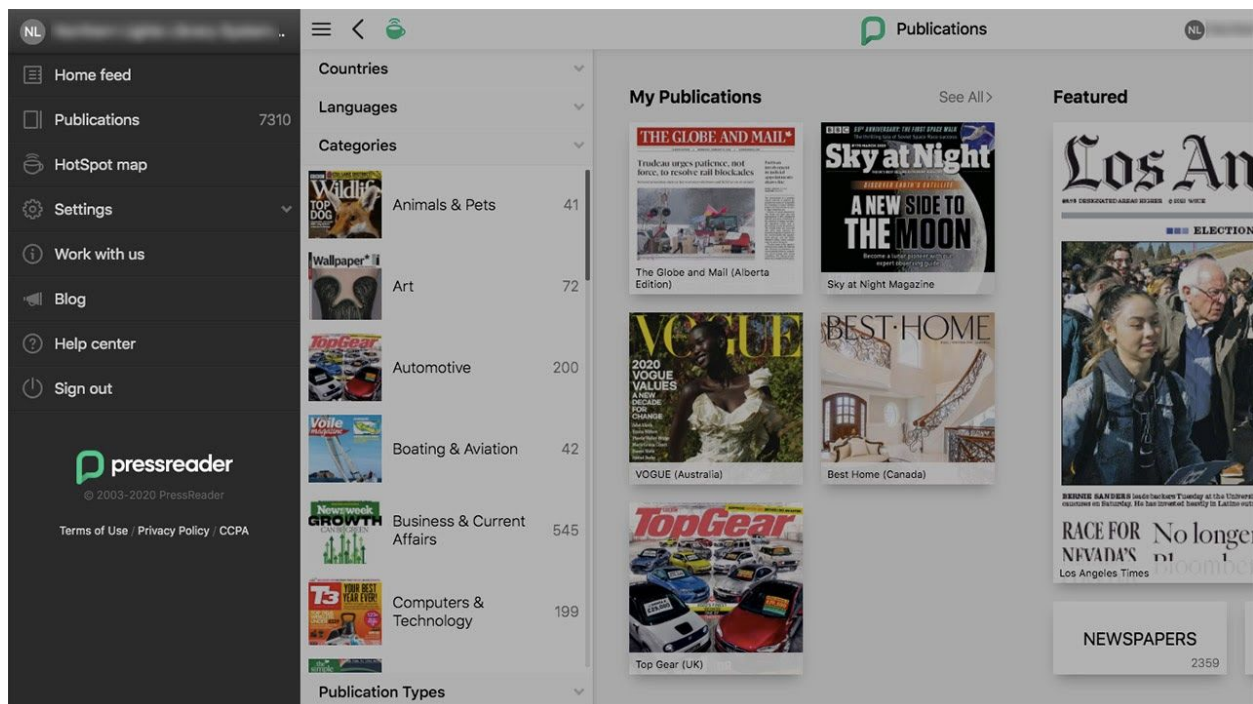
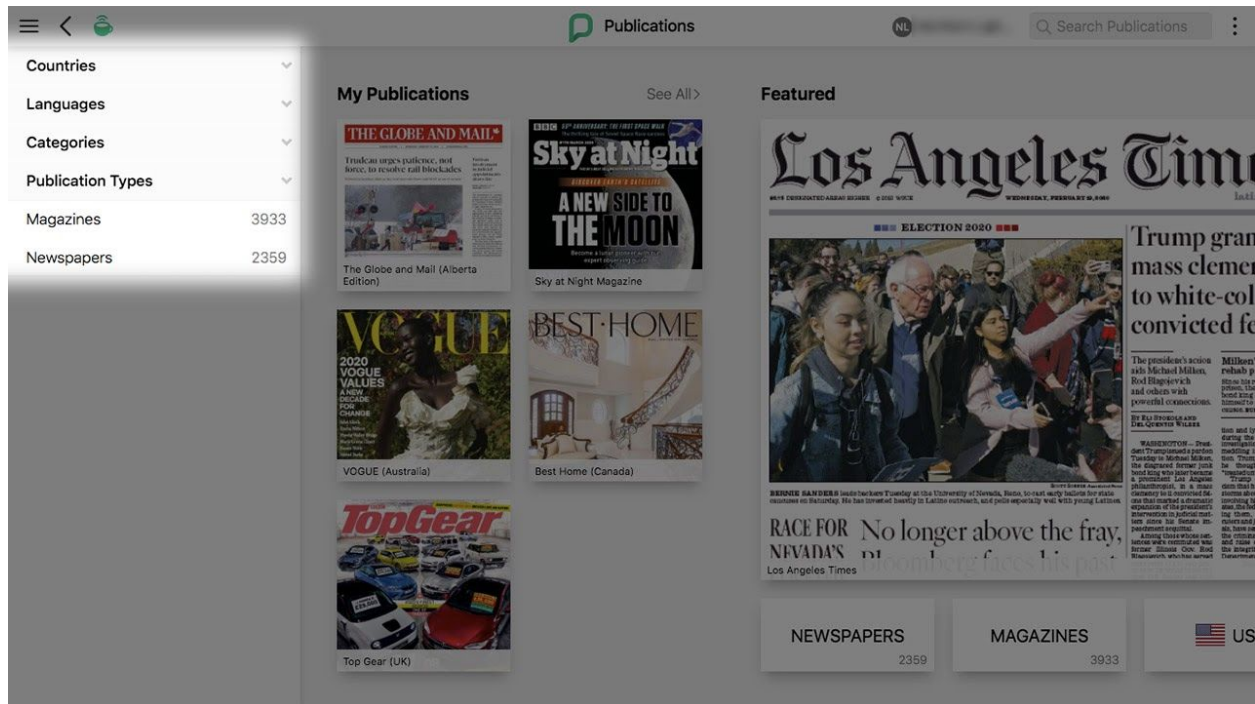


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Chris Bramley

Inka Piegsa

Eye on the sky

Enormous galaxy UGC 2885 is 2.5 times the diameter of the Milky Way and home to 10 times as many stars

HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE, 5 JANUARY 2020

It may be the largest galaxy in our local Universe, but UGC 2885 isn't throwing its weight about. Sitting quietly in a vacant area in Perseus, its beautifully intact disk suggests peaceful millennia have passed without it consuming smaller nearby galaxies or colliding with them. Benne Holwerda of the University of Louisville, Kentucky, who observed the giant with the Hubble Space Telescope, has dubbed it Rubin's Galaxy, in honour of pioneering American astronomer Vera Rubin (1928–2016). It was her studies of unusual rotation rates in UGC 2885 and other galaxies that pointed to the existence of something invisible at play,

an unseen substance with a gravitational influence – dark matter.

Rubin's Galaxy contains a trillion stars, although the bright star blazing near the centre of this picture isn't one of them. This is a foreground star located 232 million lightyears closer to Earth.

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Bulletin

Continued from 4

The debris left behind indicates an event similar to a Type IA supernova

Back on 18 September 2006, astronomers from Kyoto University spotted an extremely bright supernova in the galaxy NGC 1260. They took several spectral measurements of the explosion site. These had several lines identifying elements within the cloud, one of which defied explanation, until a recent analysis identified it as neutral iron, with atoms retaining all their electrons.

"This low-energy state of iron is typically not seen in supernovae, where the high energies involved tend to..."

The hottest planet is tearing itself apart

Spitzer sees its final light

An artist's impression shows the supernova SN2006gy (left), with views captured by the Chandra X-ray (above, top) and Lick Observatories (above, lower)

Comment

Space
by Chris Lintott

As astronomers have built more sophisticated survey instruments with which to hunt for supernovae and other transient objects, their discovery has become almost commonplace. So

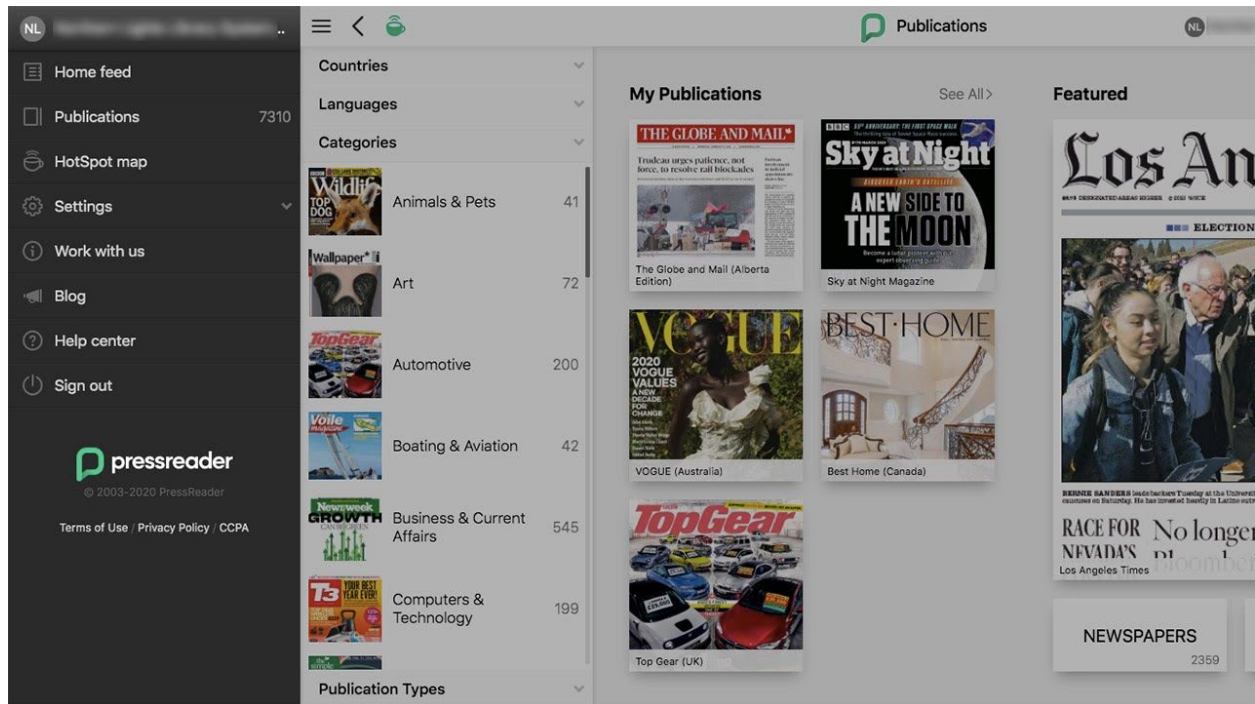
It's refreshing to find out that we can still be surprised. SN2006gy was such an unusual event that it's still making waves, 13 years later, and there may be

Much more to find.

Projects such as the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope expected to alert us to the

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