

VDFS-WSA Quarterly Report: 2004 Quarter 1 (January - March): Narrative

1. General

NCH gave a presentation reporting Science Archive progress and future work as part of the VEGA presentation to the PPRP in February and the informal feedback has been favourable. We have been in discussion with PPARC staff regarding revision of the WFA Grant to incorporate the outcome of the VEGA bid, and new bids to fund operation of the WSA (and other WFA projects). We have studied the VDFS UK User Requirements Document (URD v0.4) and fed back comments to the Project Scientist. The URD included both design and operational requirements, which need to be costed.

2. Hardware

The Catalogue Server ("ahmose") holding the SSA and additional catalogues required for the WSA has been more stable in the last two months and the full SSA has been prepared for release. We had intended to buy another disk set in March but have delayed the purchase. With external help, we believe that the intermittent problems are caused by overloading the CPUs and will be testing a different disk controller with on-board RAID.

3. Software

The data transfer and other data curation tools have now been completed (see attached table) and tested as far as possible with dummy data. A user interface has been developed for the SSA and is being extended to the WSA. To allow users to get the most from the SSA, WSA and next generation archives, an SQL Cookbook has been written containing functioning tutorial examples.

4. Plans for Quarter 2

Work in the next few weeks will concentrate on public deployment of the full, indexed SSA and seeing how it performs with multiple users. The WSA user interface will be developed from the SSA and users' experience of it and further curation tasks will be developed, as set out in the table. Benchmarking of a possible alternative DBMS (DR1 compared with SQLServer) for Version2 will begin. We will also liaise with the VISTA project regarding the URD and expect to prepare the application for the next revision of the RG.

PMW
2004 April 5