Astronomical Photographic Data Archive
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International workshop on scientific use, digitization and preserving astronomical photographic records, Prague, CZ. 18-21 March 2014

Astronomical Photographic Data Archive
- APDA is dedicated to the collection, restoration, preservation and storage of astronomical photographic data.
- APDA is tasked with digitizing and establishing a digital image database accessible by the astronomical community via the Internet.
- APDA is essential both for the health of astronomical science and for credibility of the current generation of astronomers as guardians of its unique heritage.
- One of 7 APDA storage rooms is shown to the right.
- Over 220,000 photographs in more than 40 collections are in the APDA library.
- Image date ranges from 1898 HCO All-Sky survey through 1994 CWRU KPNO QSO Survey.

Partial list of APDA collections with > 1,000 plates or films
- U of Michigan (0.95m Reflector – slit spectra), CWRU (Burrell-Schmidt 61/91cm), U.S. Naval Observatory (D.C.), CTIO (Curtis-Schmidt 61/91cm), McDonald Observatory, Harvard-Smithsonian Meteor Photographic Survey (Baker-Super-Schmidt 21cm 55° FoV), Meteorite Recovery Program (Baker-Nunn), and Mauna Loa Solar Observatory disk and limb images (PMON - Ha filter).

Barry Lasker Scanning Lab
Updated computer hardware and software controls the GAMMA-II X,Y servo motors; reads the X,Y position of the plate-stage using a laser interferometer (precision of 1μm, a resolution of 0.1μm); and, measures plate density from the output of a PMT through a 15-bit A/D converter.

APDA’s Unique Value
Photographic collections in APDA are used by professional astronomers, college students, PARl interns, primary and secondary school students, STEM educational and home-school student programs, and citizen science projects such as SCOPE.PARI.EDU.

Surveys in APDA
- HK Survey 4-deg prism
- A-Stars Survey 1.8-deg prism
- He Survey UV filters
- High Luminosity Survey
- IR Survey 4-deg prism
- Red Survey 4-deg prism
- OB Survey 4-deg prism
- QSO Survey 1.8-deg prism
- All-Sky Survey 4-deg prism
- Blue Survey 10-deg prism
- AntiCenter Survey 4-deg prism
- Weak Metallicity Survey 4-deg prism
- 6-Degree Survey 6-deg prism
- Low-Z Survey 4-deg prism
- LSI-VI Luminous Stars Survey 1.8-degree prism
- Parallax Survey (non-USNO) Direct images
- SGH (Southern Galactic Hemisphere) Survey 2 or 6 degree prisms
- All-Sky Survey 4-degree prism
- Taurus 6-degree Survey 6-degree prism
- NGP Survey 1.8-deg prism
- UV-Survey 1.8-degree prism
- Taurus 6-degree Survey 6-degree prism
- Parallax Survey (non-USNO) Direct images
- H-alpha Southern Survey 4-degree prism
- Taurus 6-degree Survey 6-degree prism
- UV-Survey 1.8-degree prism
- H-alpha Southern Survey 4-degree prism
- Taurus 6-degree Survey 6-degree prism
- UV-Survey 1.8-degree prism

Fields in APDA
Represented below are several fields with plates taken over long periods of time of open clusters, Messier objects, nebula, and galactic clusters. These surveys include direct and spectral plates.