FEATURES

Towards user-centered indexing in digital image collections

Krystyna K. Matusiak
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Abstract

Purpose – User-created metadata, often referred to as folksonomy or social classi cation, has received a considerable amount of attention in the digital library world. Sociallir39c.9599 Tm21.7(cexaminl)-2440236 463.21ec and consistency and do not provide a solution to the challenges of image indexing. On the other hand, they re ects user's language and can lead toward user-centered indexing and greater user engagement.

Practical implications – Social tagging can be implemented as a supplement to professionally

museums and libraries by professional catalogers following standards and using controlled vocabulary tools. This approach represents traditional document-oriented indexing where items are classi ed a priori by professional catalogers with little or no input from end-users (Fidel, 1994).

The web, however, challenges this world of clear boundaries and distinct authority

(2) Content-based, where features of images, such as color, shape, or texture are automatically identi ed and extracted by computer software.

Social classiÞcation of digital images

There are a number of web sites that provide users with space to store digital photos. What makes Flickr unique and popular is its classi cation and networking application that allows assigning tags, commenting, and sharing images and associated tags with

- Proper names indicating geographic location (boston) are listed along topical terms, such as bridge and building.

Figure 3.
Cologne Night2 – a photo
posted on the Flickr's site
by Ilhan Aksoy.