

LIVERPOOL TELESCOPE: DATA ACCESS POLICY

Original: 8th October 2012. Revised :11th August 2014

Definitions

"Science data" are data taken in support of scientific investigations using one of the instruments attached to the focal plane of the Liverpool Telescope (LT). They typically consist of FITS format image files.

"Engineering data" are data from the telescope and associated sub-systems that are intended for use by LT staff when monitoring telescope performance and diagnosing faults.

"Meta data" are typically data in the headers of FITS files which provide a description of the data taken, but not the content (generally images).

Data Ownership and Copyright

All data are owned by and are copyright Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). LJMU claims no copyright over publications, results of analysis, or derived data products produced by external parties. However, all papers published using LT data should contain a standard acknowledgement as listed at <http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/Ack/>. **LJMU reserve the right to use all data for publicity and promotional purposes.**

Access Policies & Proprietary Period

"Engineering data" are held within a number of databases and file systems within LJMU and on La Palma. Requests for access to these data should be made to the LT Director.

"Meta data" are contained within a public-access, searchable, on-line database which contains all of the observations performed by the LT. Meta data include items such as; where the telescope was pointed, instrument configurations, integration times, who requested the observation, etc. By applying to use the telescope, users accept that these meta-data will be made public within a short time (typically one working day) of being generated.

"Science data" are made available to external parties for scientific or educational purposes. LJMU and its staff provide no direct supervision nor accept any liability for how those data are analyzed and applied. **Science data obtained through observing time allocated by the normal time allocation processes or through collaborative agreements between LJMU and other parties will be subject to a normal proprietary protection period of one calendar year after the end of the semester within which the data were acquired.** Science data obtained through other routes (e.g., common calibration observations for multiple programmes and Directors Discretionary Time) have no proprietary period. The purpose of the proprietary period is to allow the user who requested the data a reasonable opportunity to publish their findings. In exceptional circumstances this one-year period may be extended up to two years by giving sufficient justification in the telescope proposal. Granting of this extension of the proprietary period is at the discretion of the LT Director.

During this proprietary period science data are held in a password protected, on-line data archive. LJMU will provide the access password to the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (CoI) named on the proposal application and to other individuals nominated by the PI. LT staff will also have access to the science data for the purposes of quality control, fault finding and system analysis. At the end of the one-year proprietary period the password protection will be removed and the science data will become publicly accessible