

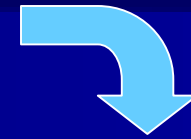
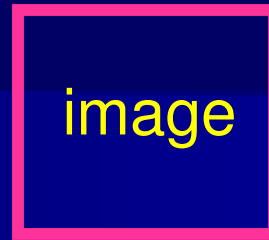
A VIEW FROM THE ARCHIVE

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**Inferential
reasoning**



**Inferred
semantic
content**

the curation of visual heritage has a very long tradition

Uncomfortable fact:

In general, image material is sought for its semantic content. The great majority of image retrieval transactions necessarily depend on textual metadata and verbal queries.

“the emphasis in the computer science literature has been largely on what is computationally possible, and not on discovering whether essential generic visual primitives can in fact facilitate image retrieval in ‘real-world’ applications.”

[Jørgensen, C. *Image Retrieval: Theory and Research*. p.197].

Realisation of semantic content:

identification

HMS Volunteer

1919 Peace Conference. Any vision of the British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes and US President, Woodrow Wilson

Stirling Moss winning Kentish 100 Trophy at Brands Hatch, 30 August 1968

RAF Syerston 1940-60

(aerial photograph shown to illustrate need for textual metadata in order to identify location)

Realisation of semantic content:
identification

(microscopy scan shown to illustrate need for textual metadata in order to identify the 'blobs' as a DNA sample)

(aerial photograph shown to illustrate need for textual metadata in order to identify location)

Realisation of semantic content:

significance

Prince Charles, first ever public engagement, as boy, aged 8

West Ham v Bolton Wanderers - 1923 First Wembley cup final

The first microscope

'Titanic' off Old Head of Kinsale – last photograph

(photograph depicting preparation of aircraft; significance (first commercial flight UK-Australia) only realisable via textual metadata)

Realisation of semantic content:
interpretation

Public baths

Edwardian girl ...

**Typical English country
scene, woodlands**

**Women at work and at play
– must look British**

(photograph shown with
multi-level interpretations,
including high-level cultural
connotations)

Realisation of semantic content:

interpretation

Purgatory

Quirky shows

Depiction of vanity

**Antarctic - scenics -
icebergs and landscape -
atmospheric, needs to be
timeless**

Realisation of semantic content:

absent features

**J F Kennedy with woman - but
not Jacqueline or mother Rose**

**George V's coronation but not
procession or any royals**

**Crowd shot at soccer match
cheering a goal - no names of
sponsors or team logos visible**

**Underwater – no humans –
20-30”**