

Reproduction of the Palomar Observatory Sky Surveys

Since several institutions have announced plans to digitize the Palomar Observatory Sky Surveys, it is appropriate to summarize the issues of copyrights and of proper recognition of those who made the surveys possible.

1. The proper names of the two surveys from the 48-inch Oschin Telescope at the Palomar Observatory are:

The National Geographic Society–Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (often referred to as NGS-POSS or POSS-I)

The Second Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (often referred to as POSS-II)

2. Caltech and the National Geographic Society have waived their copyrights to the NGS-POSS survey, which is now in the public domain. We ask that scientific publications based on data from NGS-POSS include the following citation:

The National Geographic Society – Palomar Observatory Sky Survey was funded by a grant from the National Geographic Society to the California Institute of Technology.

3. The copyrights to POSS-II (and all derivative works) are owned by Caltech. Permission to reproduce portions of the survey for publication or distribution is routinely granted (without fee) for scientific and educational purposes (such as text books, monographs, research papers, public information articles, etc.). Permission will not be granted for use in connection with any commercial activity. Requests for permission to reproduce POSS-II images should be sent to:

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Publications based on data from POSS-II should include the following citation:

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