A useful game – rephotographing historic views from public collections

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Aggregation and Management of Audiovisual Content in the Digital Space
BAAC-LCSA Conference, October 4-7, 2009, Vilnius
http://www.baacouncil.org

Presentation available at http://www.slideshare.net/puik
Photographic collections are consulted and used by researchers much more than the artefacts.

Estonian National Audit Office’s audit No OSIII-2-6/05/57 “Accounting, preservation and use of museum assets”, 2005
Books with old photographs are being published
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on a **geographical basis:**
Books with old photographs are being published

on a *geographical* basis or

on a *typological* basis:
Sources for strengthening identity
Sources for strengthening identity,
creating sense of history
Sources for strengthening *identity*, creating *sense of history* -

LOCATION AWARENESS
Places, landmarks with very high image-density ->
Places, landmarks with very high **image-density** -> **image-based rendering (IBR)** ->
Places, landmarks with very high **image-density** ->
**image-based rendering (IBR)** ->
[http://Photosynth.net](http://Photosynth.net)
LOCATION AWARENESS
verbal broadcasting in social media
mobile-phone cell-based positioning
wi-fi triangulation
gps
manual pinpointing on google maps
geolocalisation
verbal broadcasting in social media
mobile-phone cell-based positioning
wi-fi triangulation
gps
manual pinpointing on googlemaps
geolocalisation
geotagging = embedding geographic information (longitude, latitude) in metadata
Historic views in public collections have their location information in **textual form.**
Historic views in public collections have their location information in textual form (place name, address).

**Geocoding** is possible, but special vocabularies, thesauruses are needed, as toponymes have changed.
Many historic photographs are missing descriptions
Many historic photographs are missing descriptions, are orphan works.
Fotonäitused

Fotoleiidud
Kui Teil tekitab küsimus enda valduses olevate tundmatute fotode ja negatiividega, soovitame nõu saamiseks meie kirjutada filmiarhiiv@ra.ee, või helistada 6938616. Samuti soovitame kirjutada suuremate foto-ning filmileidude puhul kuna võib olla unikaalsete jäädvustustega meie ühisest minevikust.

Fotoleiidud: Tundmatu fotograafi klaasnegatiivid

Tundmatu fotograafi fotod Kes on see tundmatu fotograaf, kelle klaasnegatiivid leiti umbes 20 aastat tagasi Talinnast Müürivahe tänava linnamüüri äärest ehitusprahi seest. Loe edasi >>

Tuustamata-vesiveski

vesiveski 01
Welcome!

The key goals of The Commons on Flickr are to firstly show you hidden treasures in the world's public photography archives, and secondly to show how your input and knowledge can help make these collections even richer.

You're invited to help describe the photographs you discover in The Commons on Flickr, either by adding tags or leaving comments.*

http://www.flickr.com/commons
**Flickr Commons**
started in January 2008
Flickr Commons
started in January 2008,
first memory institution was LOC
Flickr Commons
started in January 2008,
first memory institution was LOC,
by now 28 institutions have joined.
Flickr Commons

NB special licence:
Flickr Commons

NB special licence:

Additional Information

- No known copyright restrictions [?]  
- Anyone can see this photo
**Flickr Commons**

one of the main ideas in taking the public historic photographic collections to where people keep their pictures is to

“*lose the boundaries placed on them by collecting institutions*“ (Seb Chan)

Beside
friending
Beside
   friending,
   favoriting (bookmarking)
Beside friending, favoriting (bookmarking), tagging
Beside
  friending,
  favoriting (bookmarking),
  tagging,
  commenting
Beside friending, favoriting (bookmarking), tagging, commenting and adding notes on the pictures,
have people also located the vantage points of the historic images and taken the contemporary views of the places.
have people also located the vantage points of the historic images and taken the contemporary views of the places.
Tunnel, Wombeyan Road

Format: Glass plate negative.

Rights Info: No known restrictions on publication.

Repository: Tyrrell Photographic Collection, Powerhouse Museum
www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/collection=The_Tyrrell_Photographic

Part Of: Powerhouse Museum Collection

General information about the Powerhouse Museum Collection is available at
www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database

Persistent URL: http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?im=28304

Tags
- Powerhouse Museum
- B&W
- Tunnel
- Trees
- Car
- wombeyan
- mittagong
- Kerry Photo
- Then and Now
- Then & Now
- Tunnels

4 people call this photo a favorite.
Wombeyan Caves are limestone caves to the west of the highway between Goulburn and Mittagong. There are two ways in - from the Goulburn to Oberon road, which is on a relatively straightforward sealed road, or from Mittagong which is a narrow, twisting unsealed road. This tunnel is on the road from Mittagong.

The tunnel in March 2009

Posted 6 months ago. (permalink)
THEN and NOW pictures =

REPHOTOGRAPHY (repeat photography)


http://www.thirdview.org
The Estonian Rephotographic Project:
Peeter Tooming in the steps of Carl Sarap.
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The Estonian Rephotographic Project: Peeter Tooming in the steps of Carl Sarap.
The Estonian Rephotographic Project: Peeter Tooming in the steps of Carl Sarap.
Isn’t it game-like?
Isn’t it game-like?
sort of *hide and seek*...
Actually positioning games exist:
http://www.GPSgames.org
GEOCASHING
SHUTTERSPOT
GEOCASHING
SHUTTERSPOT
FOTOJAHT
FOTOJAHT = photo hunt

http://www.360.ee/lihtne-ja lobus/fotojaht.html
people pay just for FUN
people pay just for FUN

while memory institutions could offer it for FREE
people pay just for FUN

while memory institutions could offer it for FREE

and HARVEST INFORMATION
View from Tartu. Estonian History Museum collection: EAM N5635:52
View from Tartu. Estonian History Museum collection: EAM N5635:8

February 2009
WIKINOMICS (Tapscott & Williams, 2008):

It is time to give up
“the assumption that information must move from credentialed producers to passive consumers.“ (p. 146)

Memory institutions should also
“orchestrate value creation rather than participate directly in it.“ (p. 258)
It could be a special dedicated solution for positioning and rephotographing.
It could be a special dedicated **solution**
for positioning and rephotographing—
in an era of modularity and interoperability
It could be a special dedicated solution for positioning and rephotographing—in an era of modularity and interoperability there is no need to have all functions in one certain super heritage portal.
The task is very suitable for peering (mass collaboration), as
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1) *The object of production is information* /.../
The task is very suitable for peering (mass collaboration), as

1) The object of production is information /...

2) Tasks can be chunked out into bite-size pieces that individuals can contribute in small increments and independently of other producers

*Wikinomics*, p. 70
A possible scenario:
A possible scenario:

   somebody recognizes the place
A possible scenario:

  somebody recognizes the place, comments
A possible scenario:

    somebody recognizes the place, comments

    someone else reads the comment
A possible scenario:

somebody recognizes the place, comments

someone else reads the comment, pinpoints the approximate location on the map (manually)
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a third person sees on the map that there is an unrephotographed historic picture near to his/her home
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a third person sees on the map that there is an unrephotographed historic picture near to his/her home, goes and takes a snapshot with a cameraphone
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someone else reads the comment, pinpoints the approximate location on the map (manually)

a third person sees on the map that there is an unrephotographed historic picture near to his/her home, goes and takes a snapshot with a cameraphone

a fourth person, a technology enthusiast, travels to the spot and reshoots the presentday view with a superior digital camera
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a fourth person, a technology enthusiast, travels to the spot and reshoots the presentday view with a superior digital camera and takes the exact gps-reading of the vantage point
The process is thereby INCREMENTAL
Digital photography is massively accessible already
Digital photography is massively accessible already, GPSs will soon be integrated as well
Digital photography is massively accessible already, GPSs will soon be integrated as well

+ 

easy and efficient **panorama stitching software** is also available.

Inset: Timothy O’Sullivan, 1867. Rock formations, Pyramid Lake, Nev.
The role of the photographer
The role of the photographer, what is meaningful
The role of the photographer, what is meaningful/important
The role of the photographer,
what is meaningful/important/included
The role of the photographer,
what is meaningful/important/included,
what is left out
The role of the photographer,
what is meaningful/important/included,
what is left out,
what might not exist before
The role of the photographer,
what is meaningful/important/included,
what is left out,
what might not exist before,
and is there now...
View from Tartu. Estonian History Museum
collection: EAM N5635:226
So what do we get?
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collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
heritage reactualized
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
heritage reactualized
representation practices revised
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
heritage reactualized
representation practices revised
people engaged
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
heritage reactualized
representation practices revised
people engaged
genius loci reinforced
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map-based search for historic views ->
Wombeyan Caves are limestone caves to the west of the highway between Goulburn and Mittagong. There are two ways in - from the Goulburn to Oberon road, which is on a relatively straightforward sealed road, or from Mittagong which is a narrow, twisting unsealed road. This tunnel is on the road from Mittagong.

The tunnel in March 2009

[Image of the tunnel]

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**Powerhouse Museum Collection pro** says:

Thanks! We have now mapped the location thanks to your geotagging on the contemporary photo!

Posted 3 months ago. (permalink)

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**iamsand pro** says:

<- on a large scale
So what do we get?

collections redescribed in textual and in pictorial form
environmental change made perceivable
heritage reactualized
representation practices revised
people engaged
genius loci reinforced

map-based search for historic views ->
an extra layer for AUGMENTED REALITY
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps49T0iJwVg