

NSSDC UNITED STATES HOST FOR THE ULDA

The Uniform Low Dispersion Archive (ULDA) is a compacted sub-set of the IUE archive that is accessible via SPAN from within the National Space Science Data Center NSSDC account. The purpose of the ULDA is to allow a person to capture and view this data at their home node to determine if their research criteria would be met before requesting the complete spectral image. This option is intended to offer a "quick-look" at selected data.

The NSSDC is the United States national host for users within our country and is also a temporary host to astronomers in other countries that do not have an established national site. We are currently running ULDA version 2.0 which contains 37,236 low resolution spectra taken before January 1, 1987. The images contained in the ULDA have not been re-processed with the latest version of IUESIPS, instead some corrections have been applied.

The ULDA user does not need the IUE/ULDA Coordinator to intercede in order to access the data or search routines. Even a first time user may register his unique id on his own without seeking prior approval to use the ULDA.

Through a series of search and save file menus a user can initiate a new search for data, or recover a previous file that may not have successfully been downlinked to their node. The search menus start with a specific search target and regress to a wider more general search window with each new menu display. A "?" in any of the search displays could yield further examples and/or clarification of what is expected within that particular panel.

In order to view the images selected, the user's institute will need its own copy of a program called UNSPL on their computer to unscramble the compacted files retrieved by the user. The UNSPL program and a ULDA User's Guide are both available by contacting the NSSDC ULDA manager at (301) 286-2899 or via SPAN at NCF::ULDA.

Charleen Perry