

Uranometria 2000.0's Galaxy Cluster Database

This atlas contains 671 galaxy clusters derived from George Abell's 1958 catalog based upon photographs from Mt. Palomar Observatory. In 1980 Abell issued a revision to this catalog, and in 1984 he died while engaged on a southern extension of it using photographs taken at the Anglo-Australian observatory. This work was expanded upon and subsequently completed in 1989 by Harold Corwin and Ronald Olowin. Objects from the 1958 catalog are designated herein with an "A," while those from the 1989 extension bear an "AS" prefix.

Diameters for "A" objects are taken directly from Abell's revised catalog. Similar data was not available for the "AS" clusters so the diameters were estimated based upon the distance class. For all "A" objects having the same distance class, mean diameters were computed, and those values were applied to the "AS" clusters. Therefore, these dimensions are indicative only, not precisely measured.

Until the advent of very large amateur telescopes and CCD imaging these objects were well beyond the reach of the amateur community.