

University of Edinburgh Images Online



METADATA TAGGING GAMES

A solution to making poorly-described image repositories searchable.

One of the issues that we have at Edinburgh is that our image collections are quite sparsely described. While basic identification information (title, creator, identifier) is always present, subjects and keywords are not, which makes it very difficult to search the collection for specific 'things' (for example, if you search for a horse, you expect all the images containing horses back!).

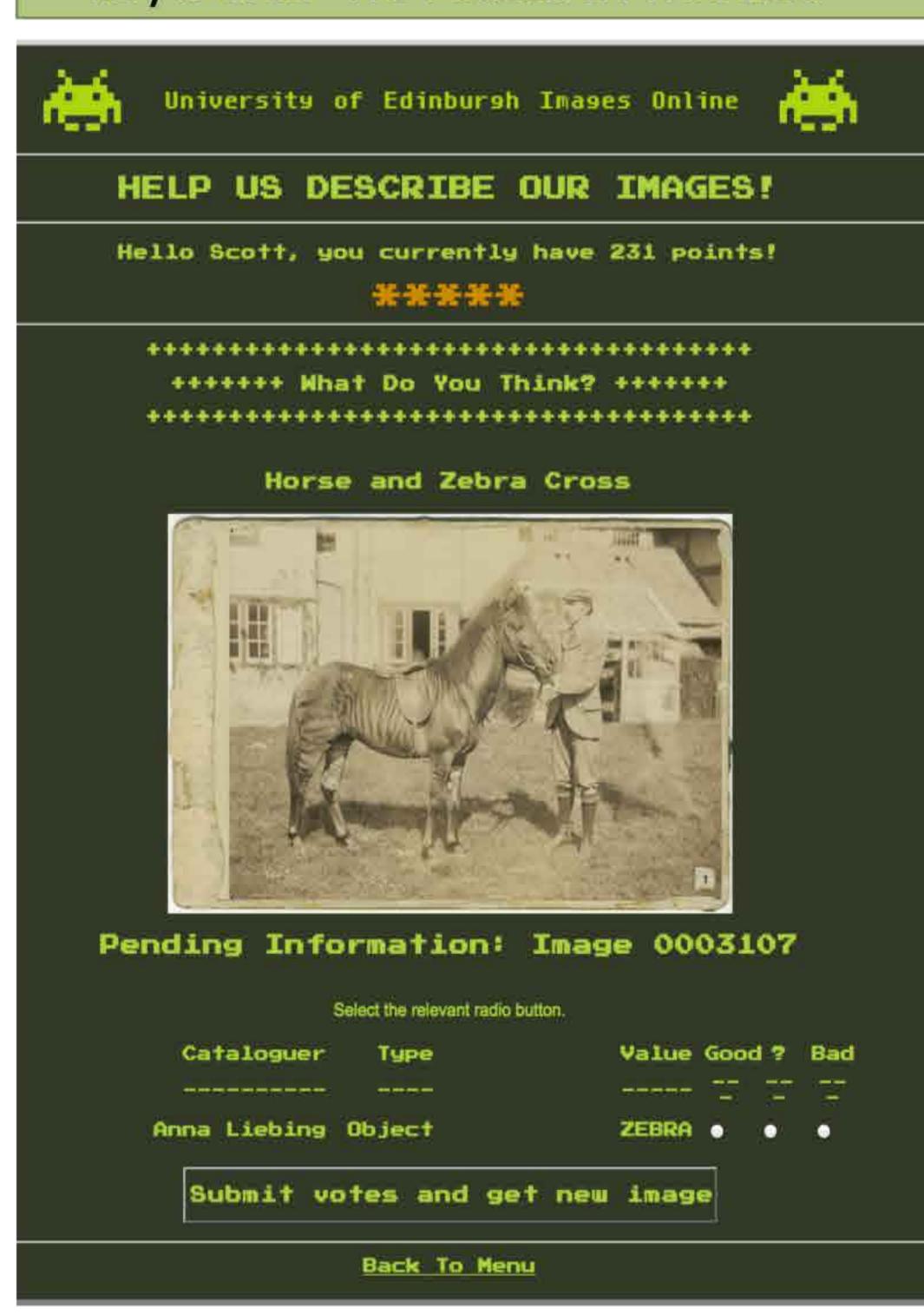
One way we thought about tackling this issue was to let incentivised users do the work for us, tagging the items simply with what they see in the images, thinking from the perspective of a curious user searching a collection. A free coffee is given away for ten minutes intensive tagging: gamification and prizes on offer are intended to make an arduous task light, and more enjoyable. The data they give us is moderated, and then voted on (good or bad), by other users. Once the metadata item has achieved a net score past the agreed threshold, it is deemed worthy to load back into the image repository.

We appreciate that the content we get is not of an academic standard, but still very important in the context of searchabilty. We are effectively asking the layman to give us the search terms the layman would use. We intend to repurpose the code so it can be used for academic research, transcription, translation and so on.

This has been quite successful for us, in that we have managed to tag a good proportion of our collections quickly. We could, perhaps, look at ways to do similar things with our data in Europeana.

EVERYTHING IS SIMPLE!

- Technical- LAMP stack.
- Interface- 1980s retro theme
- Content- layman's terms as keywords- no research needed

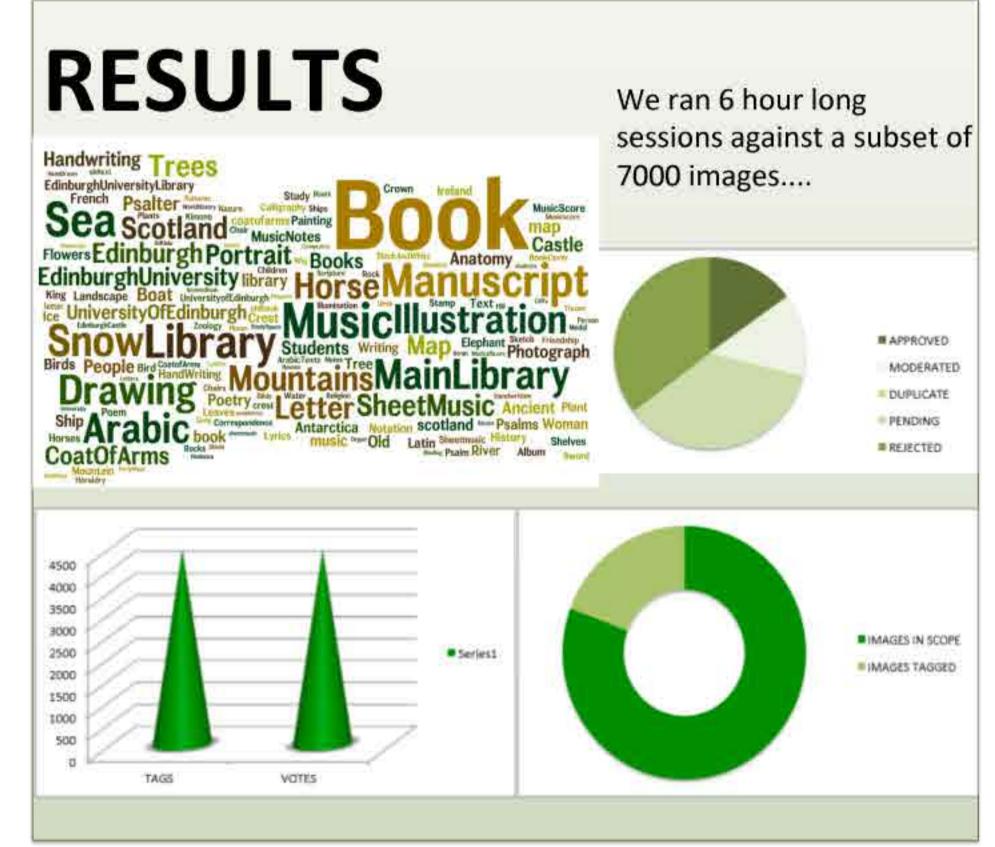


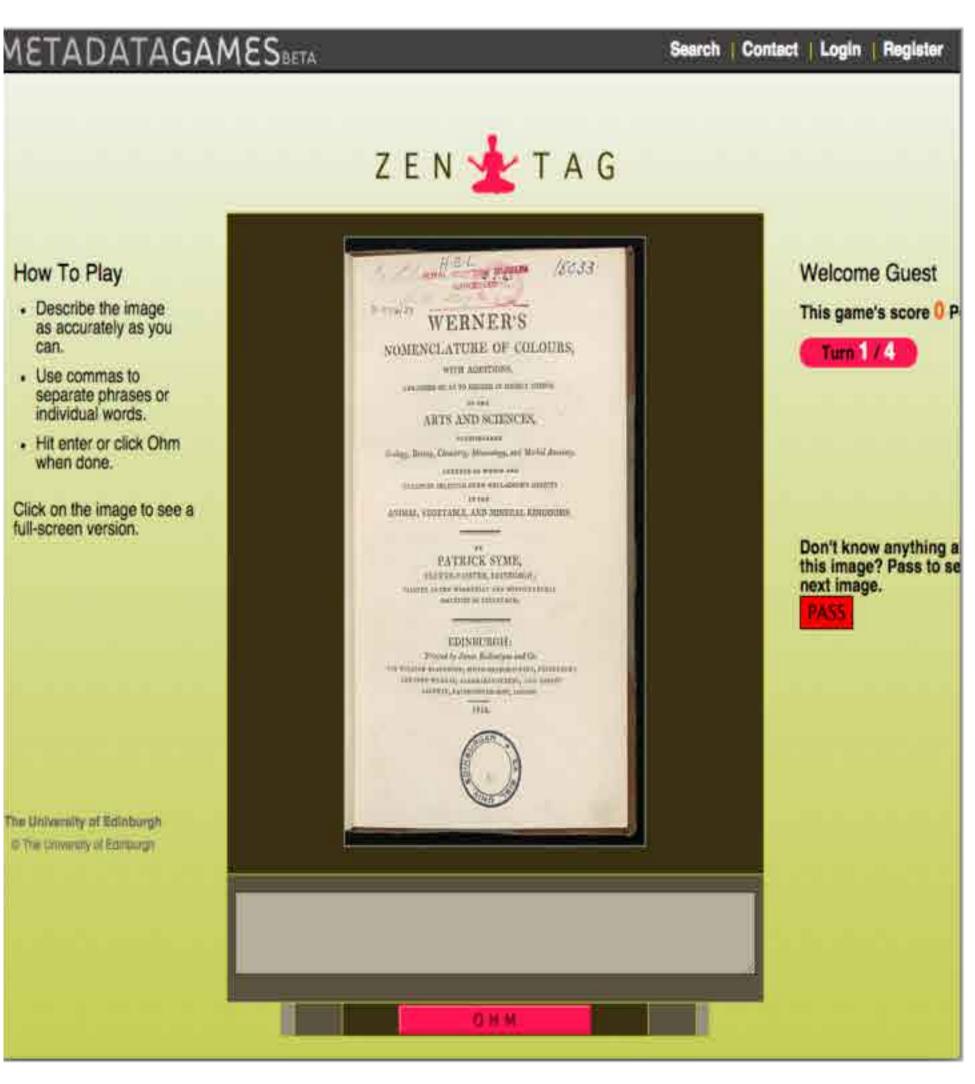
Next steps

- Research version for description, transcription
- Integration with Tiltfactor Metadata Games
- Simple API for native image repository
- Code framework
- More games and experimental research tools on the broader Library Labs site
- Authorities interface
- Stop words

FIND OUT MORE AT:

http://librarylabs.ed.ac.uk http://images.is.ed.ac.uk lddt@ed.ac.uk





Scott Renton

Library Digital Development
University of Edinburgh
co-conspirators: Claire Knowles, Gavin
Willshaw, lanthe Sutherland, Sukdith
Punjasthitkul (Tiltfactor, Dartmouth)



