Making Pictures Identifiable in the Long Now: Is Embedding an Answer?

Kari R. Smith and Greg Reser

University of Michigan, Department of the History of Art : University of California San Diego, Art Library

Research Background and Question

Embedded metadata in digital files is not a new concept. Recently, the Visual Resources community has been looking into the benefits of embedded descriptive metadata as image collections go increasingly digital.

Can visual resource collection curators and image creators employ the benefits of embedding metadata that will eventually aid in the long-term access and preservation of these digital assets?

Landscape of Current Projects

Visual Resources Association
   Embedded Metadata Sub-group

Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative
   Federal Agencies Still Image Digitization Working Group
   Embedded Metadata Sub-group
   Federal Agencies Audio-Visual Working Group

Metadata Working Group

MILE : Metadata Image Library Exploitation

Stock Artists Alliance (SAA)
   www.photometadata.org

Virtual Astronomy Multimedia Project (VAMP)

JISC Digital Media (formerly TASI)

IDEAlliance
   XMP Open

Visual Resources Association Response

Greg Reser raised the issue of embedding metadata in fall 2008 looking for a way to automate populating digital image metadata with existing descriptive metadata from a database.

Many image libraries are focused on producing and storing image surrogates for research and teaching. As descriptive information of the work of art of architecture changes or is annotated overtime, VRA curators are asking if embedding metadata would be worth the time involved.

The VRA formally charged the Embedded Metadata Subgroup as part of the Descriptive Standards Committee. Greg Reser (UCSD) and Johanna Bauman (ARTstor) are the group co-chairs.

MetadataDeluxe

Reser created the MetadataDeluxe Wiki as a forum for discussing and posting examples of embedded metadata projects.
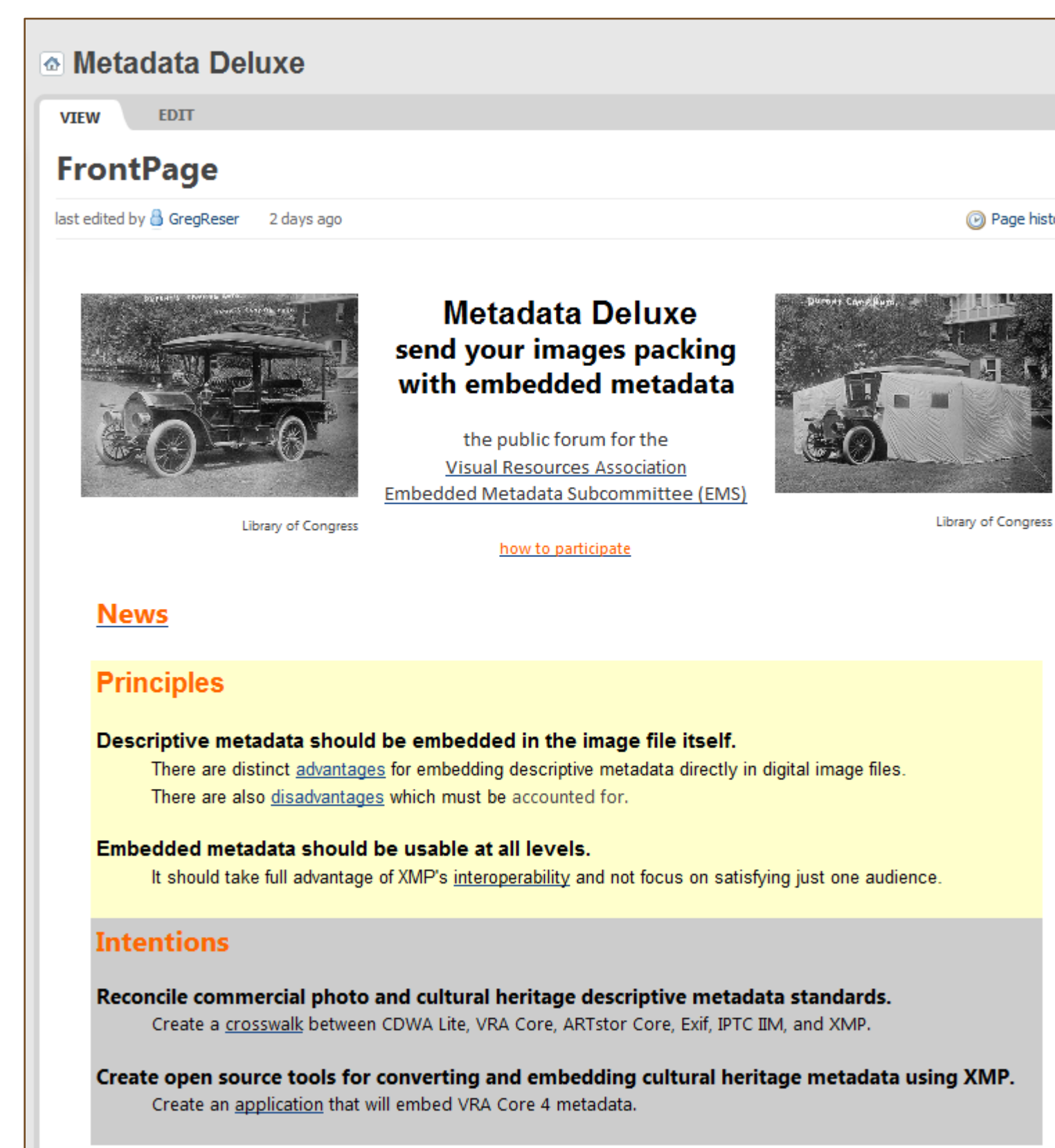
Archival Community Interest

Would the inclusion of embedded detailed VRA Core descriptive metadata be useful to archives and the long-term access of digital visual materials?

Would full descriptive embedded metadata assure resource identification if the original data source is no longer available?

What tools can be developed or adapted to assist with this process?

What information would archivists want included at the start of a digital image lifecycle?

Would embedded metadata enhance delivery, usability and integration of digitized archival materials leading to increased visibility and use?

Contact information

Kari R. Smith

University of Michigan   T: 734.763.6114
Department of the History of Art   E: karismit@umich.edu
Tappan Hall, 110
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

http://metadatadeluxe.pbworks.com/

Greg Reser

Greg Reser   T: 858.246.0998
University of California San Diego   E: greser@ucsd.edu
Arts Library, Geisel Library Building
9500 Gilman Drive, 0175Q
La Jolla, CA 92093-0175