

In accord with the policies of the International Astronomical Union<sup>1</sup> and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development<sup>2</sup>, and in the spirit of *The Astronomers' Data Manifesto* (R. Norris, 2007)<sup>3</sup>, the US National Virtual Observatory project fully endorses open access to astronomical data worldwide.

We strongly urge that all non-proprietary data be fully open and generally free of access controls. Data providers may choose to put limits on access, e.g., by restricting the volume of data that may be requested or retrieved by a single user at any one time. However, it is not necessary to use accounts and passwords to enforce such restrictions. Requiring users to register for accounts and obtain passwords inhibits open access, provides little or no real benefit in understanding usage patterns, raises privacy concerns, and unnecessarily complicates data retrieval using international virtual observatory data access protocols.

We recognize that various facilities may impose limited proprietary periods on data to allow the principal investigators who proposed the observations to be able to accomplish their primary research objectives without competition or conflict with other researchers. Access to these proprietary data might be controlled via techniques such as encryption or various methods of user authentication such as certificates or password protected user accounts.

Executive Committee  
US National Virtual Observatory Project  
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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.iau.org/fileadmin/content/pdfs/IB96-Acrobat6\\_x-March4.pdf.pdf](http://www.iau.org/fileadmin/content/pdfs/IB96-Acrobat6_x-March4.pdf.pdf), pp. 16-20

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_25998799\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1.00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/0,2340,en_2649_34487_25998799_1_1_1_1.00.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://arxiv.org/pdf/astro-ph/0701361>