



# UAT as a critical element in AAS author submissions

Peter K. G. Williams (AAS/CfA) • [@pkgw](#)

UAT Webinar – 2020 Dec 8

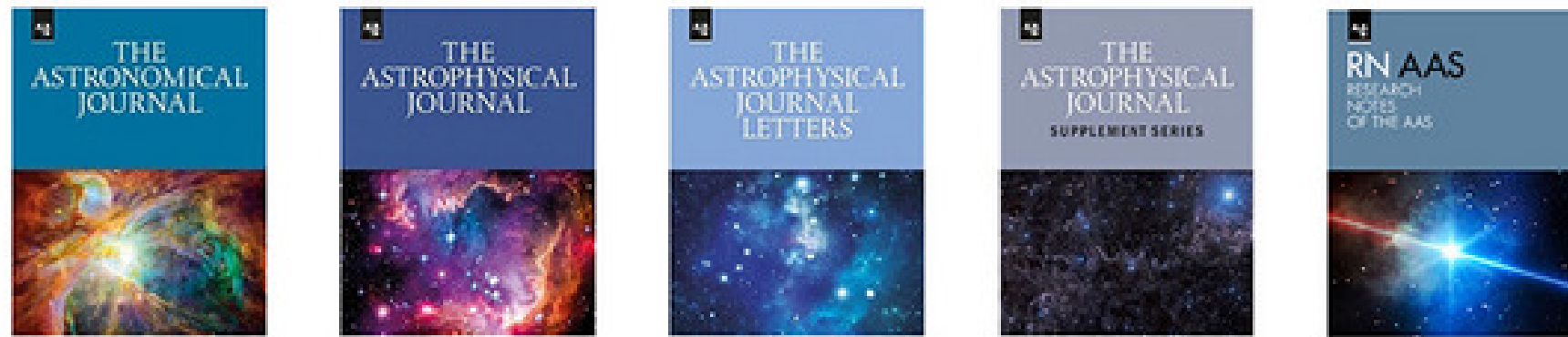
# AAS journals have been using UAT for ~18 months.

9 MAY 2019

## AAS Journals Will Start Using New Keywords on June 3rd

**Peter Williams**

Harvard-Smithsonian, CfA; AAS WorldWide Telescope Director



Starting on June 3rd, the **AAS journals** will start categorizing articles using concepts from the **Unified Astronomy Thesaurus** (UAT), replacing the venerable subject keywords system.

[aas.org](http://aas.org)

Long transition period as pre-UAT articles work through the system.

Presumably complete (?) by now.

# UAT implementation was straightforward.

---

eJournalPress implemented a UAT chooser widget to use during submission:

Minimal UAT Concept Chooser Demo

Please use the entry box and drop down menu below to auto-complete, search for, and select UAT concepts:

It's open source: <https://github.com/AASJournals/uat-chooser>

# UAT implementation was straightforward.

---

Biggest technical risk is ensuring that UAT tags survive the entire production process *with correct semantics*.

Textual description (“Comet tails”) is unreliable; identifiers (“274”) must be preserved.

Our partners (eJournalPress, IOP) did a great job with this.

# UAT implementation was straightforward.

---

In principle, one might worry about versioning: EJP uses UAT 3.0, IOP uses UAT 4.0?

The regular, predictable UAT release cycle (“release train” model) really attenuates this concern.

So does the expectation that “breaking changes” will be, at most, exceedingly rare.

# The rollout has gone swimmingly!

---

Mostly: “no news is good news.”

Some very positive responses from previously poorly-served communities, such as lab astrophysics.

Identified a few areas for improvement but no substantial problems.

# Deeper UAT integrations are possible.

---

Use UAT tags to help assign manuscripts to editors and reviewers? (Vs. current “corridors” framework.)

UAT for article discovery – thanks ADS ☐

Retroactively apply UAT concepts to the back files?

# UAT is one piece of a bigger picture.

---

Publications can be described by *many* “vocabularies” beyond UAT:

- ORCID for author identity
- FundRef for research funders
- ROR for affiliations
- Simbad, MPC, etc. for astro-objects
- Lists of facilities
- Lists of software
- Lists of datasets

Different levels of control, domain-specificity, dynamism, etc.



# ***Thanks for your attention!***

---

- AAS journals have been using UAT for about 18 months
- It was straightforward to implement
- The (non)reaction has been very gratifying!
- UAT is a solid foundation upon which we can build other “apps”

*Thanks for your attention!*

Peter K. G. Williams • [pwilliams@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:pwilliams@cfa.harvard.edu) • [@pkgw](https://twitter.com/pkgw) • [newton.cx/~peter/](https://newton.cx/~peter/)

*HTML talk info:* <https://tinyurl.com/htmltalk> • *Design credits:* Hakim El Hattab (“white” theme), Julieta Ulanovsky (Montserrat font), Christian Robertson (Roboto fonts) • *Tech credits:* [git](#), [reveal.js](#), Firefox developer tools.

