

Social Tagging Museums: Research and Reflections

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- Access to Collections
 - ⇒ searching + reference questions
- Tagging
 - → potential for user content
- Research Questions
 - **→** methods
 - → steve tagger
- Preliminary Results
- Can we learn from tagging?

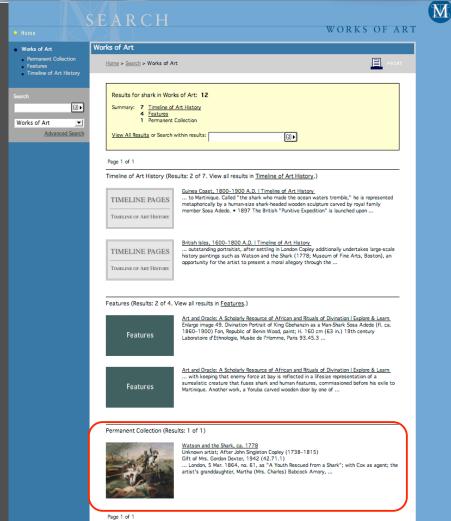
Social Tagging and Access to Collections

access to collections

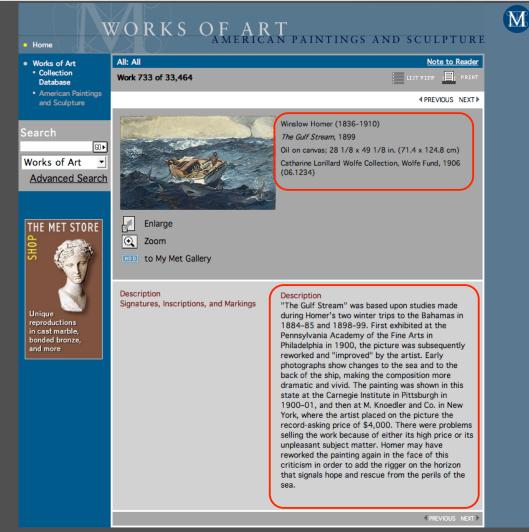


What we say doesn't match what visitors see





only one shark - not the one I remember ...



≠ shark



sharks!

searching museum collections

- much work on "access" not based on evidence of what people really do
- few real studies of interactions with museum databases
- lots of data available, most un-analysed

Defining Needs



Year's worth of search log data

126,999 queries: Sept 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2006

Guggenheim Collection: Prototype Search Log Analysis



- 73% of searches were successful
 - → more that 1/4 were not
- the usage curve strongly matched the academic year and the days of the week
 - ⇒ significant dips on weekends
 - → exhibition program influences searches
- artists names are searched significantly more often than other things
 - → 63% of searches made more than 10 times

Guggenheim Collection: Prototype Search Log Analysis



- Search terms are very diverse
 - most popular search term 'picasso' made up only 2.8% of searches = a very long tail
- Tail differs from the 'head'
 - more likely to be for subject-related topics, and combinations of categories
- Spelling errors = 36% of unsuccessful searches
 - ⇒ spelling errors = 50% of unsuccessful artist's name searches

Guggenheim Collection: Prototype Search Log Analysis

"the people watching this were not searching for "museum" content; they were searching for "calligraphy" content."

C. Alexander, et al., "Beyond Launch: Museum Videos on YouTube, *Museums and the Web 2008"*, http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008/papers/hart/hart.html

There's no such thing as "museum content"

reference questions

From: J. P. xxxxxx@xxxxxx.com

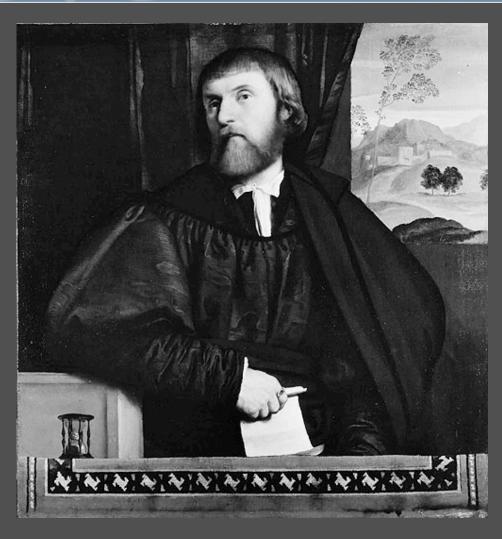
Date: Sat, 26 Aug 2006 11:24:43 -0700

To: timeline@metmuseum.org Subject: Looking for a painting

Please help:

I have been looking on and off for years for this painting. The painting is of a very well dressed renaissance man standing in a room (a library) in front of him on a table is a large hour glass. The painting has very rich colors. I have talked to a lot of people and they have said they have seen this painting but can't remember its name or the name of the artist.

Could you please use your resources to find this painting?



What "J. P." knows:

painting
Renaissance
standing
man
very well dressed
library
hourglass
table
rich colors

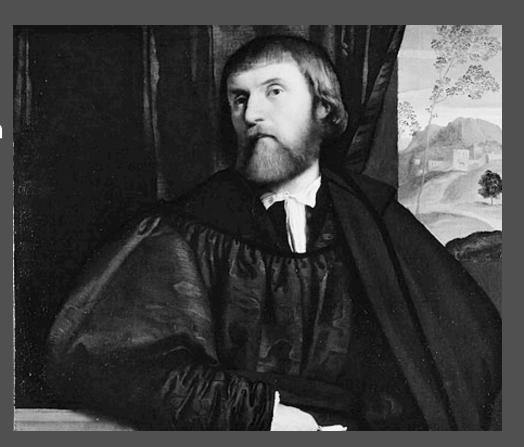
What a Met curator knows:

Portrait of a Man, ca. 1520–25 Moretto da Brescia (Alessandro Bonvicino) (Italian, Brescian, born about 1498, died 1554) Oil on canvas; 34 1/4 x 32 in. (87 x 81.3 cm) Rogers Fund, 1928 (28.79)

Provenance: Maffei, Brescia (by 1760, as "Ritratto d'uomo con carta in mano, ed Orologio, di Callisto da Lodi"); by descent to contessa Beatrice Erizzo Maffei Fenaroli Avogadro, Palazzo Fenaroli, Brescia (by 1853—at least 1857, as by Moretto); her daughter, contessa Maria Livia Fenaroli Avogadro, later marchesa Fassati, Brescia (in 1862); her son, marchese Ippolito Fassati, Milan (by 1878—at least 1912); [Elia Volpi, Florence, by 1915—16; sold to Knoedler]; [Knoedler, New York, 1916—28; sold to MMA]

bangs beard border cape contemplation elbow hourglass landscape learned man mountain moustache nobleman painting portrait ring robe

Renaissance



volunteer supplied tags might help

Access to Collections

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

PRICE TEN CENTS

BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

VOLUME V

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1910

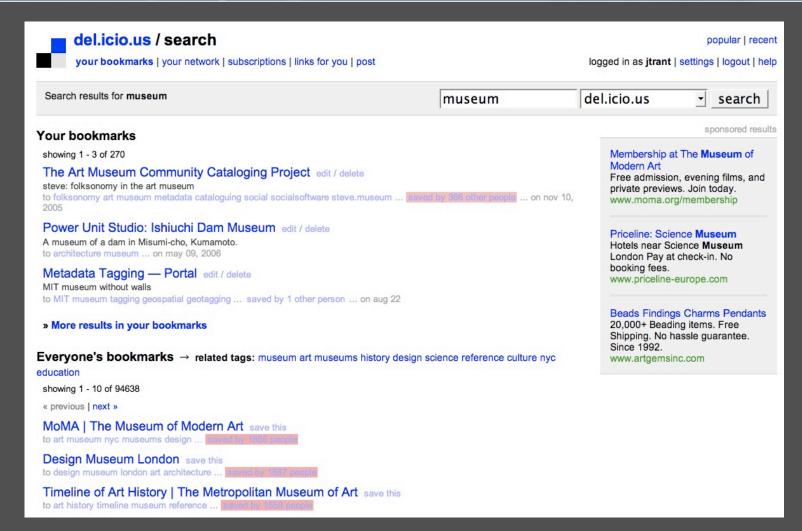
NUMBER 9



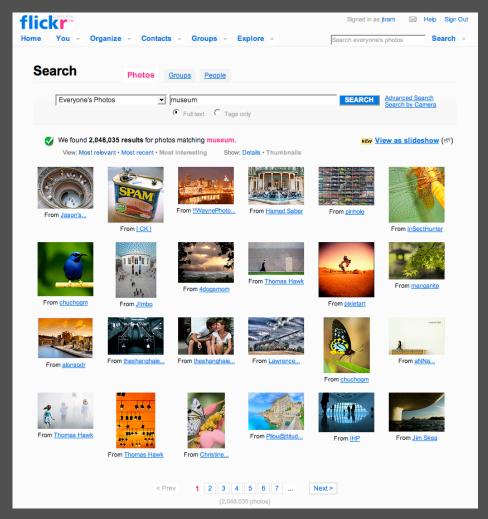
A CLASS

"our catalogues may be out of date before they have left the press", 1910

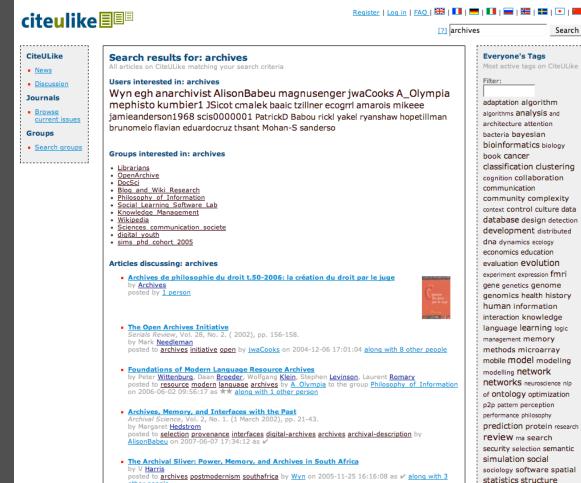
could tagging help?



Web sites tagged "museum" in del.icio.us



now over 2,626,034 images tagged "museum" in flickr.com



citeUlike.org - organize your academic citations

2:06 Time Left

The ESP Game

score



Taboo Words

BOAT

SHIP

PEOPLE

HAT

CRUISE

WATER

Your Guesses

FERRY

DOCK

BLUE

RED

DRESS

WOMEN

Туре	your next guess:	Pass
Your partner has entered a guess	© 2005 Carnegie Mellon University, all rights reserved. Patent Pending.	Flag

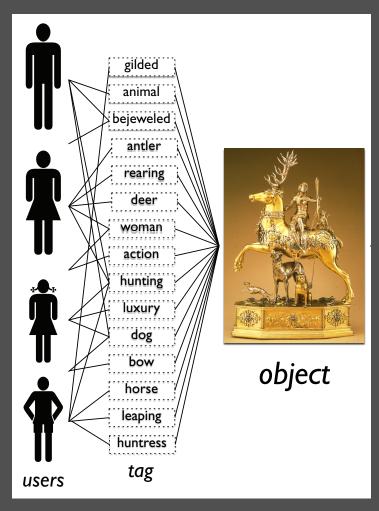
espgame.org - match your partner's tags

STETE TAGGING OBJECTS?

user tag object

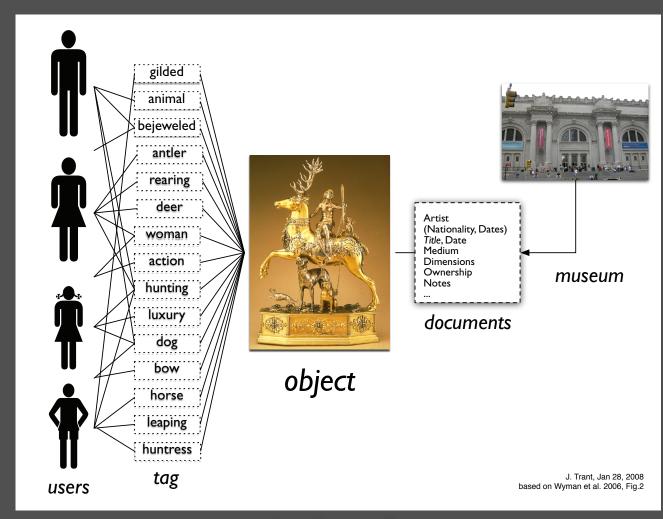
It seems simple ...

TAGGING OBJECTS?



but it's not so simple ...

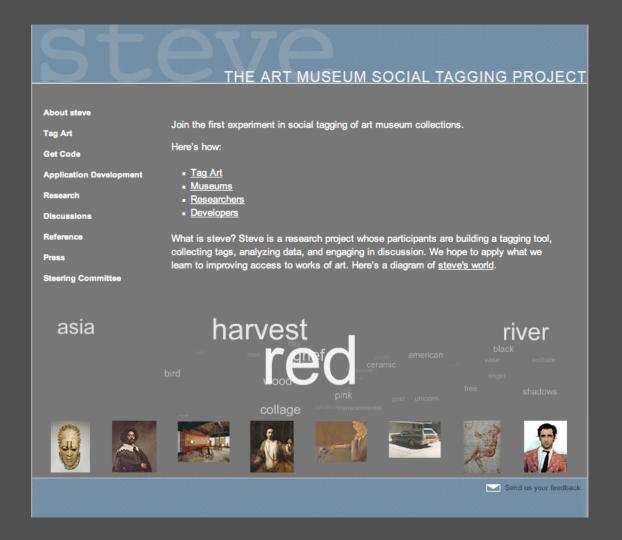
TAGGING OBJECTS?



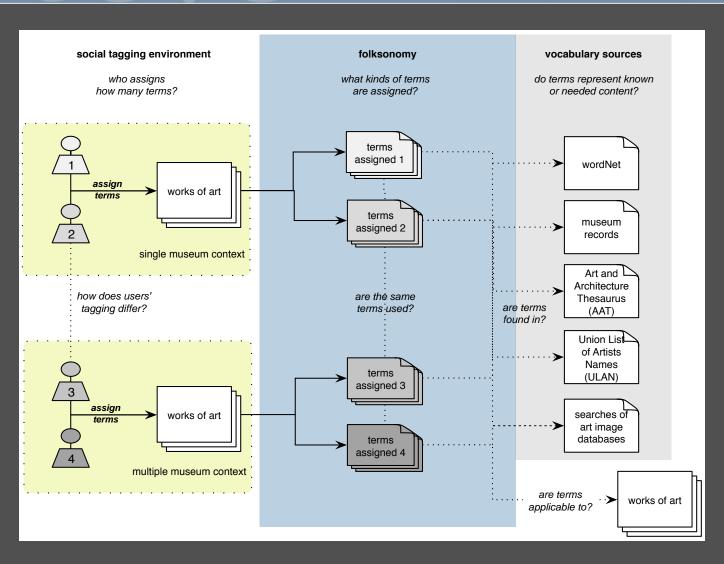
not simple at all ...

a research project

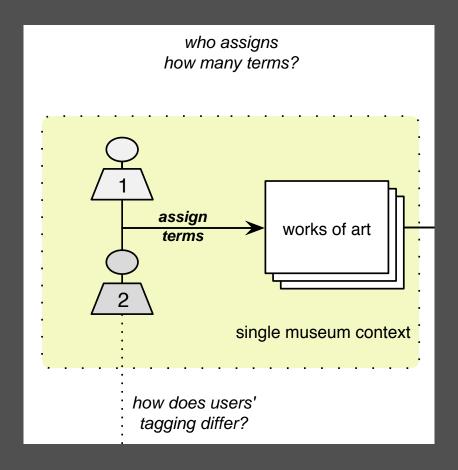
STEVE RESEARCH PROJECT



STEVE RESEARCH PROJECT

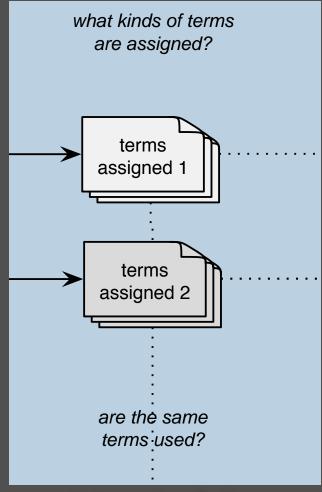


Steve Research Project



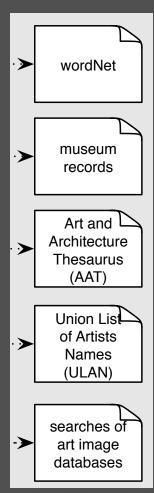
Research Agenda: Tagging Environment

Steve Research Project



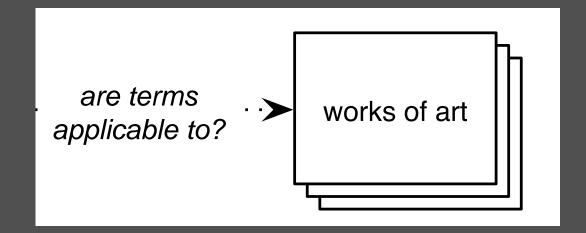
Research Agenda: Folksonomy

Steve Research Project



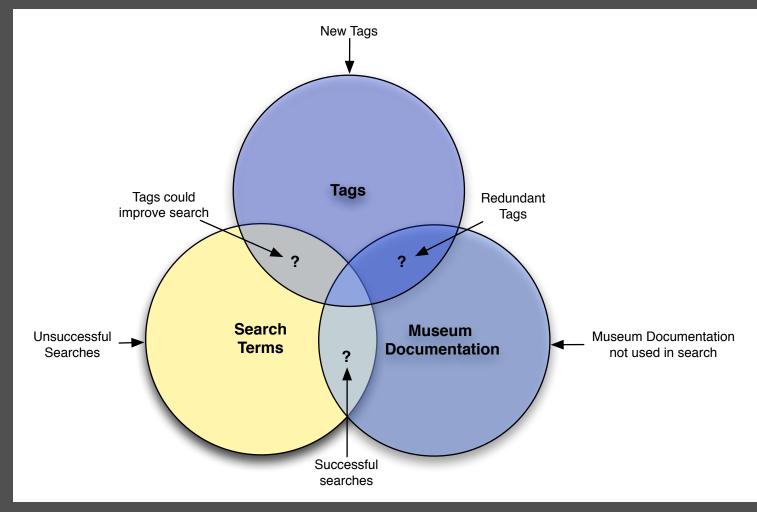
Research Agenda: Vocabulary Sources

STEVE RESEARCH PROJECT



Research Agenda: Works of Art

Steve Research Project Tags



Tags Searches and Museum Documentation

Steve Tagger

steve

an open source tagger

download from http://www.steve.museum

Steve Tagger

THE ART MUSEUM SOCIAL TAGGING PROJECT

Why tag art?

See art you haven't seen before.
Look in a new way.
Describe works of art in your own words.
Exchange your ideas with the community of art lovers.
Lead others to artworks they wouldn't normally see.
Create a personal relationship to works.
Let museums know what you see.
The more you tag, the richer the experience for all.

Log in, register, or just start tagging images.

Login ID

Password

Log in

Learn more about steve



Send us your feedback

Steve Tagger



Tagging works

STEVE TAGGER



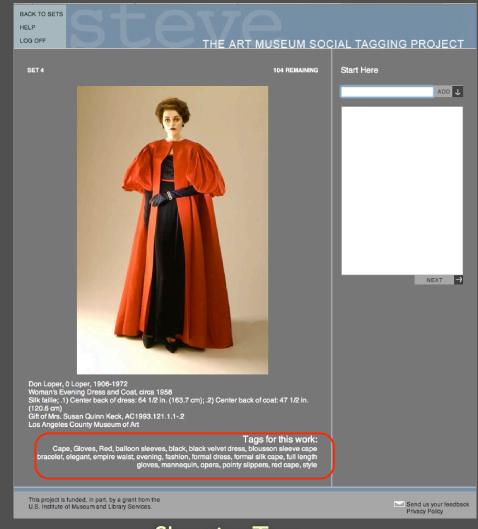
Show Metadata

STEVE TAGGER



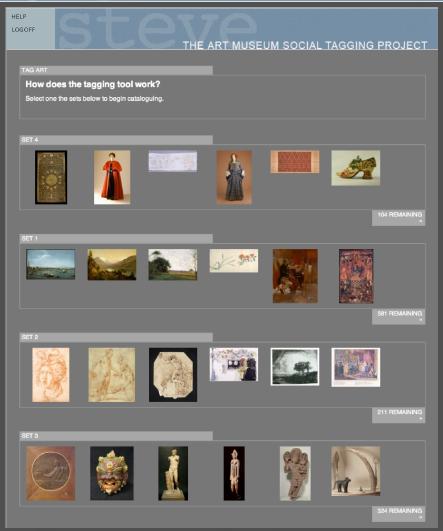
Hide Metadata

Steve Tagger



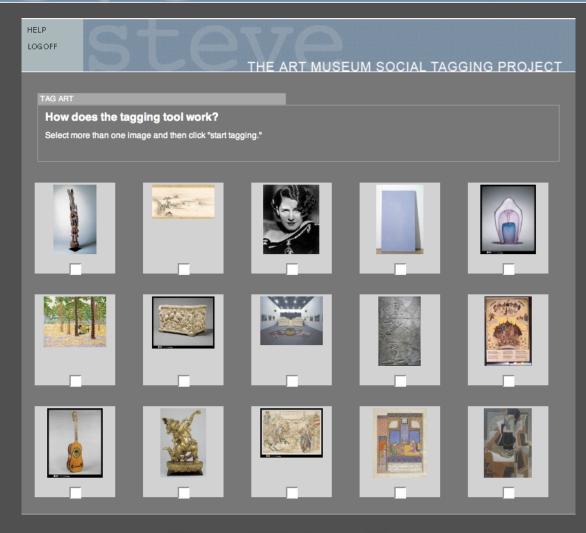
Showing Tags

STEVE TAGGER



Showing sets vs. Random works

Steve Tagger



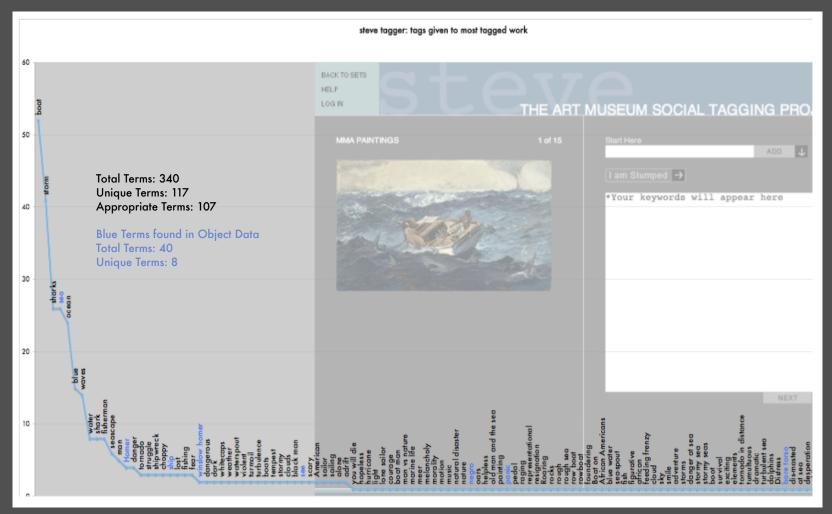
Choose Works to Tag

early results

> 41,872 tags collected so far

[1,780 works]

~70% (32,898 terms) don't match any part of museum documentation

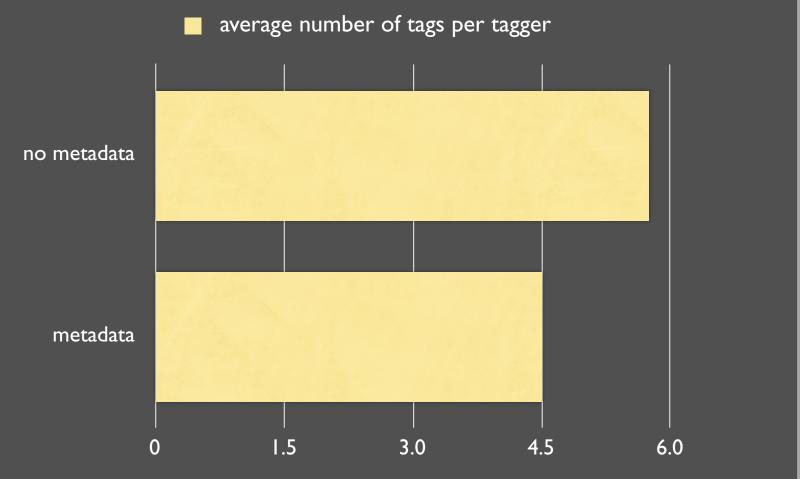


Useful? 92.5% new terms

26 blacklisted terms

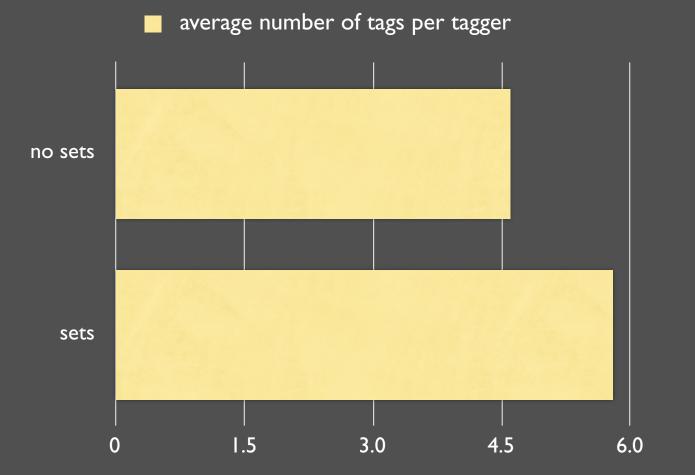
Very little misuse

http://www.steve.museum



Term Set 1: Taggers are supplying more tags without metadata (avg 5.75) than with metadata (avg 4.5).

Term Set I: metadata vs. no metadata



Term Set 1: Taggers are supplying far more tags with sets (6317 | 5.8 avg per user) than no sets (3882 | 4.6 per user).

Term Set 1: sets vs. random

Steve Term Review

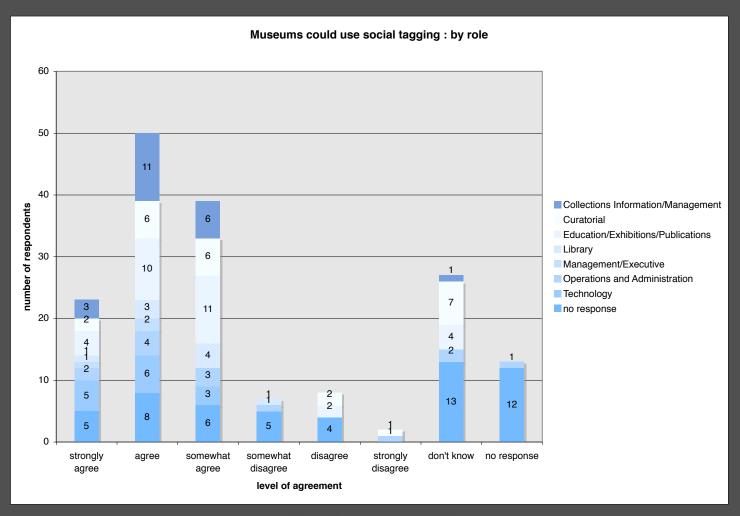


Term Review



- danger
- lost at sea
- likely to die
- storm
- sharks
- desperation
- x rocky shorex dolphins
- David Hockney

Taggers supply useful terms



attitudes to tagging



early results

published reports at http://www.steve.museum

or

http://www.archimuse.com/research/steve.html

Can we learn from tagging?



Visitor Feedback



Visitor Interests

"when given the choice to comment on the exhibition or works with in it, nine out of ten people chose to comment on a specific piece."

Bernstein, S., Where Do We Go From Here? Continuing with Web 2.0 at the Brooklyn Museum, in J. Trant and D. Bearman (eds.). Museums and the Web 2008: Proceedings, Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics. Published March 5, 2008. Consulted March 20, 2008. http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008/papers/bernstein/bernsteinhtml

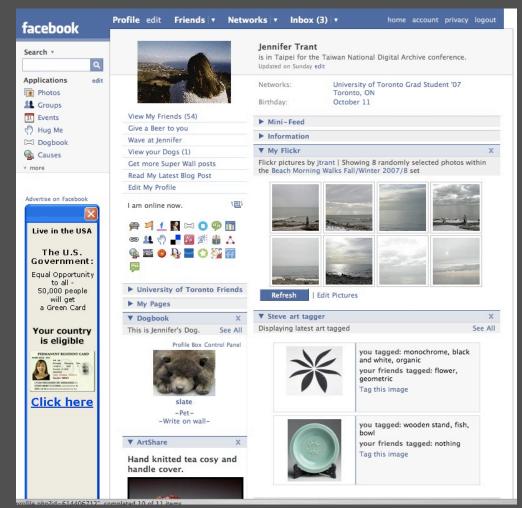
echoed by

Samis, P., Who Has The Responsibility For Saying What We See? Mashing up Museum, Artist, and Visitor Voices, On-site and On-line, in J. Trant and D. Bearman (eds.). Museums and the Web 2008: Proceedings, Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics. Published March 5, 2008. Consulted March 20, 2008. http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008/papers/samis/samis.html

Point of Intersection



Visitor Engagement



Visitor Context: steve art tagger in Facebook



Visitor Contexts: different juxtapositions



Edward Hicks (American, 1780–1849), **Peaceable Kingdom**, ca. 1830–32 Oil on canvas; 17 7/8 x 23 7/8 in. (45.4 x 60.6 cm)
Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, 1970 (1970.283.1)
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Co-existence

Tag Art!

http://tagger.steve.museum

Thank you

jtrant@archimuse.com

http://www.archimuse.com/ http://conference.archimuse.com/jtrants/