

**NAME**

votopic – Query for data from resources specified by topic keyword

**SYNOPSIS**

**votopic** [<opts>] <topic> [ <object> | <ra> <dec> ] [ <size> ]

**OPTIONS**

The *votopic* application accepts the following options:

**-h, --help**

Print a help summary to the terminal and exit. No processing is done following this flag.

**All VODATA task options****DESCRIPTION**

The *votopic* task is a convenience application built on top of the *vodata* and *voregistry* applications. Its main purpose is to allow a query for data using logical concepts (e.g. "galaxies", "observation logs") rather than a specific list of resources. This should limit the number of resources that need to be queried when querying all data services and return more relevant results. This is done by using the <topic> argument as a keyword search value for the Registry, the resulting dataset is then used as input for the VODATA task to query only those resources returned by the Registry query. As an example, the topic 'AGN' may be used to query only those resources that claim to have something to do with AGN as opposed to the many hundreds or thousands more that may not contain data for that field at all but would be queried anyway using the more generalized approach of *VODATA*.

The actual effectiveness or suitability of this approach will depend greatly on the keywords (i.e. *topic*) chosen and the aims of a specific query.

For a complete list of options and a description of the task behavior, see the *VODATA* and *VOREGISTRY* man page.

**RETURN STATUS**

On exit the **votopic** task will return a zero indicating success, or a one indicating an error.

**EXAMPLES**

1) Query for catalog data of A2712 from Resources related to gravitational lensing:

```
% votopic -t catalog lens A2712
```

This query is against only 142 services (data found for 128), a similar query against ALL catalog services would require more than 8000 services to be queried. This is equivalent to the commands

```
% voregistry -t catalog -d -o lens.xml lens
% vodata lens.xml A2712
```

Here the 'lens.xml' output file contains the resources to be queried, the '-d' flag says to return only DAL services, the '-t' flag restricts by service type. In the call to VODATA, the 'lens.xml' file defines the 142 resources to be queried, the constraint to service type and DAL-only was done in the registry query that produced the file.

**BUGS**

No known bugs with this release.

**Revision History**

Feb 2013 - First public release

**Author**

Michael Fitzpatrick (fitz@noao.edu), Feb 2013

**SEE ALSO**

vodata, vocatalog, voimage, vospectra, voregistry