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Term Project – Repository Profile

Artstor Overview

After looking through several data repositories via re3data.org, Artstor seems to be the most appropriate for my data set. Artstor is a partner of JSTOR and under the organization ITHAKA. It houses over 2 million images across about 300 art and architecture collections. These collections are divided into two categories: core collections and public collections. The public collections can be viewed by anyone, and the core collections can be viewed by those with an account or who are associated with a university or other institution that subscribes to JSTOR. Core collections contain collections of larger name museums and institutions, such as the Ivy League schools, the MoMA, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Public collections have a huge range of smaller collections across the United States. Each collection is listed by the name of the institution followed by the name of the collection. Upon selecting a collection, the site directs you to a list of all the images in that collection. When clicking on an image, the user is brought to a page with the image along with pieces of metadata – title, medium, date, location, collection, ID number, source, rights, license, and file properties. This format would complement my dataset, as each data entry includes similar metadata elements as is listed in the Artstor entries. Artstor would also be an appropriate match for the data set because it focuses on the visual arts. The fact that there are MoMA collections already listed is further indication that this would be a good fit. It could be easily titled to match the existing Artstor format: “Museum of Modern Art: Works on view on February 1, 2022.”

Contributing to Artstor

Artstor has a webpage dedicated to outlining the guidelines for contributing to the repository. Anyone can submit data for consideration, but there are specific parameters for what will be accepted. On their website it reads, “The collections in the Artstor Digital Library are community-built and community-contributed. We welcome collaboration from the international community to help us broaden access to visual materials for learning and scholarship.” First, the individual pieces of data must be some work of art – this can be a painting, audio recording, video, photograph, etc. Second, the ownership rights of the works needs to be identified, and Artstor performs a legal review of the work to determine if they can actually store and display it on the site. Third, the data must already be in a digital format (i.e. not something that needs to be photographed or scanned). Images of works must be at least 72 ppi with 1032 pixels in length or width, but a higher resolution 300ppi and greater is strongly preferred. Materials can only be submitted after contacting Artstor first for more information. If they decide to move on with the process, Artstor will review all of the dataset before accepting it into the repository. Because of this format, there are no instructions for what should be in the submission information package.

Metadata

In terms of metadata, Artor has their own controlled list of classification terms, and uses country terms from the Getty Research Institute’s Thesaurus of Geographic Names. They also use the Getty Research Institute’s Union List of Artist Names. Artstor may add additional metadata to the dataset in order for it to best align with the other works in the repository. There does not seem to be requirements for how the metadata is submitted, but it is important to include artist, subjects covered, date range, medium, and location.

Accessibility

Logging into Artstor is required to view and download media from the “core collections,” but there is no login necessary for works in the “public collections.” Just like JSTOR, those who are associated with institutions that subscribe to Artstor are able to login and gain access. There does not seem to be a way for individuals not associated with such institutions to view core collection materials. Each work is displayed with the following metadata: title, medium, date, location, collection, ID number, source, rights, license, and file properties. However, the only option is to download the image of the work which is downloaded as a jpeg. There is no way to download the accompanying metadata.

Works Cited:

Dataset: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/jackogozaly/moma-artworks-on-view/data>

Artstor: <https://library.artstor.org/#/home>

Artstor Guidelines For Contributing:

<https://www.artstor.org/contribute/guidelines-for-contributing/>