



Gemini Observatory Commentary on the [UCG 2016 Report](#)

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Gemini thanks the UCG for their report from their August 2016 meeting in Gemini North base facility in Hilo. We provide here some updates and responses to the issues raised.

Communication and Webpages

- Communication continues to be a high priority for both Gemini and the UCG. We explicitly encourage additional communication between NGOs and UCG members and ask that UCG members describe these interactions at the annual UCG meetings.
- A new system for collecting user feedback is under development and we will begin collecting feedback in 2017.
- NGOs have been requested to encourage users to consider the official Gemini pages as primary.
- We recognize that the organization and navigation of the data reduction information and cookbooks (along with the overall Gemini website) needs improvement and have embarked on an effort to do so. Live user testing by this group showed that the term “visible” can be a vague requirement. With no universal quick fix, any rushed effort may make the situation worse. As the new website structure is created, this will be fully considered.
- In order to create additional visibility to the DR Forum, we are exploring ways to increase the synergy between the Helpdesk and the DR Forum with the development of a new Helpdesk system in 2017.

Data Reduction Cookbooks

- Gemini agrees that the production of cookbooks and the support of Partner NGO data reduction workshops are high value efforts to our users and we continue to collaborate with the NGOs on both these fronts.

Gemini Observatory Archive

- Gemini again recognizes the incentive to provide quick-look data products. An archive update in 2017 will provide better support for finding these products. As new science quality Python data reduction tools are developed, corresponding quick-look versions (that may not be scientifically valid) will be made available wherever possible.

- The implementation of a moving object search beyond one that uses a pre-determined list of known objects that would fit the performance requirements of the GOA would require major effort. The use case for searching based on user entered ephemerides is weak considering Gemini's small field of view and non-survey use mode. The Solar System Object Image Search service at CADC is better suited to this use case and it already includes public Gemini Imaging data - we do not see value in expending considerable resources re-inventing this facility in the GOA. The solar system object search we do propose to implement addresses a different use case - that of finding Gemini observations of known solar system objects in all observing modes. There are many such observations, yet they can be difficult to locate in GOA if PIs have used non-standard target names, which is often the case.

Observing Tool

- As we gather requirements for the development of a new Observing Tool, all of the UCG recommendations are planned to be implemented. A community-wide survey (including the topic of roles and responsibilities for the PI and Observatory) has been circulated and one-on-one interviews are being scheduled.
- One-on-one in-person phase II help was offered successfully at the winter 2017 AAS. We will continue to offer in-person support at other national meetings as well and we are working on other ways to improve one-on-one support.

The Adaptive Optics Usability

- Providing a solution for distortion correction of GSAOI data remains a priority. Software ([Disco-Stu](#)) to correct the static and the bulk of the variable distortions has been made available. A more precise astrometric calibration requires additional work to account for the variable distortion due to flexure and the peculiarities of each asterism. We are developing a solution with the installation of a pinhole mask and calibration source inside Canopus in order to provide distortion corrected images with correct WCS in the FITS headers.
- The LGS+P1 mode has been fully integrated in terms of software and there is now very little difference in acquisitions times with LGS or LGS+P1.

Priority Band Descriptions and Completion Rates

- New documentation and web pages are in preparation to better describe what users can expect in terms of completion rates.

Next meeting

- August 2017 in La Serena.