User Survey

- We conduct a User Survey every 3-4 years
- 2009 Survey comprised of questions written in consultation with User Panel
  - 2009 spring telecon
- Survey available on website for ~7 weeks
- Advertised in AAS newsletter
- Available on paper at June AAS
Respondents’ Profession

- 83 responses
  - 80 online, 3 on paper at AAS
  - Only 40% as many responses as in 2005

![Bar Chart]

- Faculty/Staff: 38
- Postdoc: 11
- Grad Student: 13
- Undergrad: 1
- Amateur: 7
- Web Surfer: 2
Why at IRSA today?
(check all that apply)
Where did you learn about IRSA?

- Mission Website: 14
- Other Archives: 8
- Word of Mouth: 33
- Search Engines: 9
- Refereed Paper: 4
- AAS: 6
- "using so long I forgot": 4
How often do you visit IRSA?

- Daily: 2
- Weekly: 10
- Monthly: 36
- Yearly: 20
- Less than once/year: 1
- First time: 12
If you contacted HelpDesk, how quick was the response?

- Within 1 day: 2
- 1-3 days: 7
- Within 1 week: 3
- Longer than 1 week: 3
- Never responded: 4
- Didn't contact helpdesk: 63
If applicable, Rate your experience with HelpDesk

- Submitting Was Easy
- Response Was
- Resolved in Reasonable Time
- Learned Something New

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion / NA
Which data sets do you use
(check all that apply)
Rate you experience with IRSA tools

- More powerful than my own
- Not available elsewhere
- Valuable to Research
- Easy to Use
- Wish there were more

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion
How can IRSA improve?

- Image Cutouts should option to orient North-up East-left
- Interactive FITS viewer needed to cross compare fields in different datasets (e.g. 2MASS vs Spitzer/MIPSGAL)
- “would love to see GATOR be able to handle more than 2 catalogs (i.e., the user could upload multiple catalogs or could choose multiple catalogs straight from GATOR).”
- “I'd like to be able to specify a target and an image size, then get a single 2MASS image regardless of whether it crosses a tile boundary or not.”
- “I like the ability to preview data (such as the post-BCD IRS spectrum from Spitzer) before downloading the original data (BCD)”
- “It would be nice to have the choice of overplotting the locations of Spitzer observations on an image other than IRAS (for instance, 2MASS, DSS, or MSX).”
How can IRSA improve (cont.)?

• “More user examples (sample queries, etc.)”
• On-the-fly SED viewer (in flux or magnitudes)
• On-the-fly unit conversion for catalog data (cgs, SI, magnitudes)
• “I prefer to use CDS to search for individual sources. The output page is just simpler than IRSA's. I prefer IRSA for bulk downloads since I do not have to keep my browser open.”
• “It would be useful to have tools that would allow better integration and cross-comparison of tabular data from different mission/survey holdings at IRSA. RADAR is the first step, but what is needed now is the ability to merge results in a meaningful way.”
• Faster searching and download
• “Please consider moving objects (i.e., solar system targets) when developing databases. For example, 2MASS tiles could be tagged with a list of possible asteroid or comet detections, which could be queried from a web interface.”