### Checking the Literature

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#### Reasons

- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Acknowledge those that came before
- Learn what is known about an object
- Look for new ideas
- Learn how to write
- Get your paper published!

### Referee

- Will check references for accuracy
- Will use references for learning about a subject
- Expects good references; otherwise, suspects your research

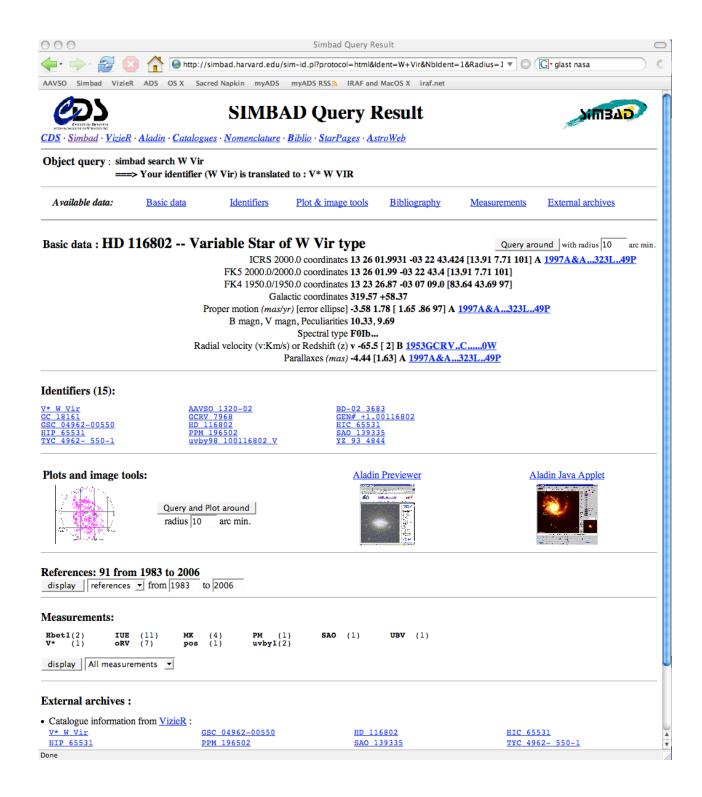
#### Two approaches

- Looking for basic information about an object (simbad, vizier, vsx, maillists)
- Looking for research done on an object (simbad, ADS, journals, maillists)

# Basic searching - Simbad

- Best starting point for individual objects
- Not perfect many GSC stars, for example, not catalogued. More up to date info often located elsewhere
- <u>http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/Simbad</u>
- Mirror at <u>http://simbad.harvard.edu/Simbad</u>
- Also check http://www.aavso.org/vsx/

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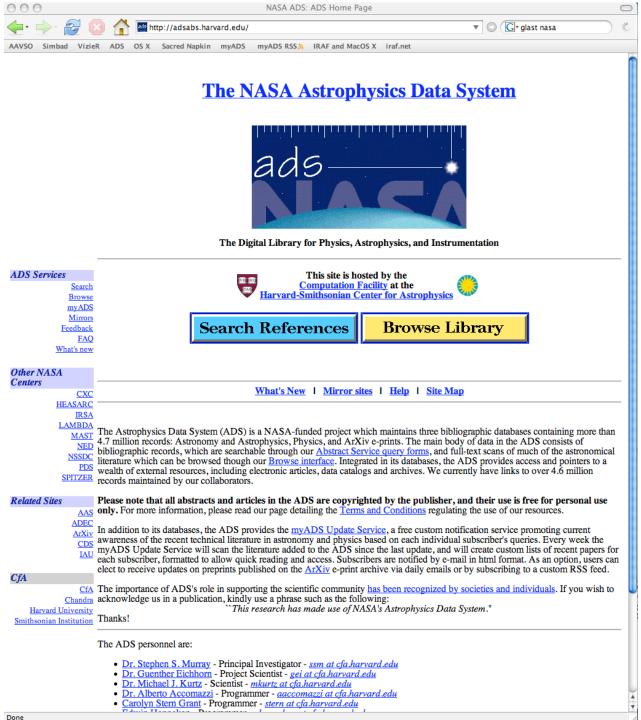
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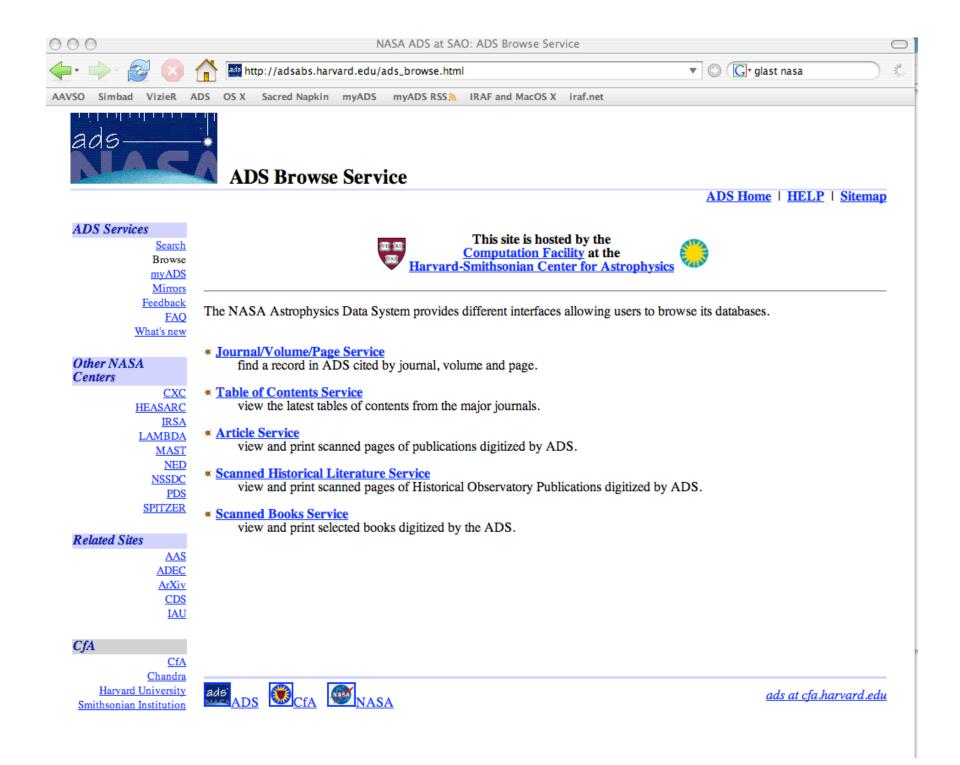
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System descripti	a and first light curves of the Hungarian automated telescope, an autonomous observatory for variability search.	
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# Astrophysics Data System

- <u>http://adsabs.harvard.edu</u>
- <u>http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract\_service.html</u>
- Contains both recent and historical literature
- Recent literature often has restrictions
- Overcome restrictions via preprint, or direct author query

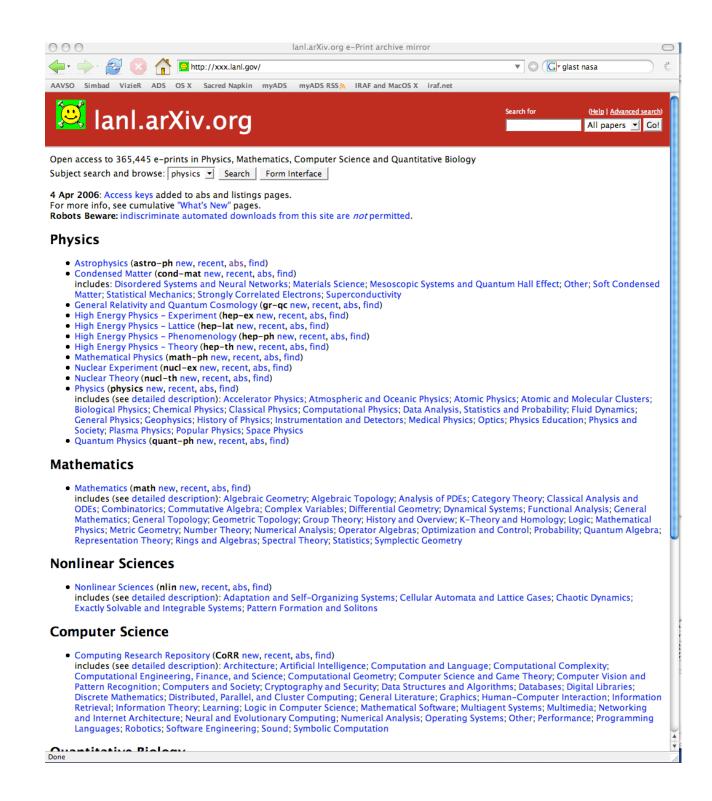


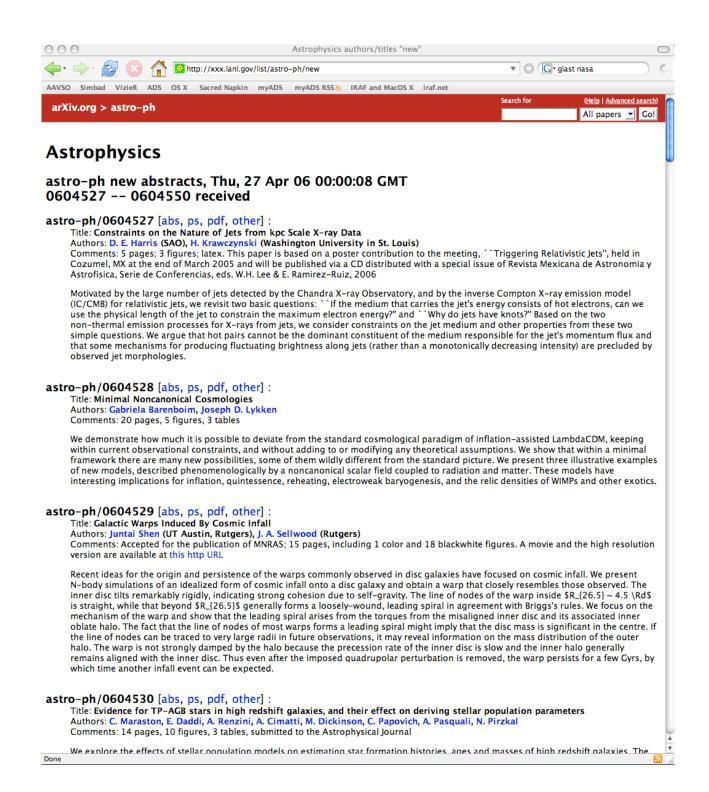


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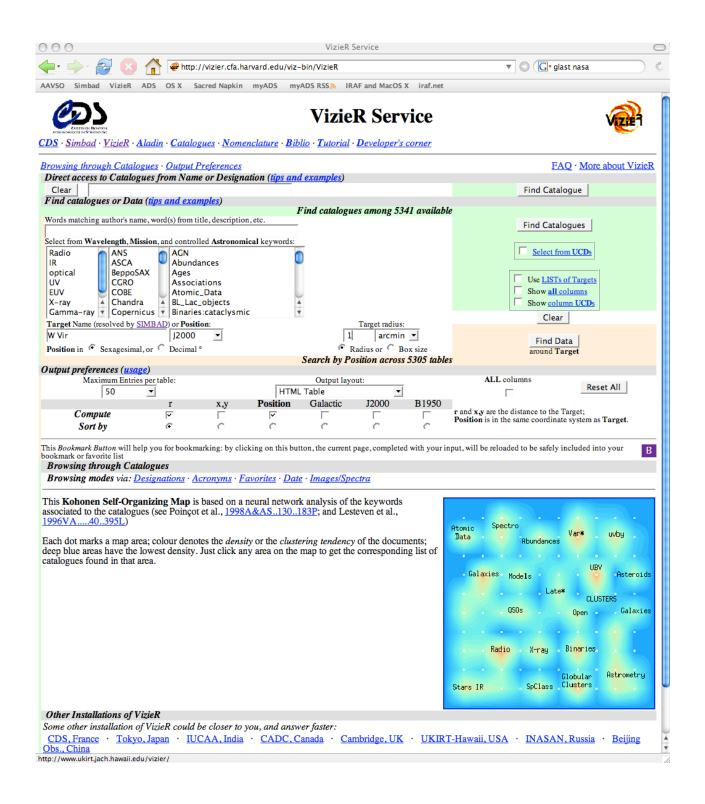
- <u>http://xxx.lanl.gov</u>
- <u>http://xxx.lanl.gov/abs/astro-ph</u>
- Sometimes used for self-publishing; don't even think about it!





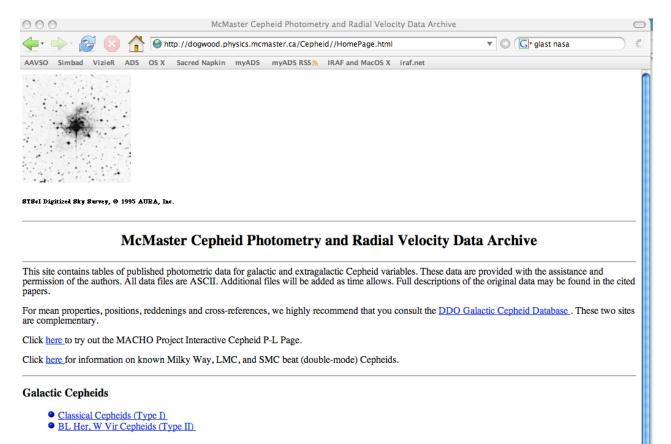
# VizieR

- <u>http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR</u>
- <u>http://vizier.cfa.harvard.edu/vizier/</u>
- Best source for published data



## Specific catalogs

- <u>http://dogwood.physics.mcmaster.ca/Cepheid//HomePage.html</u>
- Downes CV catalog
- Google works wonders



**Extragalactic Cepheids** 

- <u>LMC</u>
   <u>SMC</u>
- GR 8
- NGC 300
- <u>HST Key Project Achives</u>
   M81
  - M101
     M100
- **Database Statistics**

	Galaxy	LMC	SMC
# of Stars	859	128	338
# of Photometry Lists	2046	268	480
# of Radial Velocity Lists	486	32	10
# of Finder Charts	206	0	0

## Specific surveys

- ASAS
- NSVS
- OGLE/MACHO
- SDSS
- TASS
- AAVSO database!

## Variable-star journals

- IBVS
- JAAVSO
- Peremennye Zvezdy http://www.astronet.ru/db/varstars/
- http://var.astro.cz/oejv

### Other resources

- O-C gateway <u>http://var.astro.cz/ocgate/index.php?lang=en</u>
- Web pages of individual researchers
- Maillists (cvnet, baavss, vsnet, etc.)
- google

# Summary

- You \*must\* do literature searching before writing a paper
- It is easy in the Internet Era
- You will learn from the past
- You will become a better researcher