Exploring an Information System

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INFOST 511G-201

March 3, 2024

The Art Institute of Chicago is a digital interactive information system dedicated to exhibiting their art collections through an information system tailored for people with a passing curiosity about art and those who are art connoisseurs. The information system also provides the physical location of the artwork in the event someone would like to visit the museum. The digital information system is supported by three sub information systems: artworks, writings, and resources. The digital information system is also an education resource for teachers, students, academics, and librarians. Iconic, classic, modern, and world art is represented in the information system. The system utilizes provenance, materials, and metadata to organize the art collection and make information retrieval easy for the user.

According to Joudrey & Taylor (2018) "Provenance in archives drives the principles of organization. Collections are organized according to their provenance" (p 23). Any artwork retrieved will list the provenance for the artwork, which includes, the artist's name, the title of the art, the place (artist's nationality), date (year art was created) medium, dimensions, the credit line, and the reference number. Each of the forementioned parts of the provenance can be considered as the home of metadata for the artwork. Therefore, is someone was looking up the artist Alma Thomas or her painting called Starry Night and the Astronauts, information could be retrieved by her name, the name of one of her art creations, United States, 1972, acrylic on canvas, dimension 152.4 x134.6 cm (60x53in) or reference number 1994.36. I would also know this piece of art was on view under contemporary art, Gallery 291. Starry Night and the Astronauts | The Art Institute of Chicago (artic.edu) Metadata is defined as structured information that describes the attributes of resources for the purposes, identification, discovery, selection, use, access and management; an encoded description of a resource(e.g., and RDA record encoded with MARC, a Dublin Core record); the purpose of metadata is to provide a level of data at which choices can be made as to which resources one wishes to view without having to search through massive amounts of irrelevant full text" (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p. 651).

Features of information retrieval, "The process of gaining access to stored data for the purpose of becoming informed" (Joudrey & Taylor, 2018, p.645). The website provides many ways or metadata to look up art in their filters including artist, places, artwork type, date, color (a color chart that does not seem to work is offered) styles, subjects, classifications, medium, multimedia, education resources, public domain, recent acquisitions, 360 image. These options will lead a user to find as much or as little information as they want or need. I may not know the name of the painting American Gothic, but a search of man and woman with a pitchfork, resulted in the picture being listed in a section called "highlights" which features the most popular works on the website. Another cool feature of "highlights is curators will suggest lesser-known works based on this search.

The information system is comprised of artwork, writings, and resources and the writings also offer information about artists from a particular country, specific artist, videos about an exhibition for a

specific artist, and information about the people who help curate the information at the museum or physically support the museum through maintenance support. Librarians may find articles about Sam Ramos, the director of Innovation and Creativity, Learning, and Public Engagement insightful Sam Ramos, Associate Director of Innovation and Creativity, Learning and Public Engagement | The Art Institute of Chicago (artic.edu) I found articles valuable to a potential librarian or the public at large to find out how the information they consume comes to fruition. Articles make the museum more human and not a place where art hangs.

Understanding what a user is interested in and using that date to better serve the user is something the Art Institute of Chicago does through their use of GitHub. This is an API of public data collected from numerous systems at the Art Institute of Chicago. Per the website, "The aggregator interfaces with several internal APIs to collect its data. All data is imported and served up locally so that at runtime the API does not have dependencies on other systems. artisan commands have been set up to import data from various sources, either en masse or incrementally. One of the greatest benefits of an aggregator like this one is the ability to provide relationship between resources across systems. Our /artworks endpoint is a great example, as you can see relationships they have to different things, like mobile tours, digital publications, and historic static sites." GitHub - art-institute-of-chicago/data-aggregator: An API of public data collected from several different systems at the Art Institute of Chicago Condensing information to an endpoint that can direct the user to additional information by clicking on a link is a behind the scenes operation that benefits the user by providing a choice to explore further if they choose to do so.

In conclusion, the information system provided by the Art Institute of Chicago supports their mission and history page. The institute shares work of art from around the world from the past and the present, which represents various cultures and human experiences. This valuable sharing experience is to work in partnership with the larger community that reflects the mission. Mission and History | The Art Institute of Chicago (artic.edu)

References: *Starry Night and the Astronauts*. (n.d.). The Art Institute of Chicago. https://www.artic.edu/artworks/129884/starry-night-and-the-astronauts

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 "Art-Institute-of-Chicago/Data-Aggregator." *GitHub*, 1 Feb. 2024, github.com/art-institute-of-chicago/data-aggregator. Accessed 4 Mar. 2024.

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