

Structuring and exploring geographic iconographic heritage

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Geographic iconographic heritage?







Why focusing on geographic iconographic heritage?

- It's a rich spatio-temporal representation of our territory and its evolution
- Many domains impacted
 - Researches in SSH (historians, geographers, sociologists, etc.)
 - Environmental cartography
 - Urban planning
 - Tourism
 - Education
 - o ..
- Many hosting institutions: GLAMs, mapping agencies
- Open data policies make them more and more available





Why focusing on geographic iconographic heritage?

Main characteristics

- More and more digitally native, but a large part of them are not digitized
- Large spatio-temporal coverage
 - Large territory coverage
 - Various acquisition dates (« multi-date » imagery)



- o Heterogeneous: multi-view, multi-source, multi-date
- Variable quality metadata, different standards
- Very variable geolocation quality
- Collections in silo in institutions, not interlinked



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Marseille harbor evolution between 1930 and 1970 © IGN, Archives nationales, Niépce Museum





Outline of the talk

How to bring structure to a collection, or between collections



- > Structure through links between contents
- > Structure through spatialization

How to access and visualize the collections and their structure

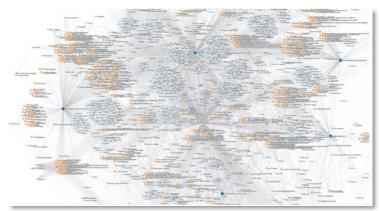


- > Through image retrieval
- > Through spatialization in 3D context

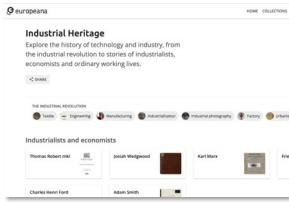




- Indexing, categorizing and querying with metadata
 - Metadata-based graphs (ex. Oronce Fine)
 - Metadata enriched with AI (ex. GallicaPix)



Oronce Fine



Europeana







- Spatial turn: structuring and visualizing through spatialization
 - How to spatialize? (Blettery et al, 2021)
 - Manual: picking on a map (Gallicarte project), collaborative annotations (Smapshot)
 - Semi-automatic: guided localization (ALEGORIA, Geniet et al. 2022)
 - Automatic: image retrieval (Paul-Edouard Sarlin et al. 2021), pose regression (Moreau et al. 2022)





in Navilium

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 Content-based indexing, categorizing and querying ⊗ Voir la source de l'image G Rechercher Monument Valley - Road Trip Let' Ground Truth **PixPlot** Terre de westerns ... West - Itinéra 9 images (39 in total) Mark as 🗸 or 🗶 Google Images GallicaSnoop

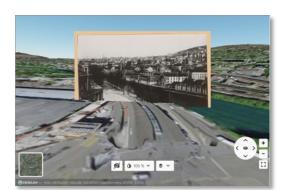
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- o 3D (and 4D) integration and visualization platforms
 - o Focused on topics, areas
 - o 3D open platforms (iTowns, Cesium)



Images of Switzerland Online





Smapshot





Hist4D



UD-Viz





Some of our contributions

3 observation scales



Aerial, landscapes: ALEGORIA (2018-2021)



Street-level, city-scale: ON STAGE 3D (2020-2023)



Monument: Notre-Dame de Paris (ongoing)









Advanced Linking and Exploitation of diGitized geOgRaphic Iconographic heritAge









Why old aerial oblique images

- > Richness of the viewpoint: bird's view
- Views spread all over the territory
- In the project: 90 000 views (42 000 digitized, 70 000 with harmonized metadata)



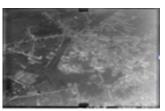
MRU collection Archives nationales



Ard

LAPIE collection Archives nationales







Combier collection Nicéphore Niépce Museum



Médiathèque Terra MTES







Main objectives

- Development of tools and software architectures to facilitate access to and promotion of iconographic collections
 - Digitization and harmonization of old iconographic collections
 - A web-based multimodal search engine
 - ✓ A web-based 3D navigation platform
 - ✓ Several use cases with archivits, sociologists and historians





















Multimodal search engine

Main user expectations

- Better document a photograph by finding similar documented views
- Better geolocalize a photograph
- Better structure the collections (redundancy, duplicates, etc.)
- Discover new photographs
- Propose alternative navigation paths in the collections according to different criteria



What would you gain from querying photographic collections, by visual content and/or metadata?
(38 participants)



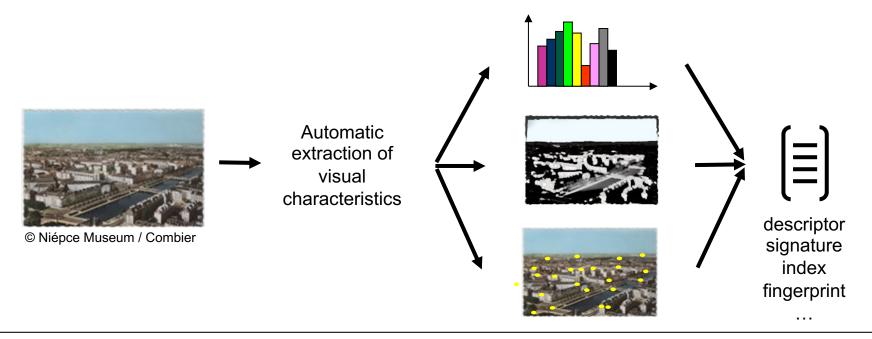
Tout à fait pertinent







Description, indexing and retrieval by content of the collections: principles

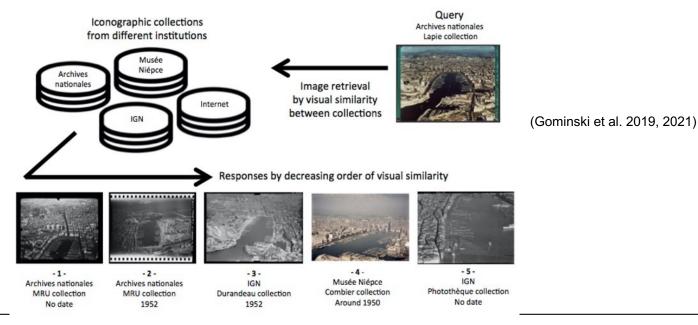








- Description, indexing and retrieval by content of the collections: principles
 - Querying paradigm : query-by-example



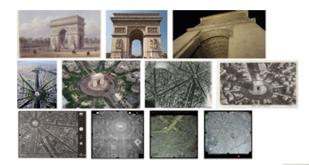






- Description and indexing by content of the collections: challenges
 - Image collections intra and inter-domains
 - Multi-source
 - Multi-date
 - Multi-view

Lack of training datasets



« Arc de Triomphe » class











Description and indexing by content of the collections: which descriptor?



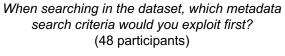




- Description and indexing by content of the collections: which descriptor?
 - Descriptors studied
 - ✓ Global descriptor: GeM + few-shot learning
 (Gominski et al. 2022)
 - ✓ Local descriptor for instance retrieval:

 DELF + training benchmark ALEGORIA

 (Gominski et al. 2019, 2021)
 - ✓ Post-processings: geometric verification and query expansion (diffusion)
 (Gominski et al. 2021)





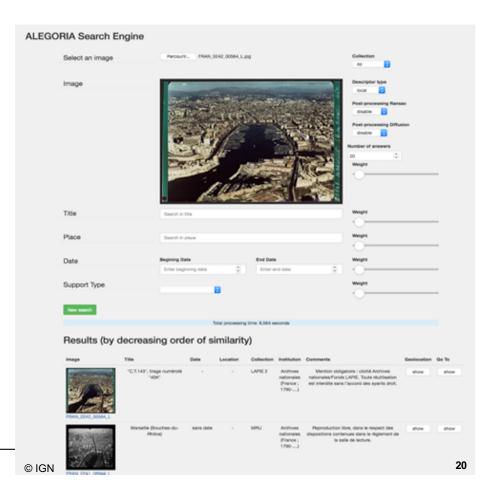




ALEG**®**RIA

Multimodal search engine

- Overview of the proposed web search engine (Geniet et al. 2022)
 - Distributed architecture
 - Several categories of image descriptors and post-processings
 - Retrieval by:
 - ✓ Metadata
 - ✓ Content
 - ✓ Multimodal







Retrieval examples

Retrieval by content between collections (local description)

FRAN_0242_00908_L



Results (by decreasing order of similarity)								
Image	Title	Date	Location	Collection	Institution	Comments	GeoRef	
	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show	
1975.19.14118.3P01RH	Vue aérienne de Caen (titre factice)	Créat. Vers 1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show	
1975.19.14118.44.2P01H	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	Créat. Vers 1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show	
FRAN_0241_05486_L	Mission n° 884 : Caen (Calvados)	1956-03-14	Caen	MRU	Archives nationales (France; 1790)	Reproduction libre, dans le respect des dispositions contenues dans le règlement de la salle de lecture.	show	
1975.19.14118.44.1P01RH	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show	
	"B.N.30", tirage numéroté "20K"	7	Caen	LAPIE 2	Archives nationales (France; 1790)	Mention obligatoire : cliché Archives nationales/Fonds LAPIE. Toute réutilisation est interdite sans l'accord des ayants droit.	show	





Retrieval examples

Retrieval by content between collections (local description)

FRAN_0242_00908_L



Results (by de	ecreasing order	of simila	arity)				
Image	Title	Date	Location	Collection	Institution	Comments	GeoRef
	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show
1975.19.14118.3P01RH	Vue aérienne de Caen (titre factice)	Créat. Vers 1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show
1975.19.14118.44.2P01H	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	Créat. Vers 1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show
FRAN_0241_05486_L	Mission n° 884 : Caen (Calvados)	1956-03-14	Caen	MRU	Archives nationales (France ; 1790)	Reproduction libre, dans le respect des dispositions contenues dans le règlement de la salle de lecture.	show
1975.19.14118.44.1P01RH	Vue aérienne de Caen, Les quatre ponts (titre factice)	1950	Caen	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		show
	"B.N.30", tirage numéroté "20K*	7	Caen	LAPIE 2	Archives nationales (France; 1790)	Mention obligatoire : cliché Archives nationales/Fonds LAPIE. Toute réutilisation est interdite sans l'accord des ayants droit.	show





Retrieval examples

External query by content (local description)



Query



esults (by d	ecreasing orde	r of simi	larity)				
Image	Title	Date	Location	Collection	Institution	Comments	Geo
75.19.69105.12.2P01H	LACENAS (Phône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du Monument (titre factice)	1960	Lacenes	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce	*	sh
	LACENAS (Phône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du Monument (titre factice)	1960	Lacenas	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépoe	÷	sh
	LACENAS (Phône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du Monument (titre factice)	Créat. Vers 1960	Lacenas	Combier	Musée Nicéptore Niépce		sh
	LACENAS (Phône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du Monument (titre factice)	1960	Lacenza	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce	*	sh
	LACENAS (Phône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du Monument (titre factice)	1960	Lacenas	Combier	Musée Nicéphore Niépce		sh
1	LACENAS (Rhône) - / 3 - L'Eglise, la Place du	1950	Lacenas	Combier	Musée Nicéphore	© I	GN Sh



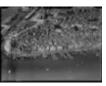
IGN



Use case for the French national Archives

- Identify views and share documentary information
- Date
- Follow the evolution of an area
- Compare the modes of shooting on a site in time

Follow the evolution of an area during the reconstruction period, here the old port of Marseille in the period 1930-1970



1931 (IGN - CAF)



After1950 (AN - MRU)



1947 (IGN - Durandeau)



After 1950 (AN - LAPIE)



1950 (AN - MRU)



After 1955-1975 (Niépce - Combier)

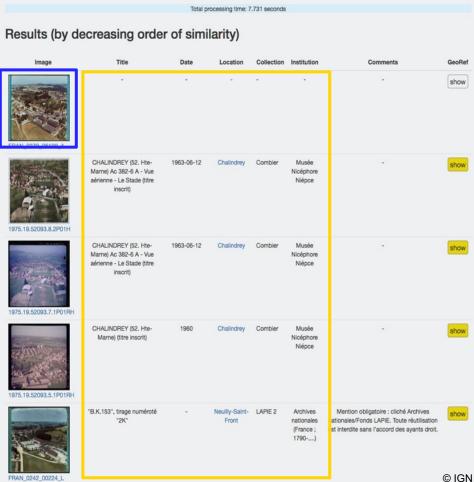




Retrieval examples & 3D

Searching for metadata, by content (local description)











Retrieval examples & 3D

Then visualization in the 3D scene (French Geoportal), with the possibility to refine the geolocation



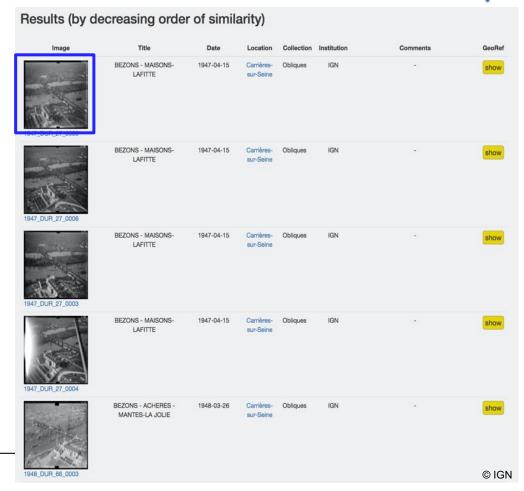




ALEG@RIA

Retrieval examples & 3D

Search by content, to structure (local description)









Retrieval examples & 3D

Then visualization in the 3D scene, here according to a fine geolocalization





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Immersive co-visualization of the contents

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 Immersive navigation and interactions: iTowns, a 3D geospatial data visualization library for the web









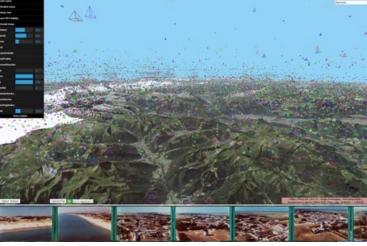
© IGN

Immersive co-visualization of the contents

Interactive spatio-temporal navigation paradigms (Blettery et al. 2020)



 Management of image collections at different scales: heat maps, pyramids, carousel









Immersive co-visualization of the contents

 Use case: Understanding the formation of the Parisian metropolis: Nanterre and its slums in the 1950s - a historical and sociological perspective





(Blettery et al, 3DGeoInfo 2020) (Lecat et al, Humanités numériques 2021)

Evaluation as a research and communication tool in urban visual sociology (LAVUE)







Photo-elicitation interview on the evolution of infrastructures and landmarks (hotel/restaurant vs. highway interchange, 1960-1961 period)







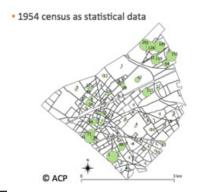
Immersive co-visualization of the contents

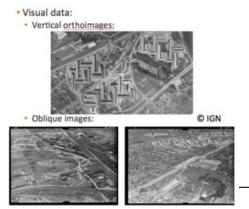
 Use case: Understanding the formation of the Parisian metropolis: Nanterre and its slums in the 1950s - a historical and sociological perspective

(Blettery et al, 3DGeoInfo 2020) (Lecat et al, Humanités numériques 2021)



History of metropolization phenomena in the Parisian agglomeration Paris in the middle of the 20th century (Archival City / Grand Paris)







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ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

- Focus on street-level Parisian architecture
- Objectives
 - Visual-based linking for structuring
 - Structure visualization and refinement



- ▶ Diverse depictions of 10k visual contents
 - o 1915-2015
 - o Streets, monuments, churches or regular buildings
 - Coming from different institutions and departments, with you
 - Coming from different institutions and departments, with various types of metadata

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© Collection Archives de la Planète - Musée Albert-Kahn

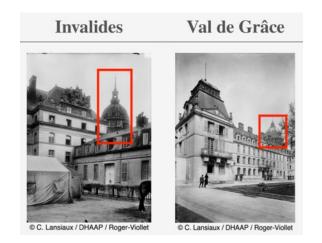






ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

► Focus on street-level Parisian architecture: not easy!





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ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

- Visual-based Linking for structuring
 - ✓ **Best image descriptors** related to landmarks: How + AMSK (Tolias et al. 2016, 2020)





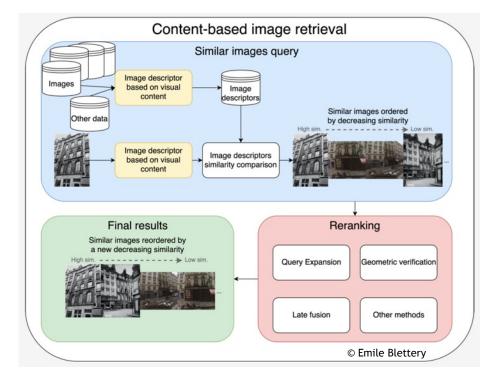


ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic

hEritage in 3D

- Visual-based Linking for structuring
 - ✓ Best image descriptors related to landmarks: How + AMSK (Tolias et al. 2016, 2020)
 - ✓ Exploiting the **geometry** of the scene during a posteriori **reranking**





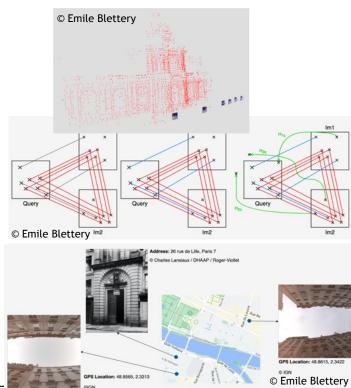


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ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

- Visual-based Linking for structuring
 - ✓ **Best image descriptors** related to landmarks: How + AMSK (Tolias et al. 2016, 2020)
 - ✓ Exploiting the **geometry** of the scene during a posteriori **reranking**
 - √ 4 strategies (Blettery et al. 2023)
 - ➤ 2D-3D matching: exploitation of the 3D of the scene (Structure from Motion)
 - ➤ 2D approximation of 2D-3D matching
 - > Exploitation of the location available
 - Diffusion: GNN-R from (Zhang et al, 2020)









ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic

hEritage in 3D

Descriptor +	Diff	fusion after pr	evious re-ranl	king	Mean
Re-ranking step	No GNN-R	GNN-R \times 1	GNN-R \times 2	GNN-R × 3	time
How-A	41.0	57.2	59.3	57.0	
How-A + RANSAC-SG	41.5	57.2	59.3	57.0	+120s
How-A + RANSAC-LG	41.9	61.2	65.5	63.3	+100s
How-A + R3D-SG	44.4	61.9	64.2	61.9	+220s
How-A + R3D-LG	43.2	61.1	63.2	60.7	+210s
How-A + R2D-SG	36.2	59.6	62.9	60.5	+150s
How-A + R2D-LG	41.9	61.0	64.4	62.1	+140s
How-A + location weighting (Sp)	42.0	58.9	61.8	59.5	+1/308
How-A + location weighting (No dist)	40.5	57.8	61.1	59.0	+1/30s
How-A + location weighting (All)	42.5	60.2	63.1	61.8	+1/308
How-A + RANSAC-SG +R3D-SG	44.9	62.9	65.8	63.3	+340s
How-A + RANSAC-LG +R3D-LG	43.0	61.8	64.1	61.9	+300s
How-A + RANSAC-SG +R2D-SG	36.9	60.1	63.0	60.5	+270s
How-A + RANSAC-LG +R2D-LG	41.7	61.2	64.3	62.2	+240s
How-A + location weighting (Sp) + R3D-SG	44.7	62.4	64.9	62.4	+220s
How-A + location weighting (Sp) + R2D-LG	41.9	61.1	64.7	62.1	+140s

Combination of re-ranking strategies: evaluation (mAP)

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ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic

hEritage in 3D

Query



Combination of re-ranking strategies: visual inspection





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ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

- Visual-based Linking for structuring
 - ✓ Best image descriptors related to landmarks: How + AMSK (Tolias et al. 2016, 2020)
 - ✓ Exploiting the **geometry** of the scene during a posteriori **reranking**
 - √ 4 strategies (Blettery et al. 2023)
 - ➤ 2D-3D matching: exploitation of the 3D of the scene (COLMAP)
 - ➤ 2D approximation of 2D-3D matching
 - > Exploitation of the location available
 - ➤ Diffusion: GNN-R from (Zhang et al, 2020)

How to make it even better?

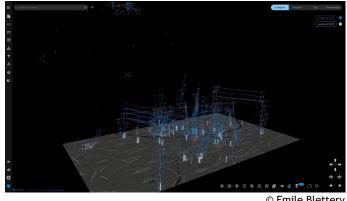




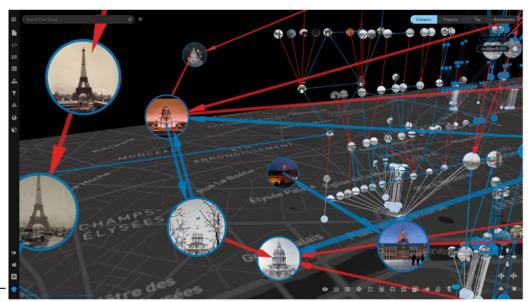


ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic hEritage in 3D

- Structure visualization and refinement
 - ✓ A 3D representation of the graph-based representation of links between images, based on:
 - Visual similarities (auto)
 - Spatial similarities (auto)
 - expert similarities (manual)











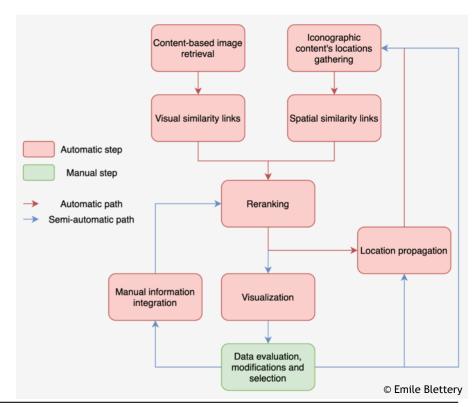


ON STAGE 3D: cONtent-based STructuring of pAris photoGraphic

hEritage in 3D

- Structure visualization and refinement
 - ✓ Refinement of the global structuring through iterations between automatic linking and manual annotations

Combination of retrieval and re-ranking approaches	k re-ranked images per query	Re-ranking computation time (hours)	mAP after diffusion
How-A	-		59.3
Automatic re-ranking approaches			
How-A + Location weighting (Sp)	135	1/60	61.8
How-A + RANSAC-SG + R3D-SG	135	150	65.8
How-A + RANSAC-LG	135	45	65.5
How-A + RANSAC-SG/RANSAC-LG	5	1.5	59.3
Iterative semi-automatic process buildi	ng on an automatic	location weighting step	
How-A + Location weighting (Sp)	135	1/60	61.8
+ Automatic location propagation	-	-	62.2
+ Manual interventions on the first 5 links	-	1	62.6
+ Manual interventions on the 5-10 links	-	1	64.2
Iterative semi-automatic process buildi	ng on an automatic	RANSAC-SG + R3D-SG s	ter
How-A + RANSAC-SG + R3D-SG	135	150	65.8
+ Manual interventions on the 5-10 links	-	1	66.4
+ Manual interventions on the 10-15 links	-	1	66.9



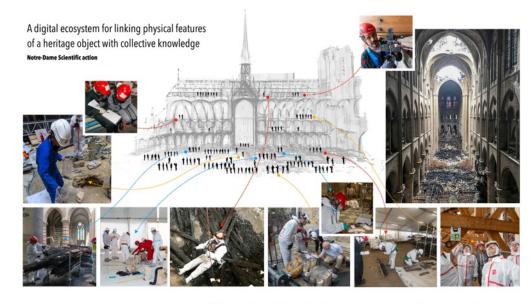




Visual documentation at the scale of a monument



- Integration of heterogeneous data in a digital ecosystem dedicated to restauration sites
 - Case study: Notre-Dame de Paris
 - Structuring of various visual contents collected:
 - before, during and after the fire
 - o inside and outside



n-Dame_Heritage

n-Dimensional analysis and memorisation ecosystem for building cathedrals of knowledge in Heritage Science

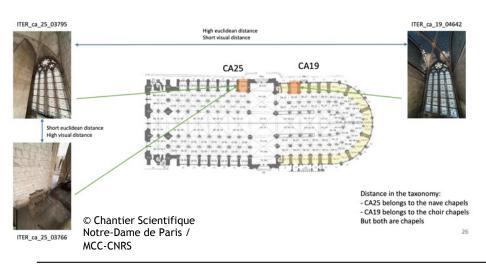


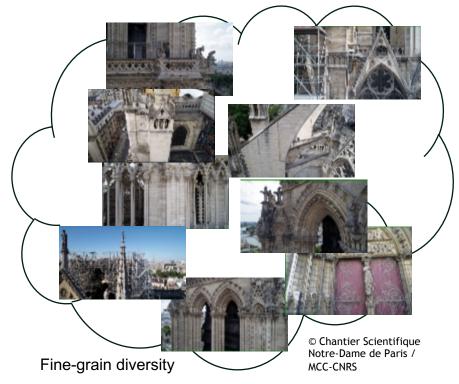


Documentation at the scale of a monument



- Structuring of various visual contents collected before, during and after the fire, inside and outside
 - Difficult, specific contents!





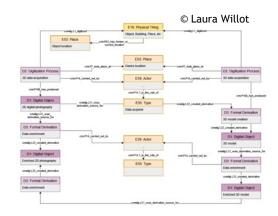


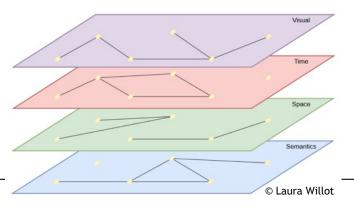


Documentation at the scale of a monument



- Structuring of various visual contents collected before, during and after the fire, inside and outside
- How: considering the multimodal information available
 - Structuring by integrating together visual, spatio-temporal and semantic information (Willot et al, 2023)





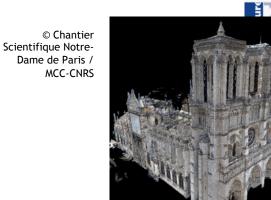






Documentation at the scale of a monument

- Structuring of various visual contents collected before, during and after the fire, inside and outside
- How: considering the multimodal information available
 - Exploiting the geometrical structure of the scene (e.g. point clouds)



tion

Query Image









Similar Image 8379 / 8454





Query Image 518 / 7669 GV = 242















Query Image 550 / 9188 GV = 191





















Some conclusions

- o Geographic iconographic heritage: a very rich heritage, still under exploited!
- Open data policies → more and more data made available

- Challenging research in Computer Vision, AI, Multimedia and HCI
 - Ex: exploitation of multimodal data (text, 3D point clouds, etc.) to help
 - > Ex: reproducible, replicable and sustainable architectures
- A large panel of application domains
 - Including generative AI: GIH can serve as reference!





Last publications, datasets & event

Publications

- o All ALEGORIA publications: https://www.alegoria-project.fr/en/papers
- o (Blettery et al, 2024) E. Blettery and V. Gouet-Brunet, Heritage Iconographic Content Structuring: from Automatic Linking to Visual Validation, Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage, 2024 To appear
- (Blettery et al, 2023) E. Blettery and V. Gouet-Brunet, Re-ranking Image Retrieval in Challenging Geographical Iconographic Heritage Collections, 20th International Conference on Content-Based Multimedia Indexing, Sep 2023, Orléans, France
- (Willot et al, 2023) L. Willot, D. Vodislav, V. Gouet-Brunet, L. De Luca and A. Manuel, Clustering for the Analysis and Enrichment of Corpus of Images for the Spatio-temporal Monitoring of Restoration Sites, 5th Workshop on AnalySis, Understanding and ProMotion of HeritAge Contents (SUMAC '23), ACM Multimedia 2023, Nov 2023, Ottawa, Canada. pp.39-47

Datasets

o ALEGORIA datasets (images & metadata): https://www.alegoria-project.fr/en/datasets

Event

SUMAC'24: 6th Intl. workshop on the analySis, Understanding and proMotion of heritAge Contents @ ACM Multimedia 2024 https://sumac-workshops.github.io/2023/





Fraternité

Thank you!

Contact: valerie.gouet@ign.fr