

Commission C1 WG Astronomy Education Resources (AstroEDU)

Report on activities 2019- June 2020

Chair: Edward Gomez

Streamlining the review process

The main cause of delays in publishing astronomy education activities on the astroEDU is time-pressure on the assistant editor to chase authors and reviewers. During the last 12 months the astroEDU team has been working on making this process of submission and review more sustainable. We have implemented an Open Journal System for all new submissions. This allows the reviewer and author communication and activity status to be partly automated, removing many of the bottlenecks in the review process.

Communication with the OAE

We have also been in extensive discussions with Markus Poessel, director of the IAU Office of Astronomy Education. As is the intention of this working group, astroEDU will become part of the OAE's remit. OAE has requested that astroEDU become the official gateway to all OAE offerings, not just restricted to astronomy education activities. We are working on how to port the existing platform so it can be maintained and extended by OAE staff.

Extensive training has been given to the OAE staff on the astroEDU process and methodologies, to assist the transition. Searching for new activities to review and publish has been put on hold while we transition to the OAE managing the portal.