



UNIVERSITY OF JAÉN

Vice-chancellorship of Communication and Institutional Relations

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The University of Jaén presents a system permitting the recording of images of the firmament, focused on dissemination and teaching

The University of Jaén has presented in its Astronomical Observatory a new system permitting the recording of the appearance of the visible sky 24 hours a day, consisting in the recording of images of the whole firmament by a special CCD camera, with a “fish eye” lens, installed within the observatory.

The ones responsible for this initiative have been the members of the “High Energy Sources in the Galaxy” group (*Fuentes de Alta Energía en la Galaxia, FQM-322*) Josep Martí Ribas and Pedro Luis Luque-Escamilla (University of Jaén) and José Martínez Aroza (University of Granada), supported by the Vice-Chancellorship of Technology of the Information and Communication of the University of Jaén.

The images obtained update approximately every minute on the website created for this system (<http://aljayani.ujaen.es>). From this webpage images can be accessed in real time and the videos from the last 2 and 24 hours. All of the images stay recorded in a central server where a register will be accumulated continuously of the sky of the Jaén capital.

Josep Martí explained that the main purpose of this project is the dissemination of astronomy and to serve as an aid to astronomical observations from the university campus. Thus, since its launch, stars, planets, falling stars and artificial satellites and a great variety of meteorological phenomenon and even the local fauna have been recorded.

The pollution of the university campus light partially limits recording the faintest stars that can be detected. However, the University of Jaén investigator says that with great meteorological conditions the sky view obtained is of great interest and informative teaching. “There have been some experiments done to process the images by getting rid of the background lighting caused by urban lighting. The result recovered, after, was the view of the Milky Way from the campus of the Lagunillas. The contemplation to the naked eye of our Galaxy is a show that unfortunately is forbidden to us due light pollution,” said Josep Martí.