



MAST
Users
Group
Meeting

Nov 26
2012

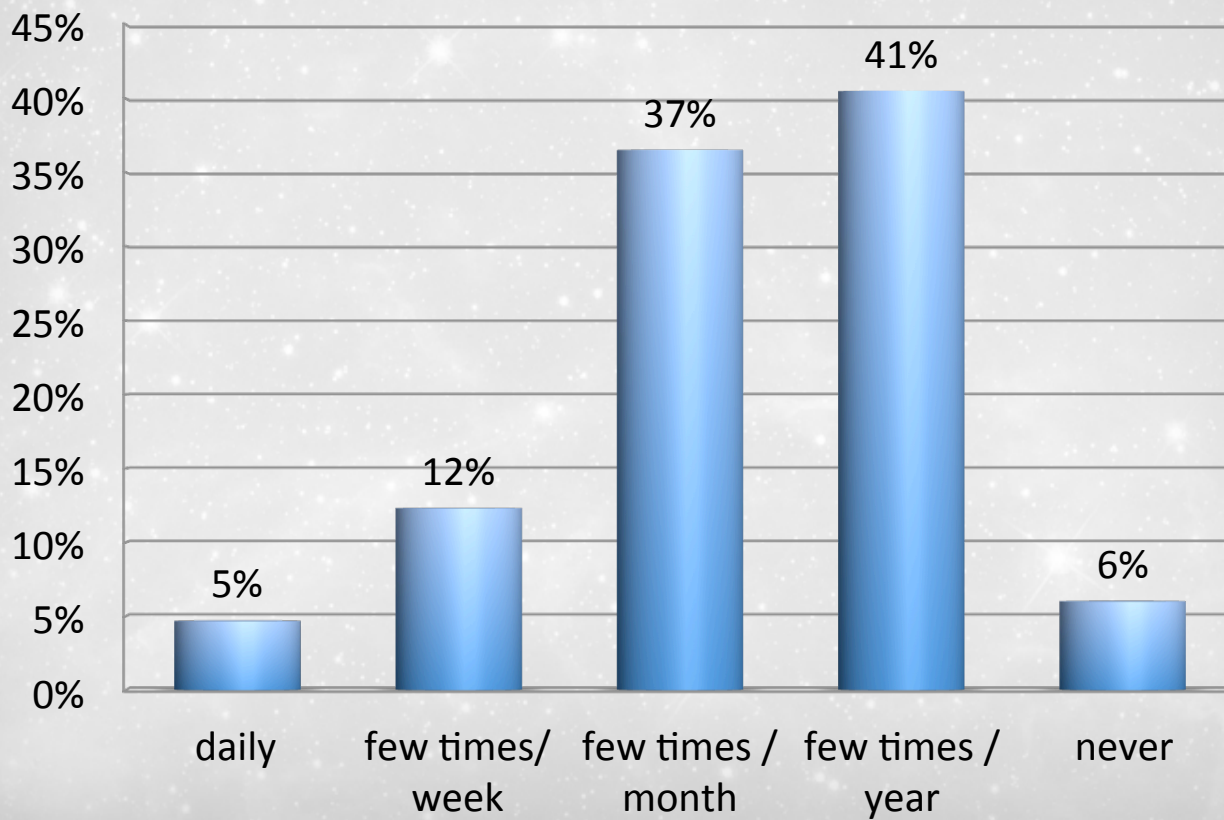
MAST User Survey 2012

Anton Koekemoer



1. How often have you used MAST in the past 12 months?

301 responses



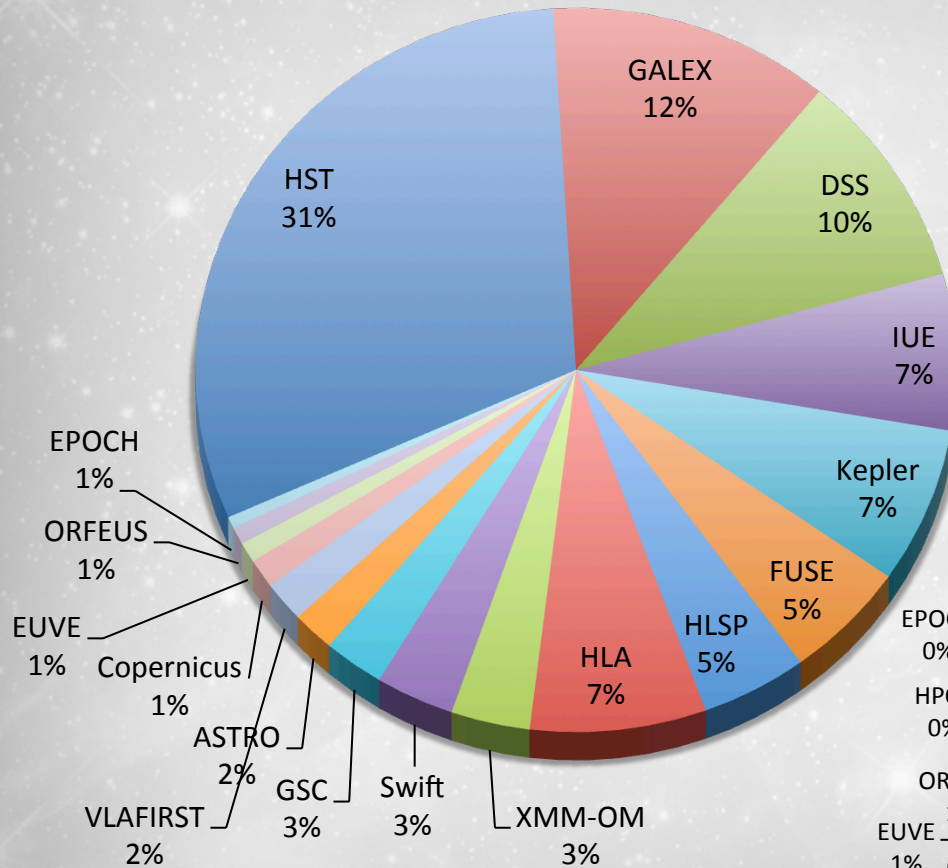


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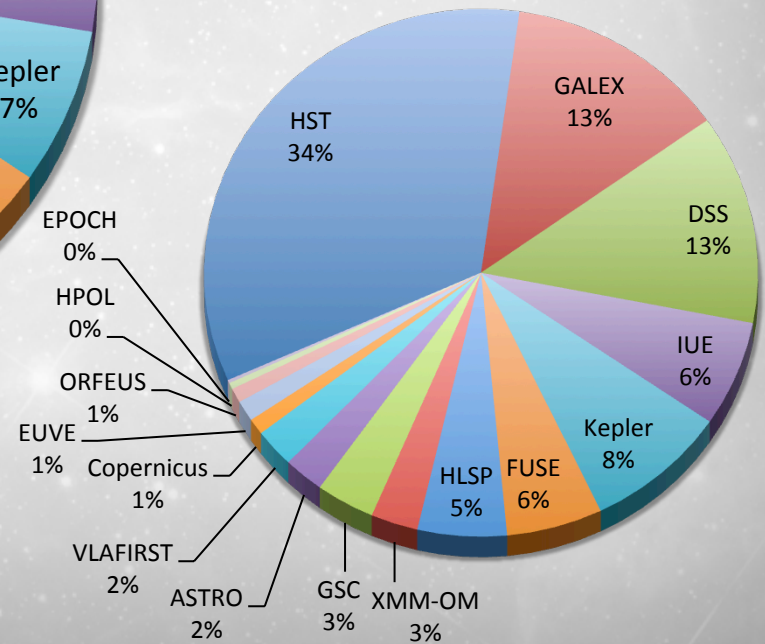
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2. Which missions did you access?

2012



2011

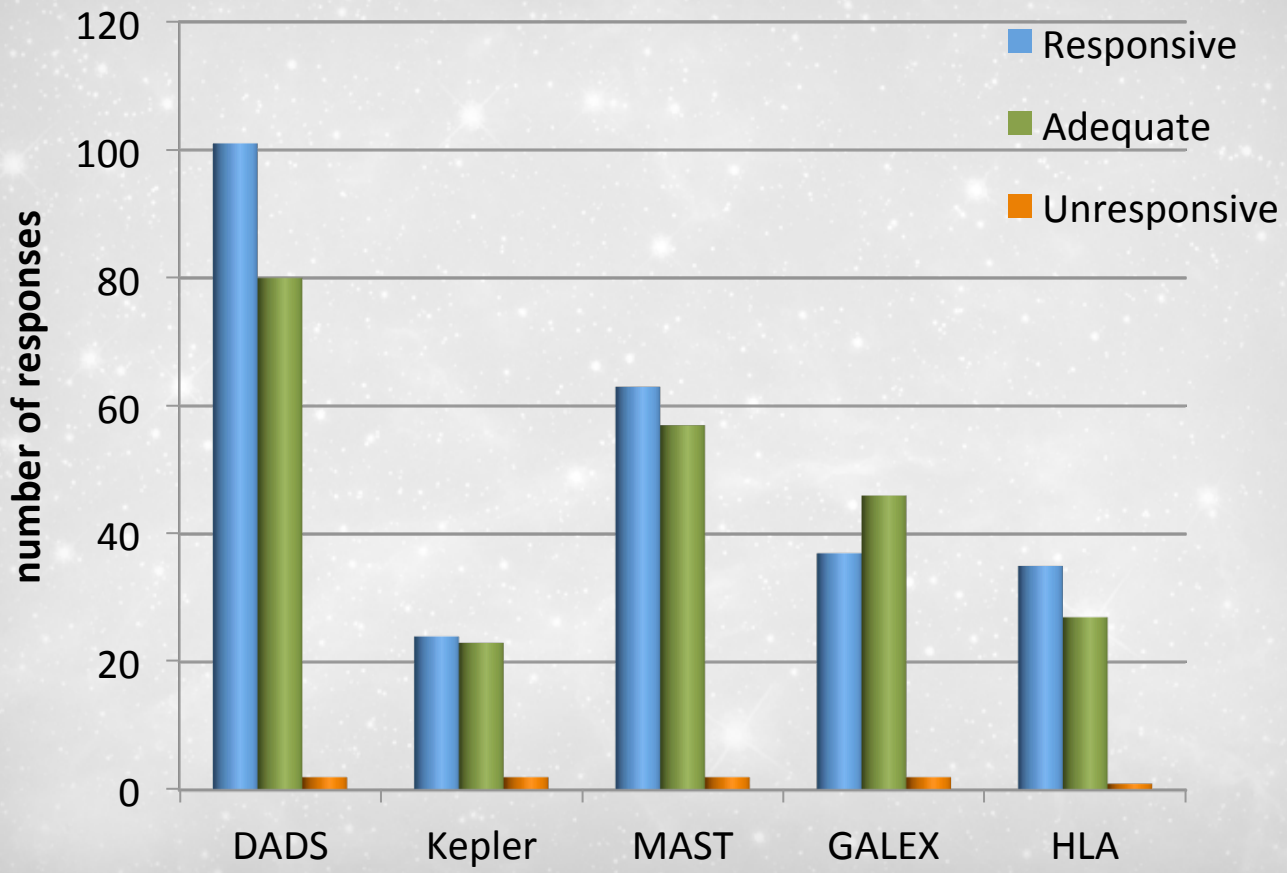




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3. If you retrieved data from MAST in the last 6 months, what did you think of the performance?





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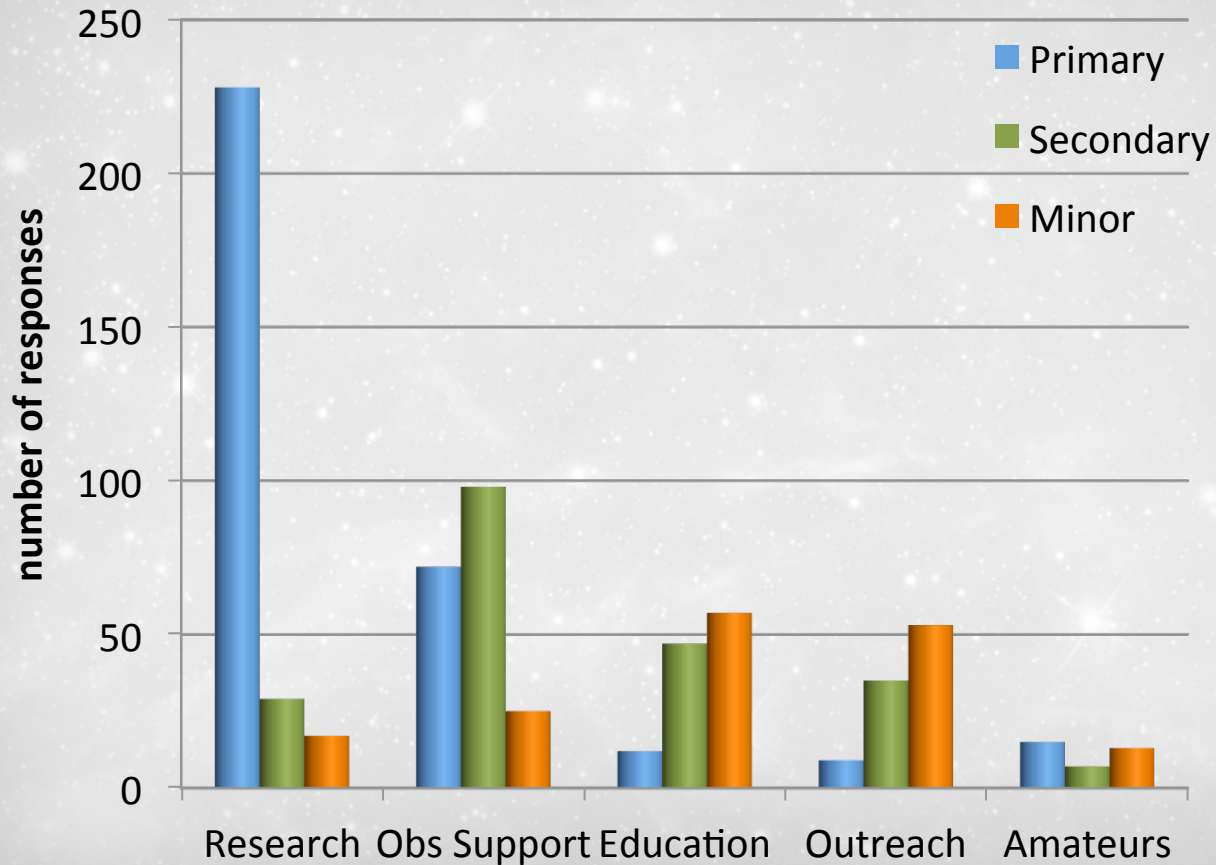
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Q3 – some of the comments received:

- There was a period a few months ago when it would take about a day to retrieve data from MAST, but it has returned to normal.
- The interface is very old and oriented to one data set at a time... painful. One cannot make general queries like ' find all the HST UV spectra of a set of cataclysmic variables'
- Please, implement `sftp' for the STAGE disk. Those of us behind firewalls have hard time retrieving data through `ftp'



4. Please rank your MAST usage that is related to the following activities:

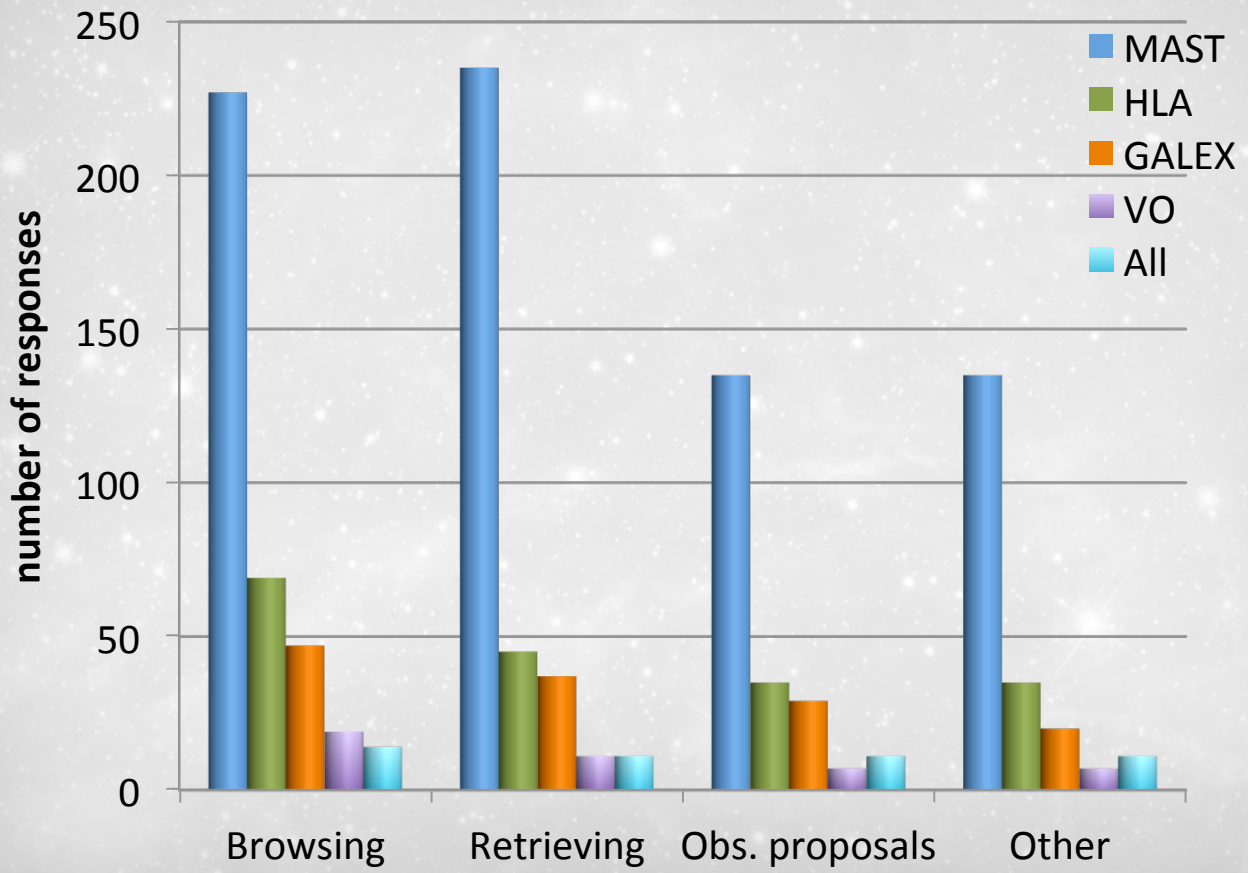




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5. Which MAST interfaces do you commonly use?



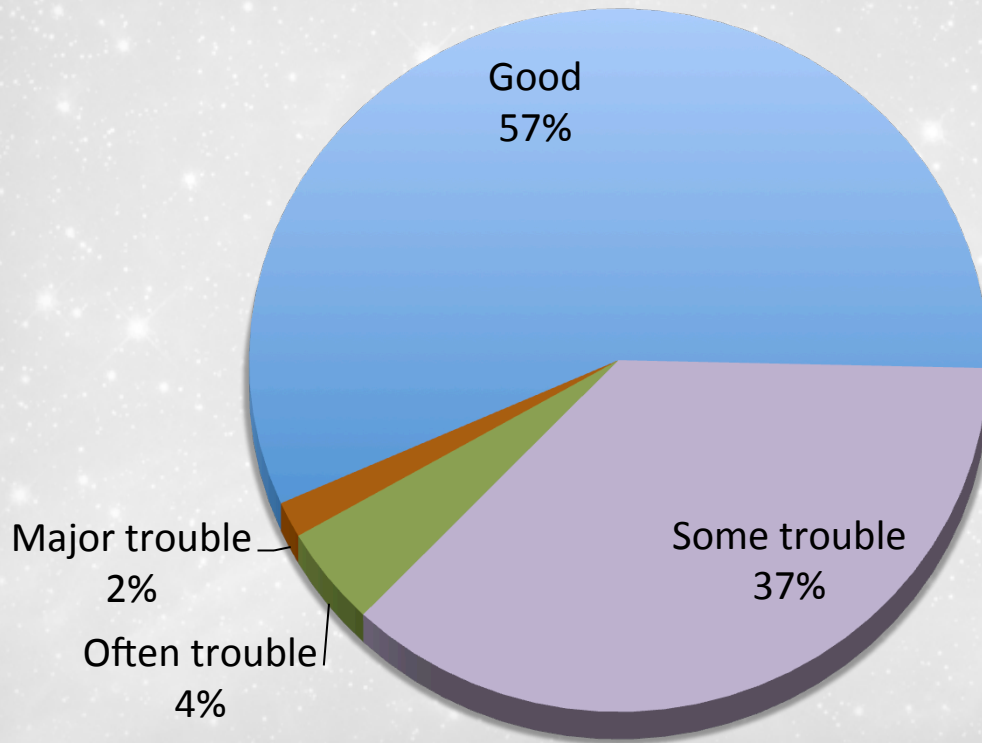


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6. Please describe your experience with MAST documentation

242 responses





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Q6 – some of the comments received:

- A little clearer method to the handbooks would be nice. Perhaps a way to search the text of these within MAST, rather than having to go to Google.
- A central repository webpage with all documentation and a clear link to such a page would be immensely useful.
- I haven't looked for MAST documentation. However, while using HLA, I have frequently wondered about things such as what syntax to use to better filter things and had a hard time finding such information.
- In general the interfaces are obvious enough so I don't need to look for documentation.

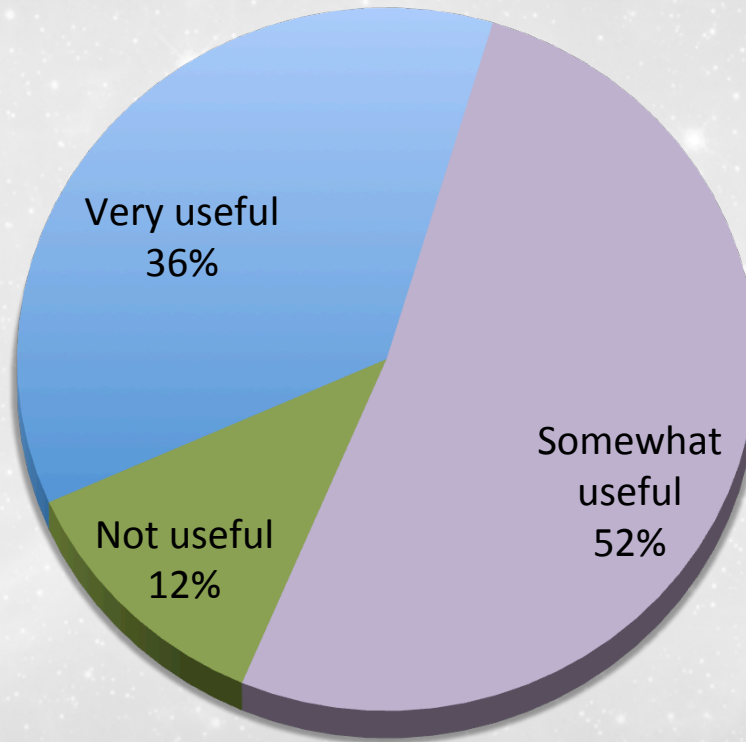


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7. MAST Portal: How useful would you find the MAST Data Discovery Portal for your research?

201 responses



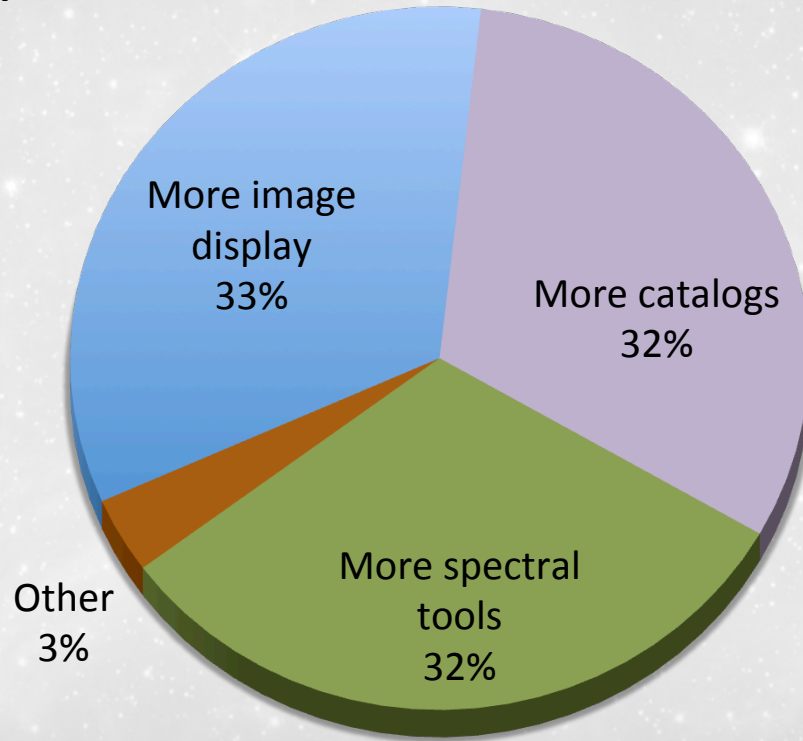


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7. MAST Portal: What additional features would you find useful for the MAST Data Discovery Portal?

257 responses





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- Yes, advanced spectroscopic tools are needed: for example the possibility to combine/overlap different datasets
- I know it is asking a lot at this early stage, but I do Solar System research, and there are very few features for making planetary science easier. This applies to almost every step in the process. I am very hopeful that the new Portal will more easily incorporate features for moving targets, even if they are only added later. If we can overlay star/galaxy catalogs we should be able to overlay ephemerides for every object in a moving target image (primary target and secondary objects, like nearby moons).
- This service is very slow and not intuitive
- This is awesome and extremely useful. 1) Filter/spectral element as a default column in the main table is a must 2) Scrolling the table frames via trackpad (mousewheel?) in both x and y directions (I typically use a mac laptop). Having to grab the very thin scrollbar thumbs in the table views is annoying. 3) WFC3 data doesn't appear to be in the database yet.

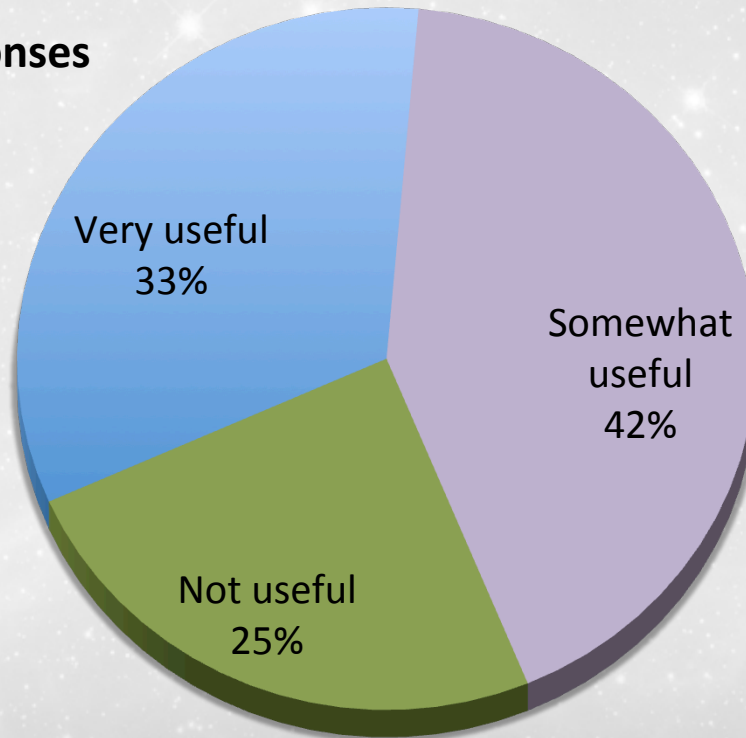


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8. We have recently provided access to the SWIFT UVOT - How useful would you find these data for your research?

236 responses

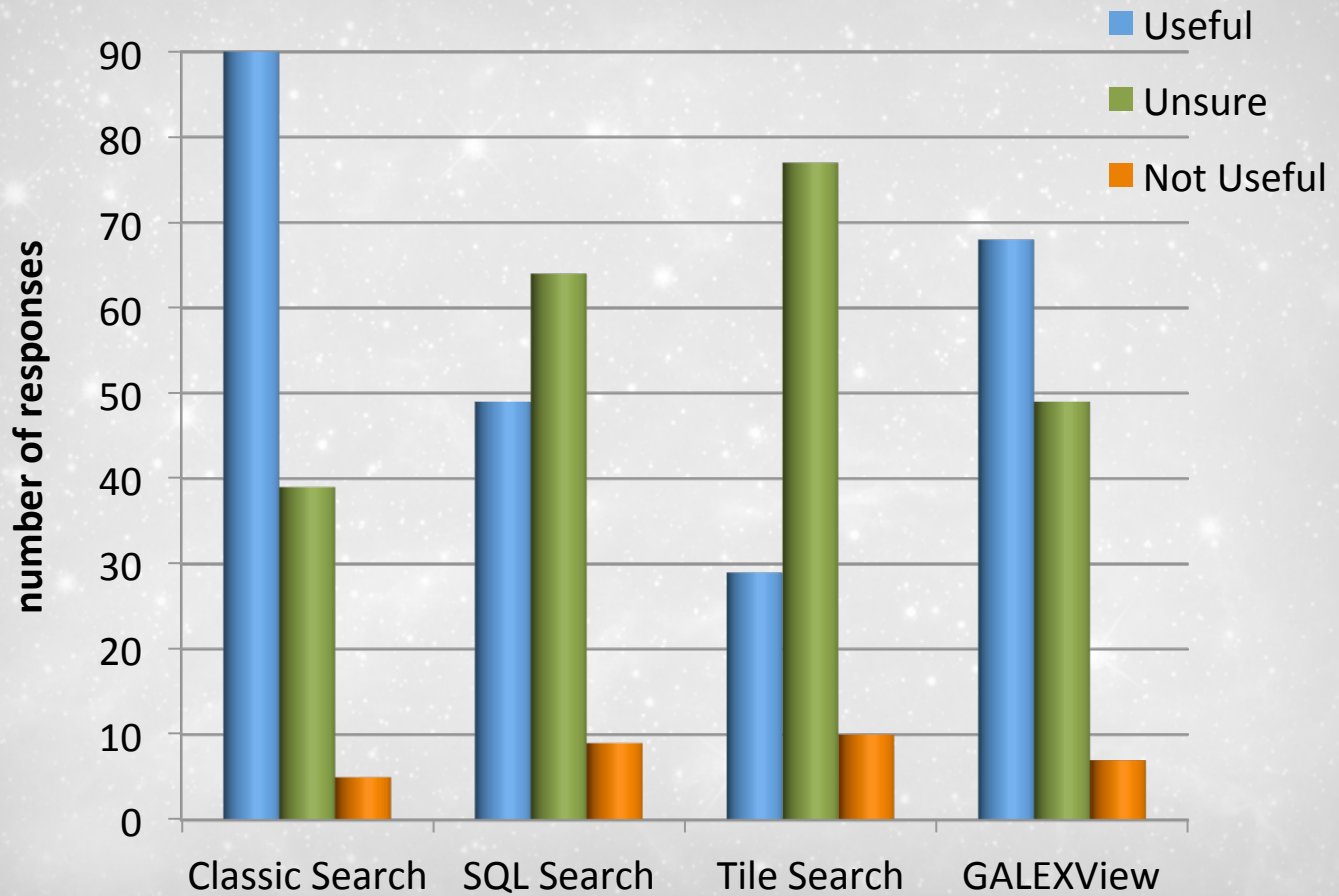




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9. Please rate the usefulness of the following GALEX tools:





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Q9 – some of the comments received:

- GALEXView should display NUV and FUV images separately (the combined image is not useful for research)
- Make it easier to tell how to download fits files, both raw and as coadds, in GALEXView
- I appreciate the possibility to retrieve list of objects around a LIST of positions, which I do nicely with CasJobs
- GALEXview is not intuitive. I think that the old (SDSS-like) navigator tool (that as far as I can tell you are not supporting anymore) was far better and simpler to use.
- GALEXView is great!



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10. As part of GALEX Close out activities.... Any items to be included?

- Preview of image files
- Easily viewed map of GALEX coverage
- The GALEX catalog should contain co-added fluxes for sources imaged multiple times, i.e. one unique match, not AIS/MIS/DIS separately. Aperture photometry based on optical catalogs of better resolution (e.g. SDSS) is superior to source finding on GALEX images.
- Final combined versions and sky background estimates are critical for my science
- Better description of the various fields in the scheme browser. Last time I searched for the scheme browser it took me 30 min to find it in your website... A page that describe how the data is archived so people interested in letting their machines retrieve the data can do it easily.
- Background characterization, including uncertainties; be sure to capture all uncertainties-catalog measurements alone are insufficient; capture methods for determining apertures of extended sources
- I am not happy with the GALEX photometry catalogs, so I would like software to allow more individualized photometry

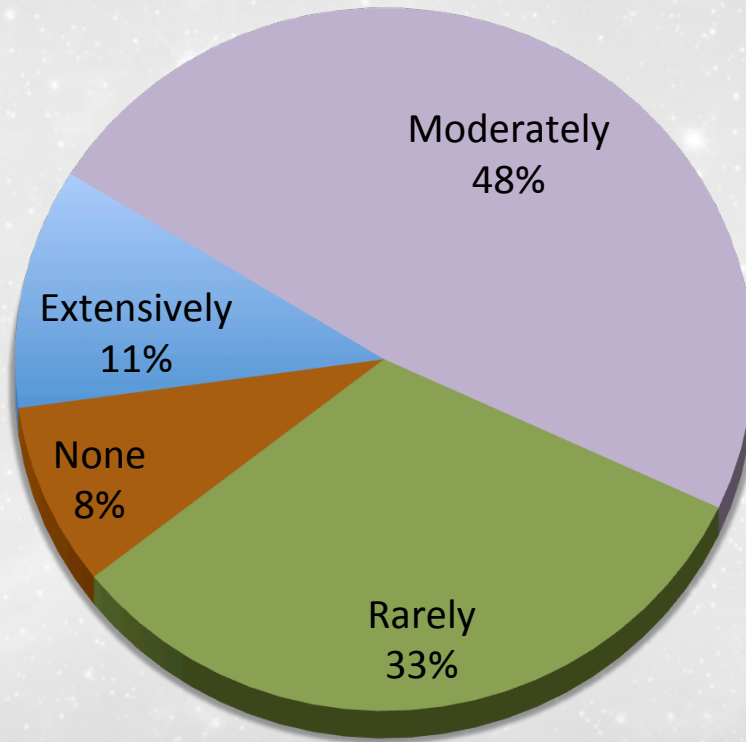


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11. Hubble Source Catalog: How frequently do you think you would use the HSC for your research?

262 responses

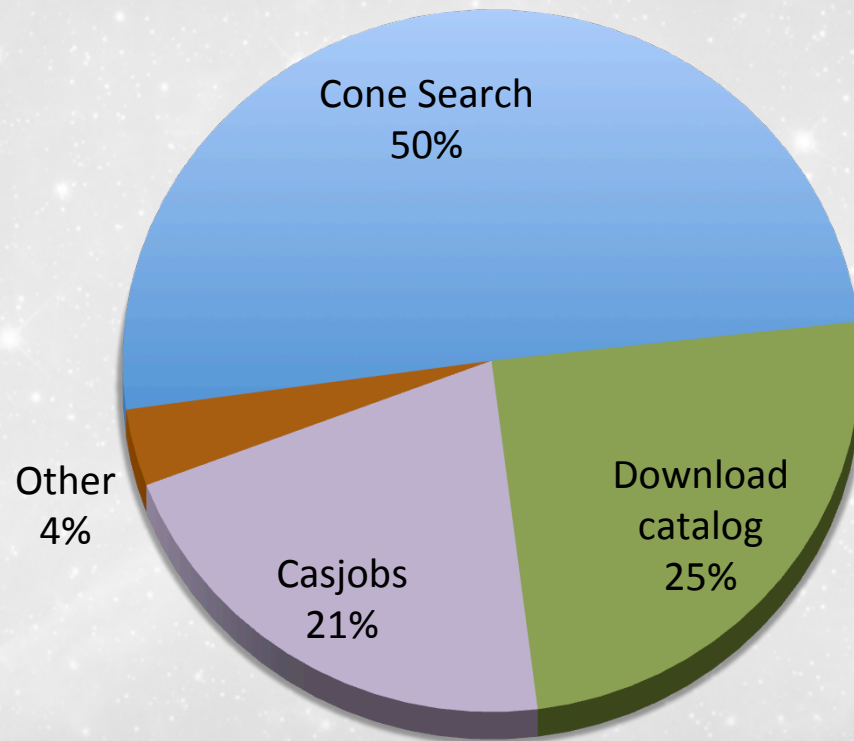




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11. Hubble Source Catalog: What modes might you want to use in interacting with this catalog?

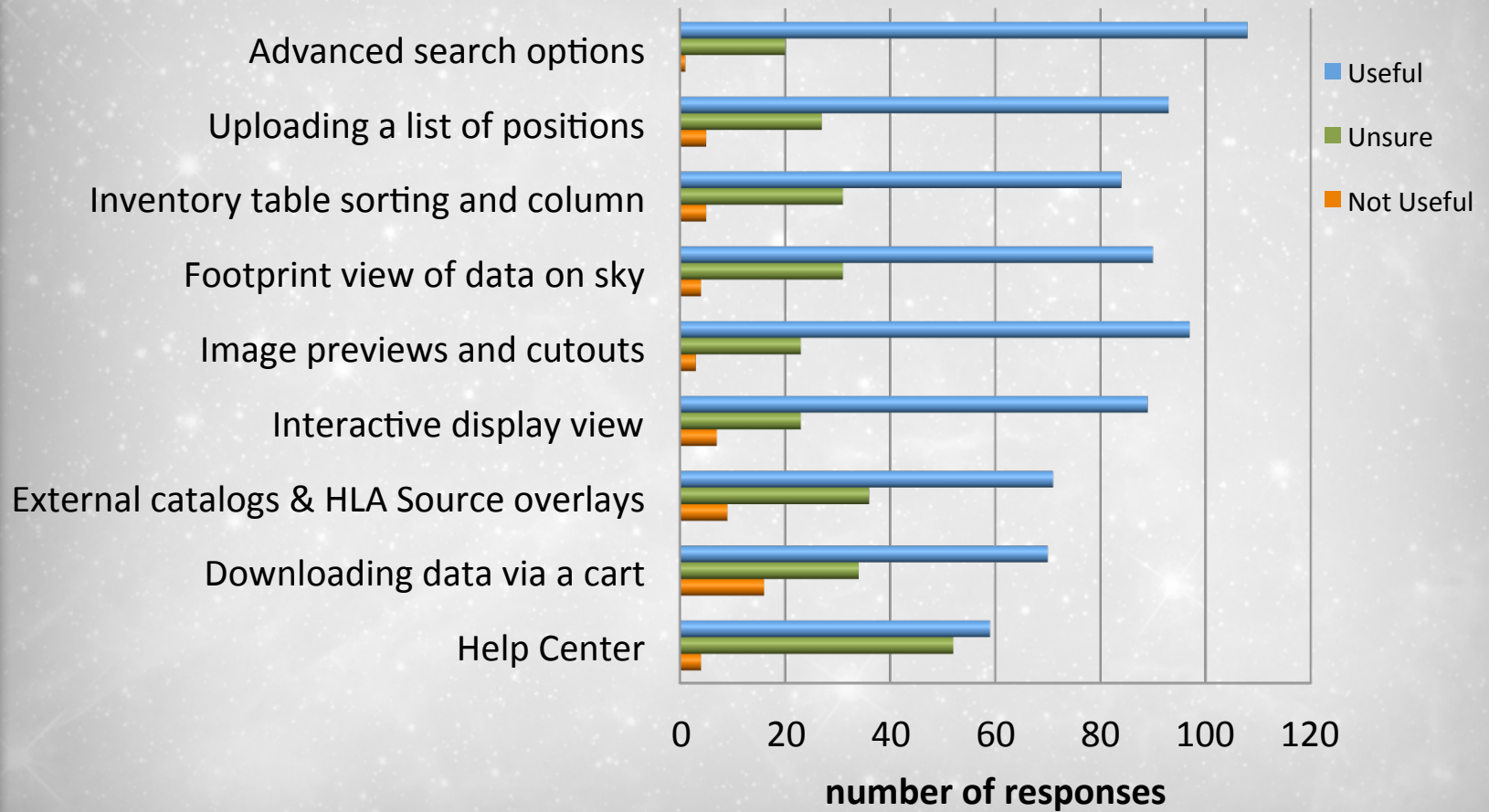




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12. Please rate the usefulness of these HLA tools

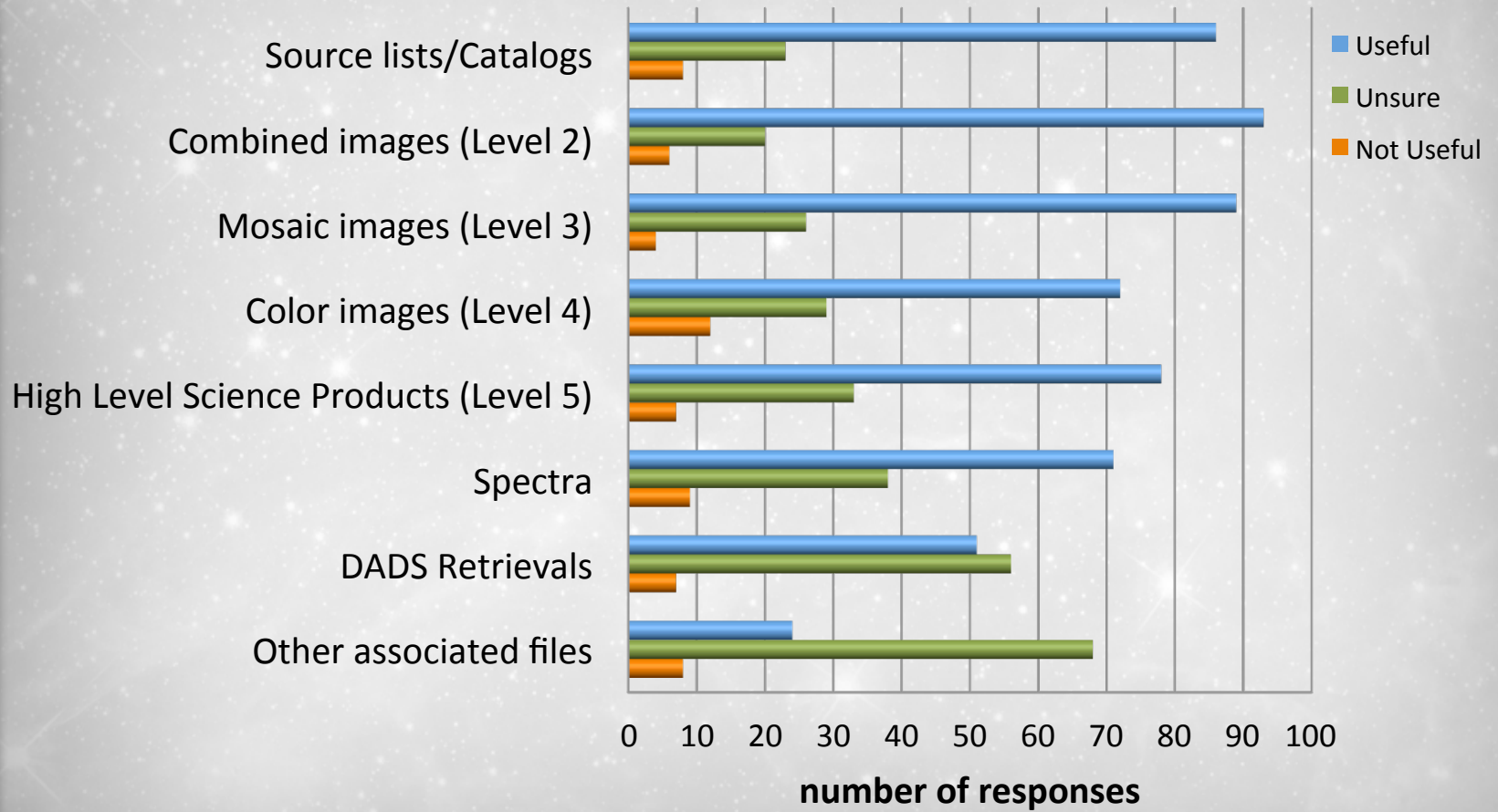




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13. Please rate the usefulness of the following HLA data products





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Q13 – some of the comments received:

- The HLA is very important to my research, and usually performs well. I do wish, however, that the previews showed something like the eventual *_mos.fits file for download. Also, accessing via FTP was really a hassle, and I'd have preferred an SFTP option on the stage.
- I usually go to MAST to download the files I want (after browsing HLA).
- I rarely use Level 2 images, since most HST images are dithered and can be thus drizzled (with little effort) to provide better spatial sampling. Level 3 are useful since making my own mosaics is time-consuming. Level 4 are useful in the web view, for quickly finding objects by color (e.g. dropout galaxies). I don't believe I've ever seen anything with Level 5 data.

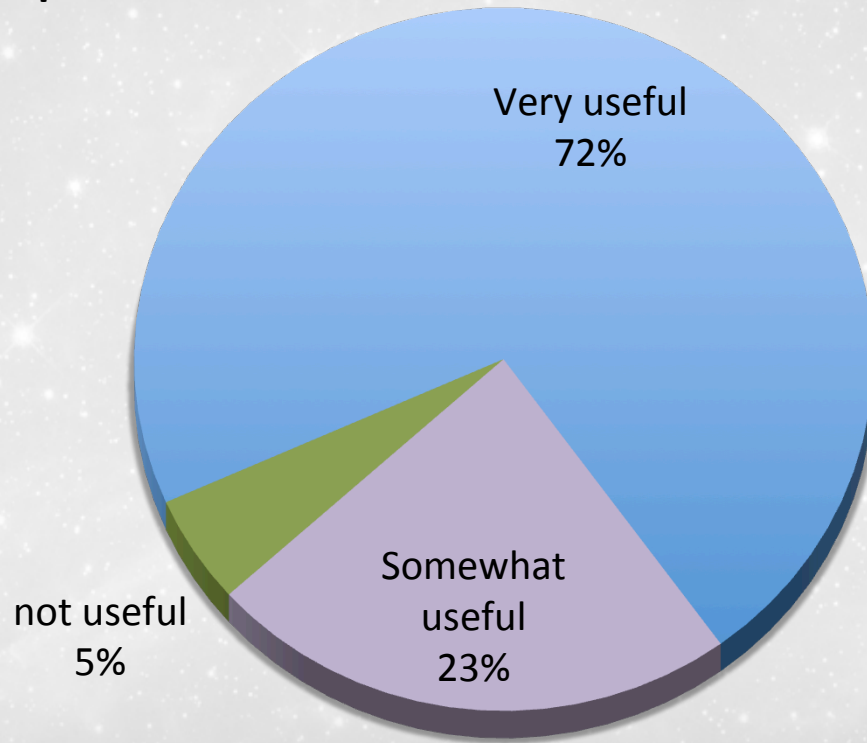


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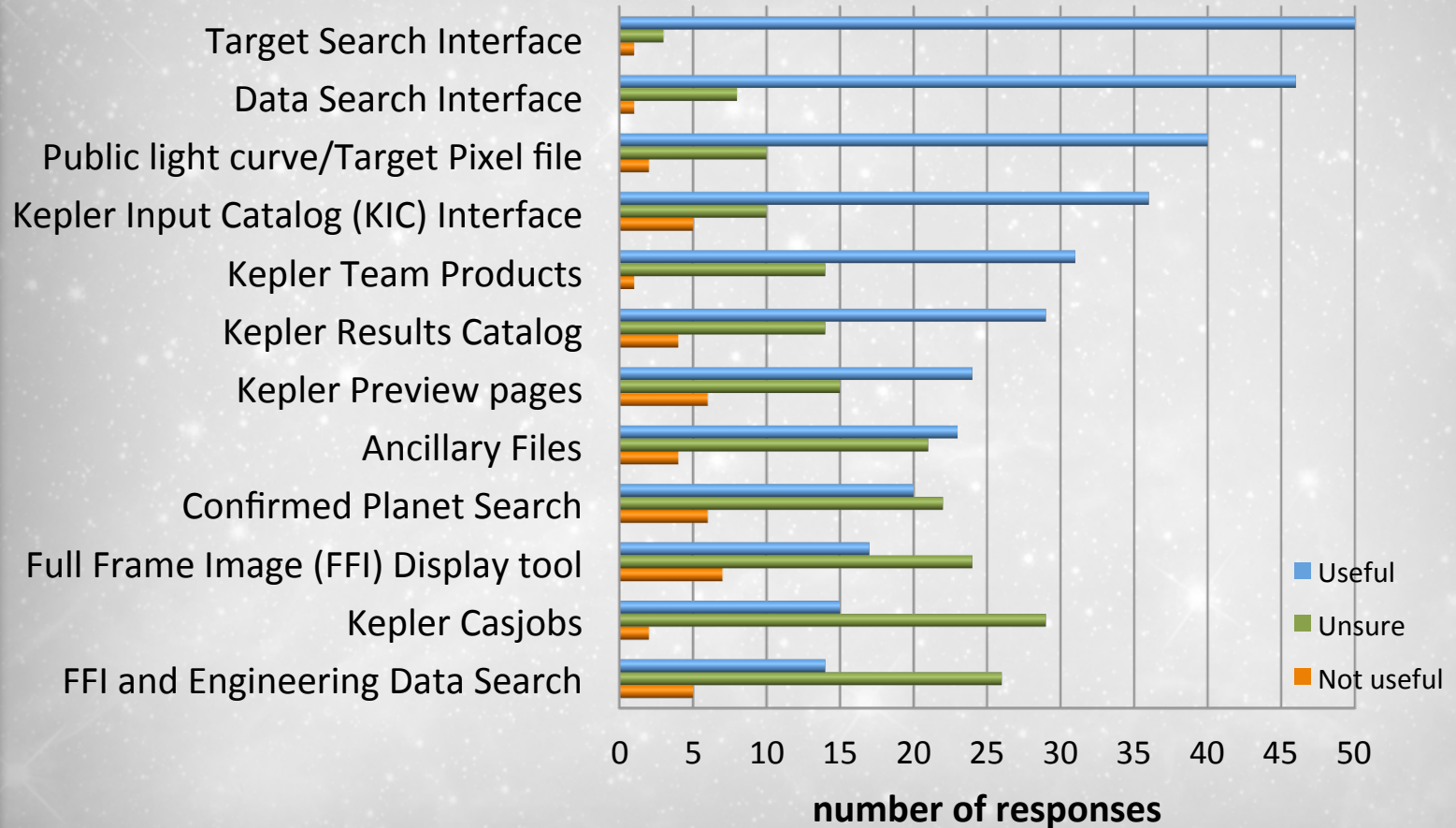
14. If you have used Kepler, please rate your experience with the Kepler archive:

60 responses





15. If you have used Kepler, please rate the usefulness of the following tools or datasets (sorted according to responses)





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Q14 & 15 – some of the comments received:

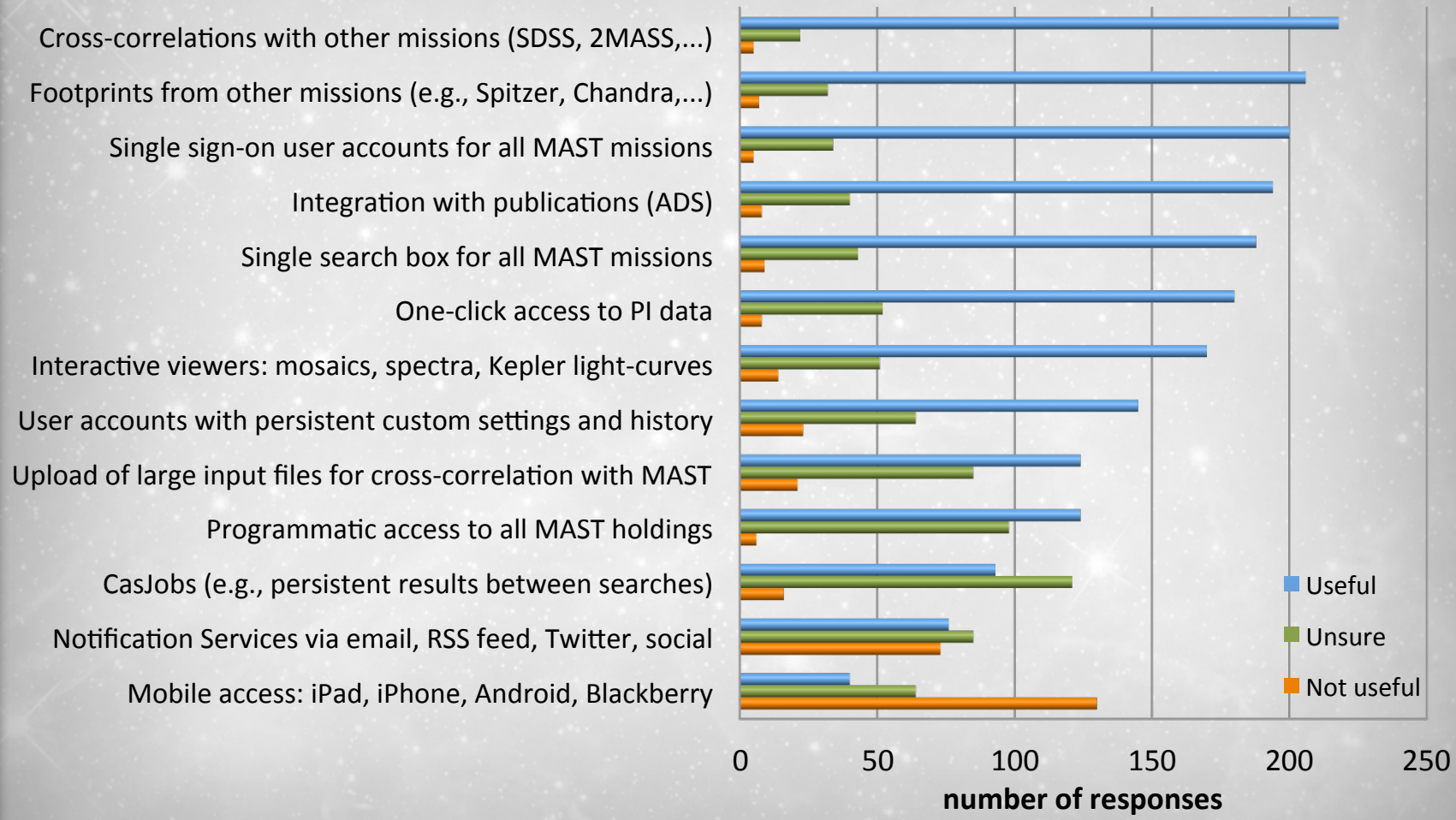
- Some things sorely need error bars. The contamination values for Kepler are almost useless. Generally speaking though, it's a great resource, and it is pretty easy access to the data itself.
- It would be nice if I could download Kepler data that were bundled differently than what is currently done. For instance, all KOIs over all quarters would be useful.
- Poor documentation.
- Very useful, but improved cross-matching between the KIC and UBV survey of Everett et al. is sorely needed.
- Ability to preview first few 'sample' lines of a fits binary file (e.g., Kepler light curves).



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16. How important are the following current or planned features? (sorted according to responses)





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**All the full survey results are maintained by
MAST staff at STScI.**