The SAO RAS has the archive facility, which contains digital collections, obtained on the different instruments of SAO RAS since 1994. Within so long term of existence the archive underwent substantial changes in the data formats, metadata, methods of data processing and 3 times migrated on new digital carriers.

Storage area=off-line: 2 optical disks copies + on-line: 2 copies on RAIDs.

Information system= 2 instances (work and test) on 2 servers: PostgreSQL + web-interface (Perl,php,Python).

Volume – 1.5 TB, 0.5 mln files, 1 mln records.

Slogans for archive providers:

- There is no doubt in the need for long-term keeping of data
- A timely migration of digital files on the modern carriers is required to ensure long-term preservation of data
- And small archives need attention
- Providers of small archive unite efforts – enough to invent a bicycle (software, curation metadata, etc)