YouASTRO
A web-based bibliography management system with distributed comments and rating features for astrophysical ADS papers

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Outline

- Introduction
  - What is a reference management software (RMS)
  - Commentaries
- Hands-on session
  - Online demonstration of YouASTRO basic functionalities
  - Follow the hand-on session with your own laptop by connecting to www.youastro.org
- Commentaries: potential problems and benefits
  - Conclusions

Introduction

- YouASTRO is a **reference management software (RMS)**
  - It's free and web-based
    - Access from everywhere, no software installation
  - BibTeX compliant
- YouASTRO is a platform for **sharing of comments** and rates on ADS papers among astronomers
  - Community-driven (with a Board of Editors)
- YouASTRO is NOT a replacement for astro-ph or ADS
  - No paper submission
  - YouASTRO sits on top of ADS/arXiv

What is an RMS? (Part I)

- A RMS manages list of references, e.g.:
  - papers you have written
  - papers you have read
  - paper you want to read (and you don't have the time to read now)
  - papers you want to cite in your works (a.k.a. your "bibliography")
  - papers on which you want to keep an eye (e.g. email alert when something happens to the paper)
  - papers which you have commented

What is a RMS? (Part II)

- Things you may want to do with your lists of papers
  - Add/remove papers with one click
    - A strong interaction with ADS/arXiv is needed
    - Import existing BibTeX lists into the platform
  - Search
  - Sort
  - Print
  - Export them in BibTeX
    - Allows tight integration with LaTeX
    - Allow local backup of user lists
  - Send to friends

F. Bocchino - YouASTRO: a web-based RMS with shared comments and rating

YouASTRO allows you to do all these things, just using your web browser

"Sources" of papers for YouASTRO

- ADS is the only "source" of papers for YouASTRO users
  - arXiv/astro-ph papers are daily included in ADS, so you will get those as well
- YouASTRO-ADS interaction is mostly done through the set-up of a *Library Link* service
  - Only ADS registered users can do that
- Daily, weekly and monthly astro-ph listings are readily available in YouASTRO (optionally keyword filtered)
  - Web-based equivalent of email listings already available in ADS/arXiv

Comments and rating (I)

- Similar to the concept of "blog"
  - One main post, and a list of user comments after it
  - Other examples: YouTUBE, TripAdvisor, IMDB
  - Community-driven, but with guidelines (BoE)
- Comments may come from:
  - Users not registered
  - Registered users
    - Private (invisible to the community)
    - Public and anonymous
    - Public and signed

Comments and rating (II)

- Only registered users can rate a paper (experimental)
  - From 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent)
  - User individual rates are never displayed
  - The **average rate (R)** of a paper and its **standard deviation (σ)** appears only when more then 3 rates have been given
- DISCLAIMER: (R,σ) are not intended to be a serious publication metric

The Board of Editors (BoE)

- Write/update the YouASTRO Terms of Service (ToS)
- Take the final decision on actions in response of ToS violations in commentaries
- Take the final decision in case of "comments abuse reports" filed by registered users

Hands-on session

- Register a new user
- Review predefined YouASTRO lists
- Configure paper sources (astro-ph daily digest, ADS papers)
- Add a paper to the lists
- Export a list in BibTeX, and use it in a TeX source
- Leave a comment, read other comments

http://www.youastro.org

Commentaries: Potential problems (I)

- Page vandalism (ToS violation)
  - DETECTION: Simple screening robots, BoE alerts, community driven alerts
  - COUNTERMEASURES: user banning, IP banning, contact the administrator of offending domain
- "Scientific" comments including insults, racism, gender discrimination, etc. (ToS violation)
  - DETECTION: BoE alerts, community driven alerts
  - COUNTERMEASURE: user banning, IP banning, contact the administrator of offending domain

Commentaries: potential problems (II)

- Comments not scientifically relevant to a paper, comments from not competent persons (it may NOT be a ToS violation)
  - DETECTION: community driven alerts. They will be judged on a broad perspective to avoid too stringent limitations
  - COUNTERMEASURES: as above plus private communication from BoE, **public reply to the comment**

- **Positive internet experiences (e.g. Wikipedia) have shown that open-access communities tend to self-regolate**

Commentaries: potential benefits

- Comments may be used to address, e.g.:
  - Strong and weak points of a paper
  - Suspected plagiarism, including borderline cases
  - "forgotten" citations
  - Mistakes (e.g. in formulae)

- Comments are **NOT** intended to replace discussions with colleagues at meetings etc., **NOR** they are a replacement of the peer review system used by journals, but they are complementary, persistent, and they can be read by anyone

Comparison with other RMSs

- Wikipedia lists 29 RMSs, of which only 14 are under not-proprietary license. 18 are available only for few selected platforms (e.g. Papers, Bibsonomy, Bibdesk, etc.)
- Advantages
  - Free, web-based (access from everywhere)
  - Tight interaction with ADS (no need to post anything, user can tag or comment immediately any paper in ADS)
  - Shared commentaries
- Disadvantages
  - No data are stored locally (backup to/from BibTeX are possible, though)
  - Limited to ADS/astro-ph papers
  - No PDF is automatically retrieved from ADS

Conclusion

YouASTRO is an easy way to keep track of papers you use in your work

YouASTRO promotes the online scientific discussions focussed on papers,

it is a way to leave on the web our points of view, for others to read them and to use them as they want,

in the framework of a general and continuous improvement of the quality of scientific publications, and the overall advance of science.

http://www.youastro.org

Feel free to use it. Email board@youastro.org or contact me for any comments or suggestion, if you think this could be useful for your work