# SAIP2012

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## Astro-Informatics - South African Virtual Observatory

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**Abstract** :

South African astronomy is entering in a new era of astronomical research with SALT and MeerKAT/SKA. These new facilities expected to produce huge amount of data and combined with multi wavelength databases that already exists, South African astronomers are needed to equipped with latest technologies to deal with new challenges pose by SALT/MeerKAT. South African Virtual Observatory (SAVO) is an initiative to utilize the most recent advancement in IT technology to address many terabytes of data volume generated by SALT/MeerKAT along with existing multiwavelength data archives. These activities include the development of a new generation of data archives and tools to address the many Terabyte of data that will be generated by the new observing facilities. SAVO in collaboration with VO-India project has undertaken a project to develop a data archival system (SALT-VODAS) for the SALT data which consist of highly sophisticated programmes which will be executed through simple user interfaces. Using SALT-VODAS, astronomers and students across the South Africa and Africa as well as the world will able to retrieve and download the SALT data which is available for public use. Virtual Observatory tools are a powerful medium student training as they bring vast astronomical resources, along with very easy to use but highly sophisticated tools. SAVO has started programmes to train students with University of Cape town and developed several student projects for demonstrating the interesting and latest results in astronomy, and at the same time to expose the students to modern developments taking place in the astronomy as well as in IT domain. SAVO is helping other institutes and universities within South Africa to developed similar student projects.

**Award** :

No

**Level** :

No

**Paper** :

Yes

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