

Sources for astronomy news and articles

Many scientific journals remain behind pay walls. **For off-campus access to scientific journals and other content in the University of Maryland library system:** Use the LibX toolbar for Firefox, Chrome, and IE Explorer. See <http://lib.guides.umd.edu/libx>

Astronomy news sources in the general media:

New York Times is often the most reliable newspaper source of science news <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html>. *The Guardian* (UK) and *The Washington Post* are often good sources too.

Bad Astronomy blog. Phil Plait blogs on recent astronomy news. Hosted by Slate: http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy.html. Often has an interesting discussion, but the problem is that he typically doesn't mention names unless they are his friends or if they illuminate his past career as an astronomer, so it can be more difficult to track down sources.

Sources aimed scientists and astronomers:

Nature magazine. Along with *Science*, this is the premier peer-reviewed general science journal. Need to be on UM network or log into journal access via library web site for full access <http://www.nature.com/browse/index.html> Scroll down to the Physical Sciences section and click on "astronomy and planetary science". Check out *Nature News* <http://www.nature.com/news/index.html>

Science magazine. Publication of the AAAS. Tends to favor articles on life sciences and planetary science rather than stellar and extragalactic astronomy. Need to be on UM network or log into journal access via library web site for full access <http://www.sciencemag.org> <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/collection/astronomy> Look especially at "news of the week"; perhaps also "news focus" Note that you can go back in time a long ways.

Nature and Science publish both high-impact peer-reviewed studies and news stories on interesting results. For the news stories, they typically have references to the peer-reviewed work that the story is based on, which you can also look at.

If there aren't references to the peer-reviewed articles, (ie most newspaper stories), you can try to find the peer-reviewed article or article that has been submitted for review by doing an author search on **ADS**.

ADS Search for papers and abstracts in astronomy literature (and preprints), based on authors, title, abstract, etc. Full text of most journals requires UM network or log into library site. If you use multiple fields, click on the "require xxxx" for selection to make sure the field is used for the search.

http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html

Astro-ph Latest astrophysics “preprints”. Often not yet “refereed” (i.e. peer-reviewed). These are for the specialists in the field. Preprints available in pdf form. You don’t need a subscription or to be on campus! Click on the pdf version <http://xxx.lanl.gov/list/astro-ph/recent>

Some other sources of news aimed at amateurs:

Sky and Telescope magazine. Best magazine for amateur astronomers. <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/>

Universe Today <http://www.universetoday.com> On-line magazine focused on astronomy-

Scientific American <http://www.sciam.com/space> But **don’t** pick long articles unless you plan to focus on a small part – they contain too much information for a 10-15 minute discussion!

Be especially skeptical of press releases or material based primarily on press releases and which have not appeared or been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. This is especially the case if the only people quoted in a news story are involved in the research or have a stake in the result.

Electronic version of this file is at <http://www.astro.umd.edu/~vogel/Astr288m-sources.pdf>