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P-1 Archiving data from ground-based telescopes

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The scientific throughput of a particular observing facility has been demonstrated to be multiplied with the operation of a data archive and its corresponding retrieval system. A requisite to achieve such an exploitation is a well structured observations catalog, *i.e.* a catalog that includes all information necessary to reduce and analyse the data even many years after its acquisition. At the same time, an information system is required that allow users to browse through the catalog at different levels of detail, adapting the amount of information presented to the actual needs of the user.

Archiving data acquired with ground based telescopes is particularly difficult because of the relative short life-time of instruments and detectors in comparison to the expected life-time of the archive. This feature differentiates ground-based originated archives radically from its space-borne counterparts. The organisation of the observations catalogue becomes highly dependent on the capability of the archive to deal with new instrumental configurations. We introduce in this paper, the concept of a *catalog database* as opposed to the static catalog design currently in use in many archiving facilities, as a method to deal with this problem.

We also present a brief review of activities currently in progress in this area.