/GLIMPSE*** *(Churchwell et al. 2009, Benjamin et al. 2003), cf. Shenoy & Tan 2008 for discussion of HAC;* ***astroml.org*** *for machine learning advice/tools*

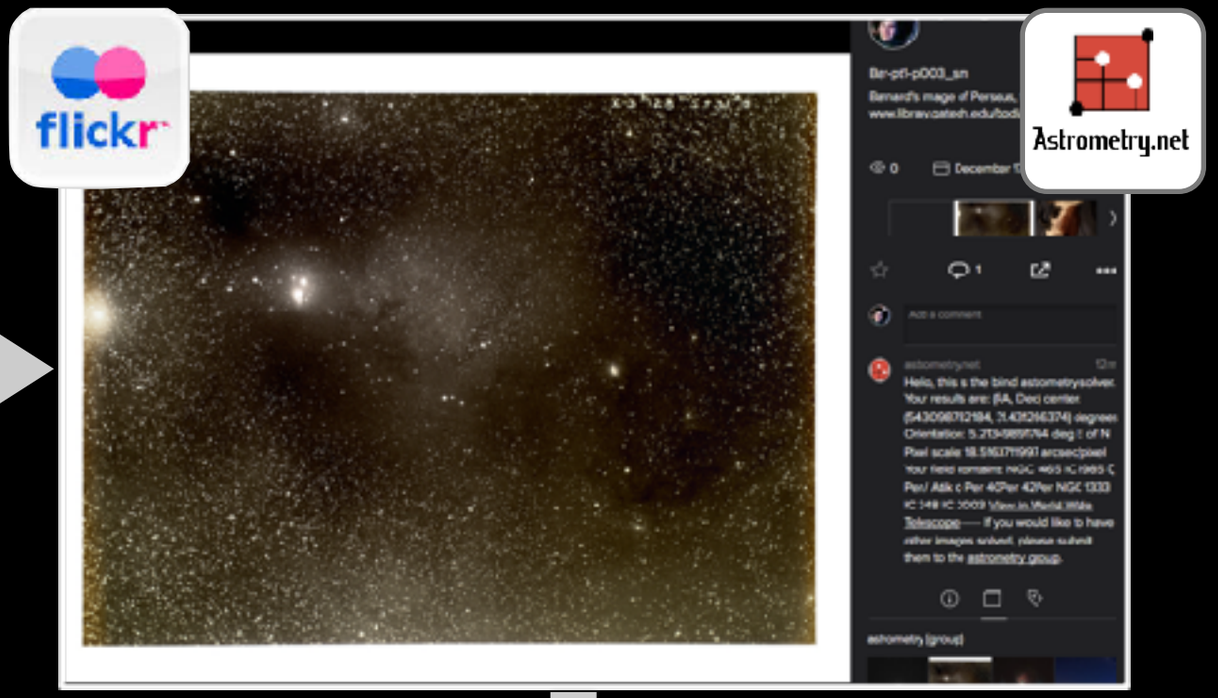
BIG DATA and "Human-Aided Computing"

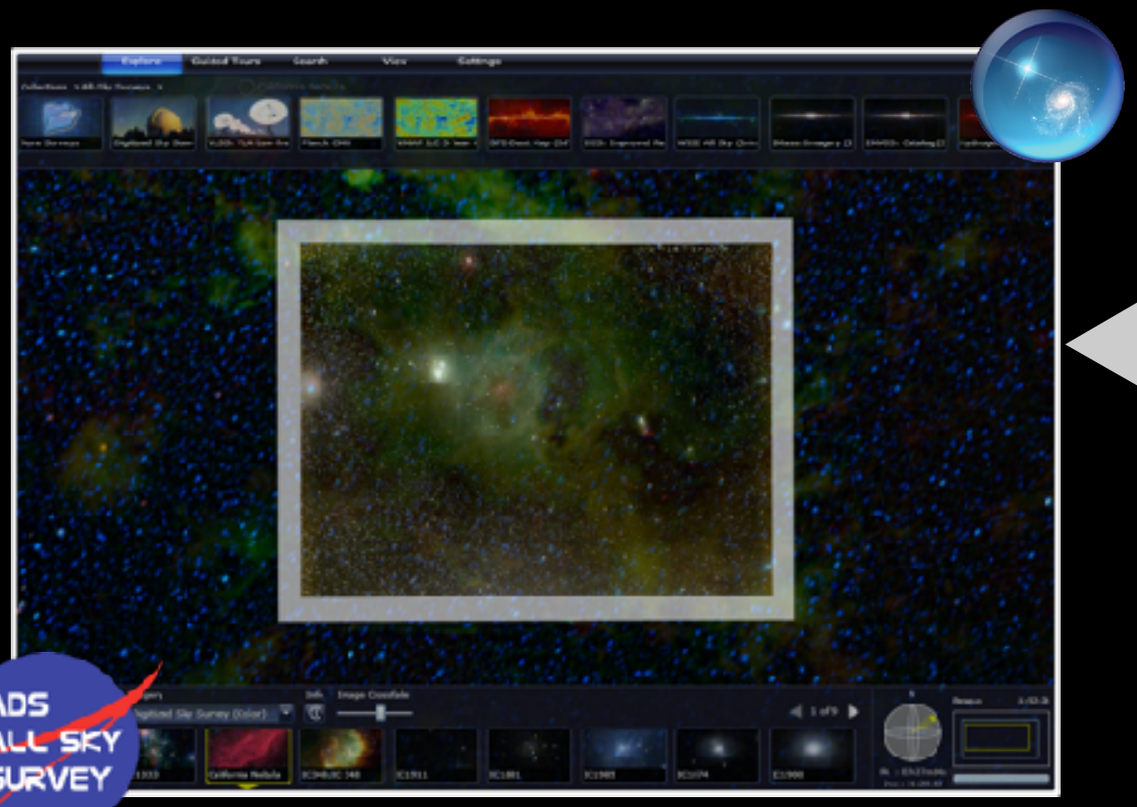


example here from: Kaynig...Lichtman...Pfister et al. 2013, "Large-Scale Automatic Reconstruction of Neuronal Processes from Electron Microscopy Images"; cf. Shenoy & Tan 2008 for discussion of HAC; ***astroml.org*** *for machine learning advice/tools (Note: RF=Random Forest; CRF=Conditional Random Fields.)*



WorldWide Telescope: ADS All-Sky Survey adsass.org





ADS ALL SKY SURVEY

WorldWide Telescope: ADSASS/oldAstronomy flickr.com/groups/astrometry/

“Is It a Bird? Is It a Plane? It's... Ruffmanman!”