

**Working Group on Astronomical Software**  
**Annual Report – DRAFT**  
**Submitted by R. J. Hanisch, Chair**  
**8 May 1995**

This report covers the period from June 1994 (after the Minneapolis AAS Meeting) through June 1994 (including the Pittsburgh meeting).

The WGAS held its second winter meeting in conjunction with the Tucson AAS Conference in January 1995. In addition to the usual business meeting and contributed papers, WGAS hosted a special session on Remote Observing. The Remote Observing session featured six invited talks on various aspects of remote observing sessions, from design and implementation of network-based command and control systems, to small remote observatories primarily adapted for education, to the remote observing facilities for the IUE satellite. The session was well attended and very successful. The only problem was that the session should have been more closely coordinated with the WGAIT program since we ended up with a bit of overlap. The WGAIT chair (Eric Craine) and I were not aware of the agenda of each other's sessions until the program for the entire meeting had been collated. I will work with Eric in the future to make sure we coordinate on presentation materials and topics.

The contributed papers at the regular WGAS session dealt with the challenges of providing on-line information services for the Jupiter/SL-9 observing campaign and, as usual, advances in the FITS data format standard. A presentation was given describing a robust data verification check for FITS files.

Interest in astronomical software development continues to be strong within the Society, as evidenced by having 11 papers submitted as BAAS technical reports for publication this summer. All papers were submitted electronically using a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-based mark-up derived from AAST<sub>E</sub>X. This allowed for easy editing of the manuscripts and provides for a consistent appearance of all papers in the published journal.

The Astronomical Data Analysis Software and Systems (ADASS) Conference series is now entering its fifth year. Although this conference is not under the aegis of the AAS, many AAS/WGAS members participate on the Program Organizing Committee. ADASS IV was held in October 1994 in Baltimore, MD, and hosted by the Space Telescope Science Institute. Some 300 registered participants presented over 130 papers and posters and 15 computer demonstrations. The proceedings of the conference are being edited by R. Shaw, H. Payne, and J. Hayes of STScI. ADASS V will be held on 22–25 October 1995 in Tucson, with the National Optical Astronomy Observatories acting as the local host. Attendance is expected again to be at around 300 participants.

Because the WGAS met at the winter meeting in 1995, there will be no WGAS in Pittsburgh. Current plans are to reconvene WGAS at the winter 1996 meeting in San Antonio.