Internet Astronomy - RoboScopes

By

Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.
Executive Director – Virtual Private Library
zillman@virtualprivatelibrary.com

This September 2003 Zillman Column is dedicated to my on going hobby since I was a youth….astronomy. This week was very important in the history of astronomy as the planet Mars was the closest to earth. On Wednesday August 27th, skywatchers the world over had a special treat. The planet Mars was a mere 34.6 million miles (55.7 million kilometers) from Earth. This astronomical stones-throw represents the closest Mars has been to Earth in nearly 60,000 years, and the best chance for a really good look at a planet that has tempted humanity since ancient times. This event triggered the many times that I have photographed the planet Mars as I was growing up with my 8" Astrola telescope. I can vividly remember observing Mars for hours so to obtain an excellent astro photograph of it. I can also still remember those very cold observing nights! Combining my profession with my hobby allowed me to continue to observe many stellar events using the Internet and astronomy in a way that only the Internet would allow.

Today they are called RoboScopes and these are remote telescopes located around the world that can be accessed using the Internet. In fact I have had the pleasure of taking photographs of some of my most favorite astronomical sites (Andromeda Galaxy et.al) using a RoboScope on the Internet. Using this technology allows you to continue to do astronomical observations and research without leaving your computer and never getting cold!! RoboScopes allow you to program the Right Ascension and Declination coordinates that you are observing and the filters and protocols that you want to use to photograph the object. Then you are emailed the photograph taken that you can save in your astronomy research database and print off if so desired.

I have put together a listing of the various RoboScope and related sites that are available throughout the Internet. Many of these are academic based and some do allow use by private citizens. Lately a few private "for rent" Roboscopes have become available over the Internet and completely open to anyone interested in photographing their stellar interests. As more and more Internauts discover this exciting way to view and research the heavens more and more Roboscopes will be online…truly exciting times:

Automatic Astronomy: New Robotic Telescopes See and Think
http://www.space.com/businesstechnology/technology/automated_astronomy_030604.html

Bradford Robotic Telescope
http://www.telescope.org/

Iowa Robotic Telescope Facilities
http://phobos.physics.uiowa.edu/index.shtml

IUCAA
http://iucaa.ernet.in/

Links to Robotic Telescope Projects
http://alpha.uni-sw.gwdg.de/~hessman/MONET/links.html

Liverpool Telescope
http://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/

Lowell Observatory – Lowell Education Online
http://kraken.lowell.edu/leo.php

NSO: The National Schools Observatory
http://www.schoolsobservatory.org.uk/

Rent-a-scope
http://www.arnierosner.com/are/index.htm

Robotic and Remotely Controlled Telescopes
http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/observatory/roboscope/the_list.html

ROTSE - Robotic Optical Transient Search Experiment
http://www.rotse.net/

SLOOH.com - Astronomy, Remote Control Telescopes, Observatories
http://www.slooh.com/homejs.jsp

Telescope Technologies Ltd: Navigation Menu
http://www.ngat.com/nwstart.htm

The Faulkes Telescope Project
http://www.faulkes-telescope.com/

UCSB Remote Access Astronomy Home Page
http://www.deepspace.ucsb.edu/rot.htm

The above resources will most certainly give you the knowledge to discovery a whole new way of observing the universe!!

An actual example of M-31 Andromeda Galaxy taken with the Rent-a-Scope:

Another resource that allows you to electronically detect meteors as they are entering the earth's atmosphere is available and allows you to set up an amateur radio telescope! Complete instructions for this exciting radio astronomy project are available at:

http://page.to/meteor/

Combining the Internet with telescopes gives us an entirely new perspective of observing the cosmos and allowing us to take photographs from the comfort of our computer!

Subject Tracer™ Information Blogs

Subject Tracer™ Information Blogs created and developed by the Virtual Private Library™ combine the best of the latest tools on the Internet. Using bots, blogs and news aggregators the Subject Tracer™ Information blogs generate RSS feeds with the latest sources to create a current information resource flow through niched subject tracers. I am proud to be the creator of the Internet's first Subject Tracer™ Information Blogs:

Virtual Private Library
http://www.VirtualPrivateLibrary.com/

Biological Informatics
http://www.BiologicalInformatics.info/

Bot Research
http://www.BotResearch.info/

Business Intelligence Resources
http://www.BIResources.info/

ChatterBots
http://www.ChatterBots.info/

Deep Web Research
http://www.DeepWebResearch.info/

Directory Resources
http://www.DirectoryResources.info/

4

eCommerce Resources
http://eCommerceResources.info/

Finding People
http://www.FindingPeople.info/

Healthcare Resources
http://www.HealthcareResources.info/

Information Futures Markets
http://www.InformationFutureMarkets.com/

Internet Alerts
http://www.InternetAlerts.info/

Internet Demographics
http://www.InternetDemographics.info/

Internet Experts
http://www.InternetExperts.info/

Internet Hoaxes
http://www.InternetHoaxes.info/

Knowledge Discovery
http://www.KnowledgeDiscovery.info/

Privacy Resources
http://www.PrivacyResources.info/

Research Resources
http://www.ResearchResources.info/

RestStress™
http://www.RestStress.com/

ShoppingBots
http://www.ShoppingBots.info/

Statistics Resources
http://www.StatisticsResources.info/

Powered By
VirtualPrivateLibrary.com™

Student Research
http://www.StudentResearch.info/

Author Information: Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A. is an international Internet author, consultant, speaker and expert in the area of information retrieval, knowledge discovery, knowledge harvesting, artificial intelligence and bots/intelligent agents. He has created numerous world wide web sites including Subject Tracer™ Information Portals and Blogs, written a number of internet miniguides and books, produced and hosted over 160 weekly Internet television shows, written a weekly and monthly column on Current Awareness on the Internet and delivers keynote presentations throughout the international marketplace. He also actively delivers one and two day workshops for key industry sectors displaying how the Internet can be used as a tool to maintain current awareness and professional competencies.

Additional websites by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.:

Marcus P. Zillman's Blog
http://www.zillman.us/

Marcus P. Zillman Abbreviated Bio
http://marcuszillman.blogspot.com/

Internet MiniGuides™ 2004
http://www.InternetMiniguide.com/

Awareness Watch™ Newsletter
http://www.AwarenessWatch.com/

Marcus P. Zillman's Columns
http://www.ZillmanColumns.com

eCurrent Awareness Resources™ 2004
http://www.eCurrentAwareness.com/

Internet Sources™ Manual
http://www.InternetSources.info/

Links By Marcus™
http://www.LinksByMarcus.com/

zillman@virtualprivatelibrary.com
© 2003 Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.

Powered By
VirtualPrivateLibrary.com™

Workshops By Marcus™
http://www.WorkshopsByMarcus.com/

Watch Marcus™
http://www.WatchMarcus.com/

listen to marcus™
http://www.ListenToMarcus.com

Research White Papers and Books by Marcus P. Zillman, M.S., A.M.H.A.

Using the Internet As a Dynamic Resource Tool for Knowledge Discovery
http://zillman.blogspot.com/2003_08_01_zillman_archive.html#106198657492603187

Current Awareness Discovery Tools on the Internet
http://zillman.blogspot.com/2003_10_01_zillman_archive.html#106648219377744380

Links By Marcus™ Streaming Video
http://zillman.blogspot.com/2003_10_01_zillman_archive.html#106527152051601042

Marcus P. Zillman's latest 378 page manual **Internet Sources™** is now available online for immediate download (.pdf file) at only $39.95. This manual makes a great reference resource for the "newbie" to the Internet as well as the seasoned veteran "Internaut". Discover sources that search engines fail to find …. the exciting invisible web. Visit the following site now for additional information and ordering fulfillment and have this valuable reference manual today:

Internet Sources™ Manual
http://www.InternetSources.info