

How to characterize astro-photographic plates ?

The Metadata

Typical criteria for observations, but spectra

Compulsory items :

1. RA, Dec
2. Number in set (id)
3. UT or UTC observation date
4. Exposure time

These three first items should be present ! In general, “RA, Dec” are not provided for Solar System objects, but replaced by “object, date”. One could also include here the item 26, but it is not always available.

Object items :

5. Observed body(ies)
6. FOV (arcmin or arcsec)
7. Scale factor (arcsec/mm in general)

Instrument items :

8. Instrument designation
9. Type (refractor, telescop)
10. Aperture
11. Focal distance

Plate items :

12. Plate dimensions
13. Type of emulsion
14. Overall quality/condition
15. Limit magnitude
16. Plate or film
17. Number of exposures
18. Overlap or not
19. Observer
20. Existing plate designation in set

Origin items :

21. Set designation
22. Archiving place
23. Property
24. If part of a set : existing designation
25. If part of a set : existing designation in set
26. Article DOI(s)
27. Previous analysis data
28. Comments, LogBook
29. Metadata

Image items :

30. Preview
31. FITS link or repository adress

Note that some items could be deduced from others, for example (5), (6), (10) and (11) are linked : (10)&(11)=(6) and (5), or(4)&(3)=(1).