

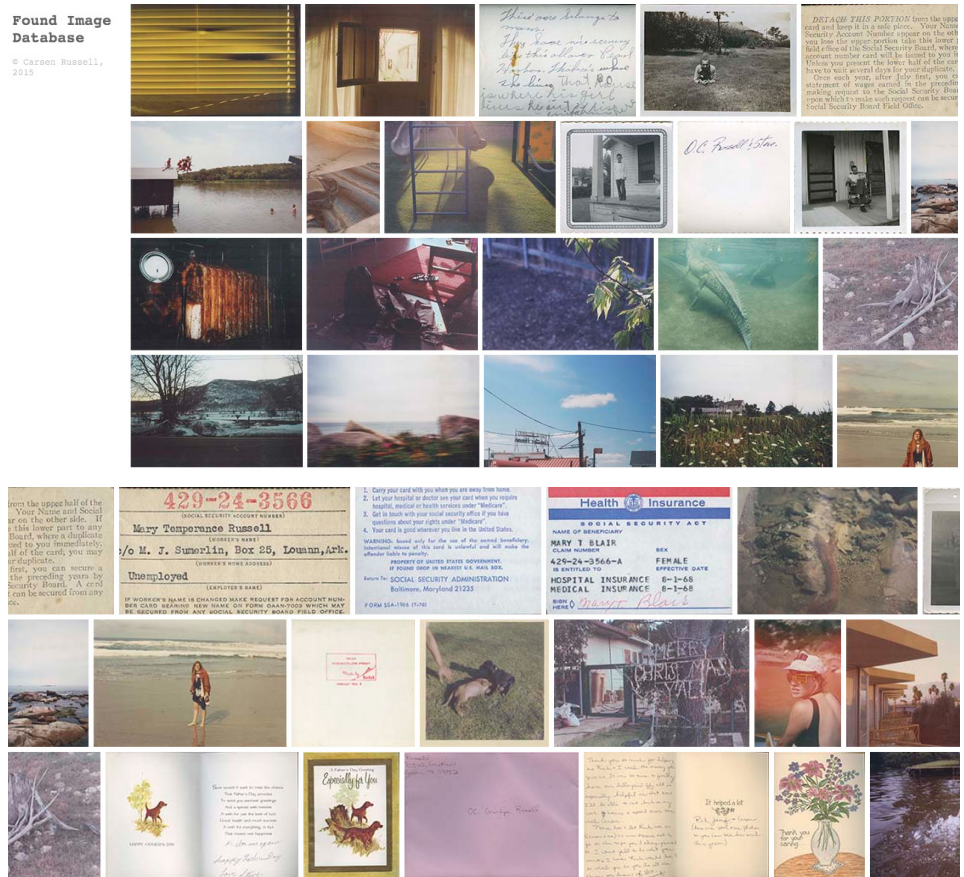
Snapshots, Documents and Family Photos

PURPOSE: Create a sleek, minimal and intuitive online collection of found family photos, documents and snapshots from the past 100 years that are available for use under Creative Commons Licensing to the public.

GOALS: Provide access to high quality scans of found images to the general public as part of the movement to create open content sources for photographic resources.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Younger generation of artists and photographers that are familiar with the Internet as a primary research tool and document; Academics; those interested in open sourcing; photographers.

SITE TYPE: Image driven database; photography research resource; a database that is not clunky or hard to navigate but as beautiful as the photos themselves.



In 2013 Getty launched their Open Content Program, which made 4,600 high resolution images available to the public to use without copyright restrictions or possible infringement. It is just one of many Online image databases made available to public, such as the Library of Congress Archives, museum website such as MoMA, and other academic or artistic institutions. However when looking through their sites the sites to find images it is clunky, looks outdated and is text heavy. Why should the images not be front and center of an image database?

MoMA's Online collection is the least extensive but most organized and visually friendly. It uses a clear visual hierarchy of text size, color and images to direct the eye. However the images are the smallest portion of the screen until clicked through, than a single image at a time may be viewed.

The Library of Congress perhaps has the most images available to the public, and therefore requires the most organization, however the site relies heavily on text and even when one has made it to the images they are tiny. As many websites developed by the government the interface is unnatural and bulky.

The Getty Open Content Program more closely resembles the Library of Congress Online Archives. However, for an organization that is all

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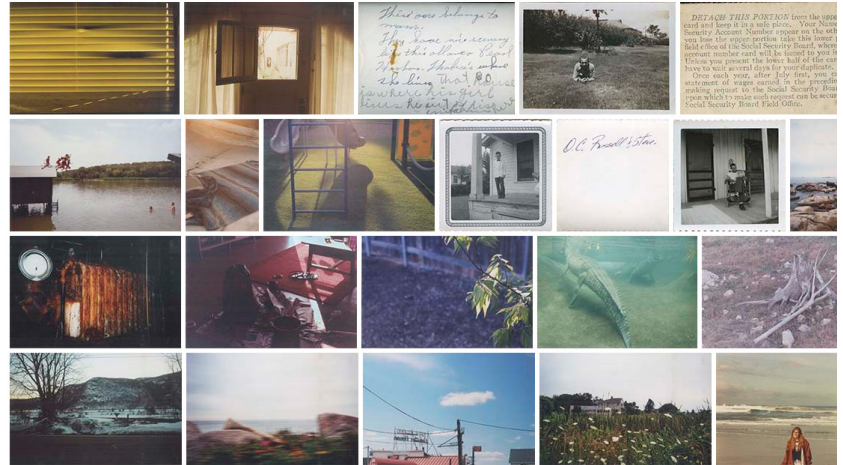
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Found Image Database
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about images and their dissemination, it is a thoroughly unattractive site, that has no visual appeal and instead feels clinical and bland to the point of repelling the viewer.

The average user of such databases is most likely an academic — those conducting research for various projects, papers and presentations. This database would primarily interest photographers and artists who may use the images as research tools or within their own art. The website would capitalize on their art aesthetics and sensibilities and make use of a younger generation's knowledge of technology.

I propose an Online collection of family photos, snapshots and documents of which high quality files would be made available to the public under creative content licenses. The site would use classifications and search tools in ways that a younger generation of academics, artists and researchers would know how to utilize, with specific regard to artists and art-making. There will be a search function and images be categorized by the three types on the site (family photo, snapshot or document). They would also be classified by the elements of art (color, line, shape, texture, form and space). The site would focus on the images and wouldn't rely on text. It would be minimal and simple to use, and cater to a generation of young artists, in an aesthetic yet sensible way.