“Discovery” of a \( \beta \) Pictoris-like circumstellar disk in the Internet

Marc Hempel, Hartmut Holweger, Inga Rentzsch-Holm and Bernd Freytag

(Institut für Astronomie und Astrophysik, Universität Kiel)

We illustrate the high diagnostic potential of the \textit{Space Telescope Science Institute Digital Sky Survey} (DSS) by identifying the candidate dust disk surrounding BD +31\(^{\circ}\) 643 whose optical image has been recorded recently (Kalas & Jewitt 1997, Nature 386, 52) using a stellar coronograph.

The disk-like nebulosity around this B5 V binary star can be traced on DSS images retrieved from the STScI and ESO Internet sites without further image processing. Limitations of this kind of “survey” are briefly discussed.