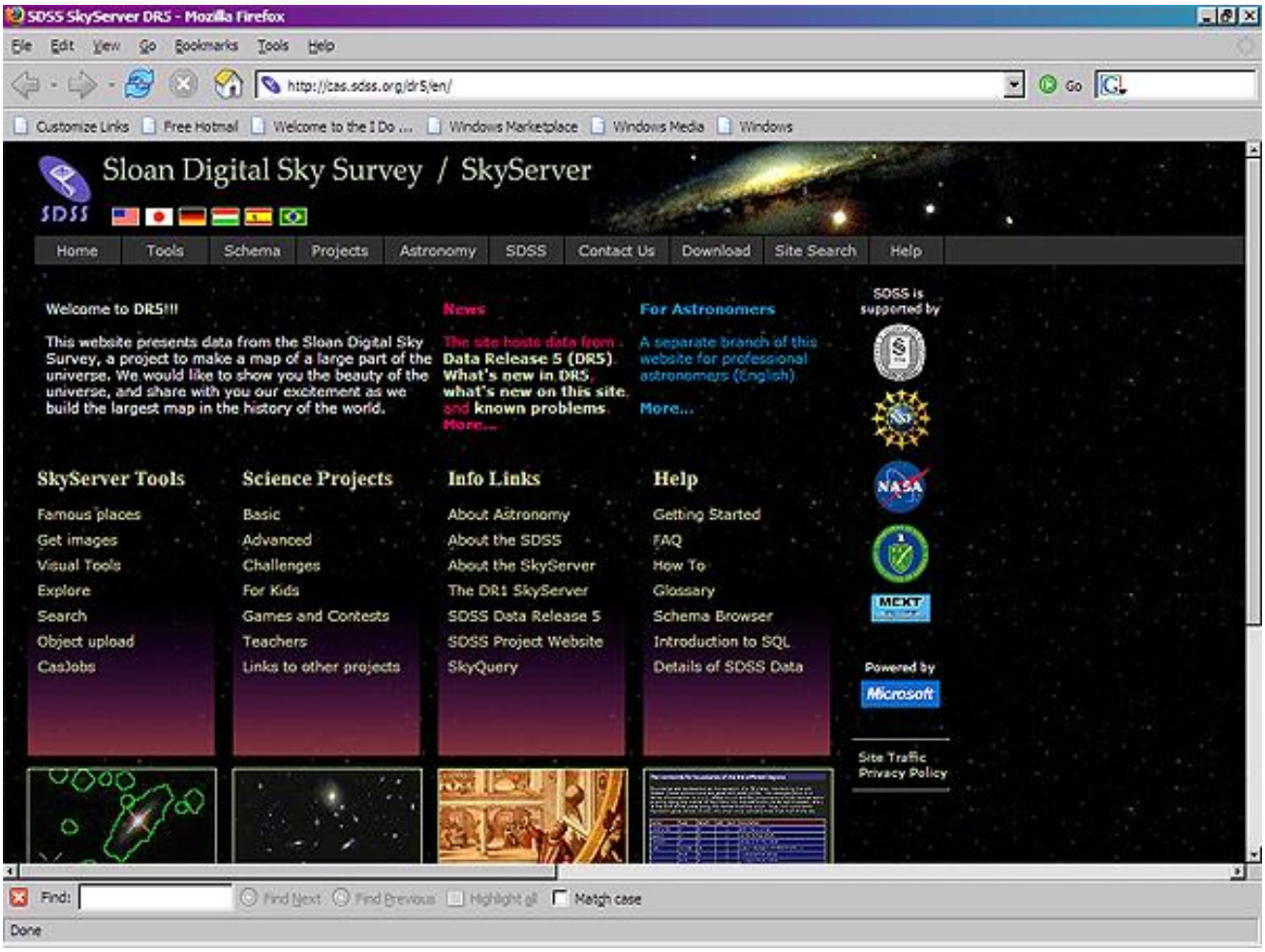
How Do I…

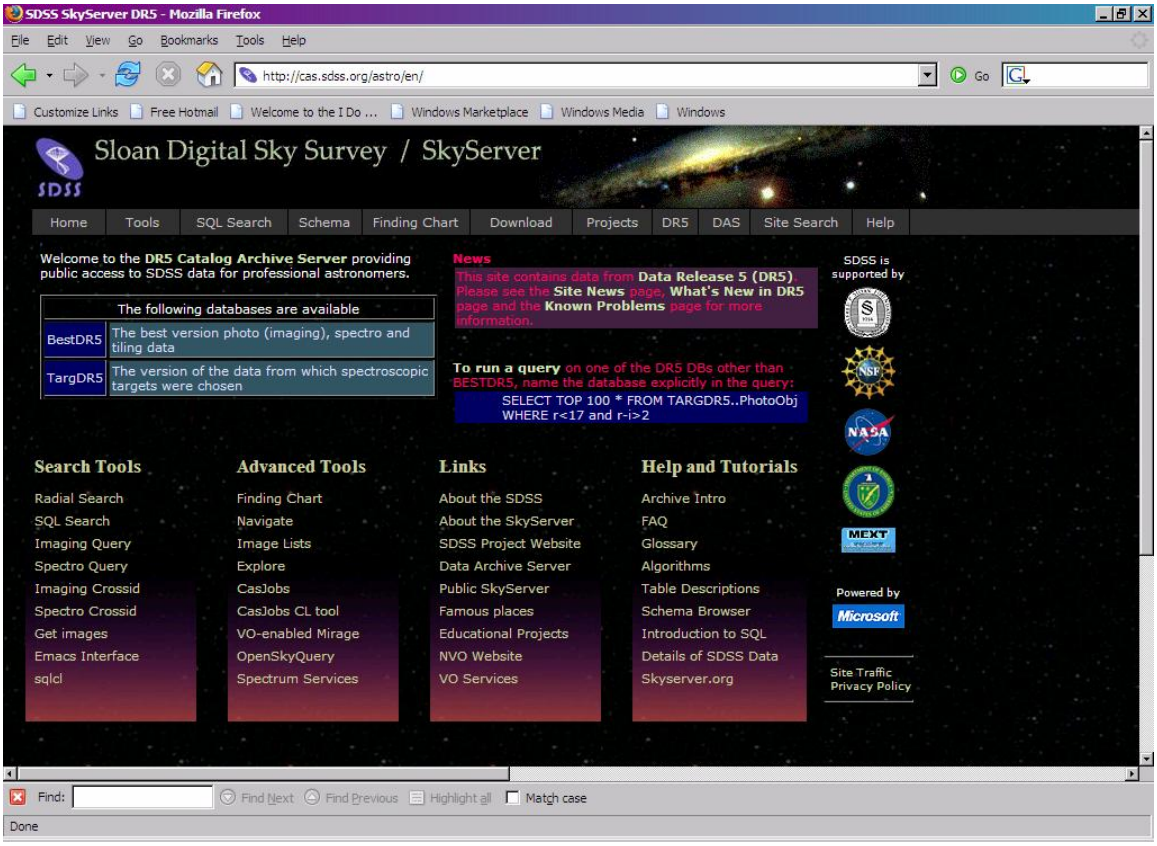
Create a finding chart for my telescope?

With its imaging coverage of large sections of sky, the SDSS can be useful for planning telescope observations. You can use SkyServer to generate a finding chart to help plan these observations.

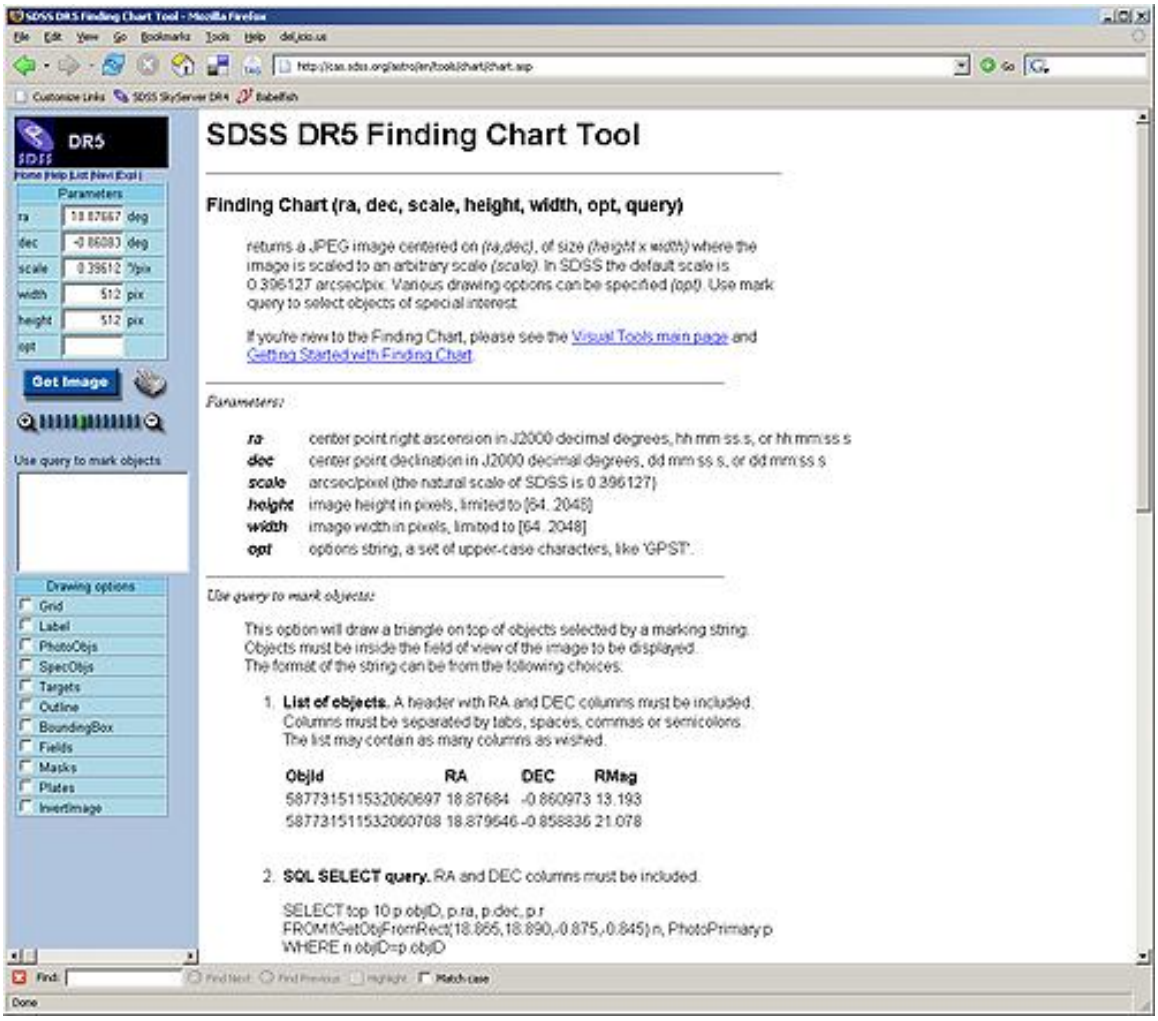
1. Go to the SDSS SkyServer website (http://cas.sdss.org/).



2. Click on **For Astronomers** (the blue text link near the top right of the page, under the menu bar). You will go to a new page. The site will now be optimized for you, astronomy researchers.



3. Look at the *Advanced Tools* column – the second column from the left in the main part of the page. Click on **Finding Chart**, the first link below the topic header. The page will change to show the Finding Chart tool:



4. Look at the *ra* and *dec* input boxes near the top left of the tool. Enter the coordinates of your object. You may enter them either as decimal degrees or as HMS/DMS. If you enter them as HMS/DMS, use the format "hh:mm:ss ±dd:mm:ss".

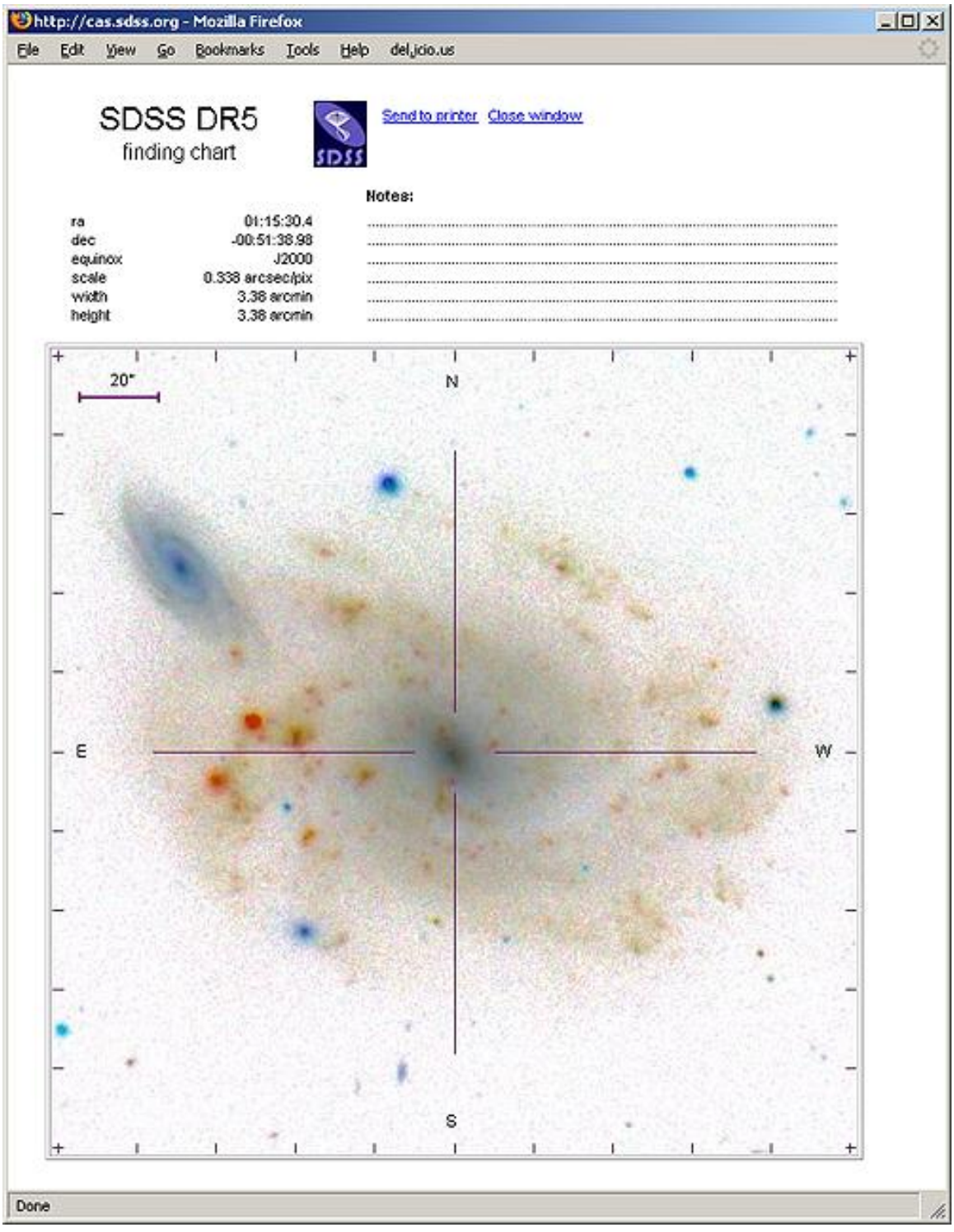
5. In the *scale* input box, enter the scale of your telescope in arcseconds per pixel.

6. In the width and height input boxes, enter the desired size of the image in pixels.

7. Click on one or more of the *Drawing Options* checkboxes in the left-hand panel to redraw the image with various features selected. It is usually a good idea to check **InvertImage**, to display the image as white-on-black.

8. Click **Get Image**.

9. Click the printer icon to open a printable finding chart. The finding chart print white-on-black, and it will display the ra and dec of the center, as well as the scale. It will also have a space to take notes. The printable finding chart will look like this:


http://cas.sdss.org - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help del.icio.us
SDSS DR5
finding chart
Send to printer Close window
Notes:
ra 01:15:30.4
dec -00:51:38.98
equinox J2000
scale 0.338 arcsec/pix
width 3.38 arcmin
height 3.38 arcmin
20"
N
E
W
S
Done