Turn Over a New Facet:

An Analysis of the Applications of Faceted Systems for Facilitating the Explorations of Museum Collections on the Web

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UDC Seminar 2017 “Faceted Classification Today: Theory, Technology and End Users”
London, 14-15 September 2017
Methods

On-site visit: Visited museums in the U.S. (all kinds, mainly art museums).

Attention includes their usage of digital technologies in exposing the collections along side of the physical exhibitions.

Example: the digital collection walls; touch-screen navigations; categorized pushing-up and recommendations; contextual displays; interactive displays; and many other creative ideas.

On-line visit: Explored the collections online; compared with the on-site visiting experiences.

Apps for mobile use and interaction assisting collection exploration.

Web-based online collection explorations;

This poster: presents only the preliminary findings from a part of the study.

- The 25 best museums in America
  (according to the rank list by Business Insider and based on data provided by Foursquare, Grebey, 2016).

- 19 art museums’ online collections

browsing and advanced searching filters

Aims: investigating whether, when exposing their collections for searching and browsing, museums tend to use a set of unique facets.

- Are there unprecedented filters in the advanced searches provided by museum websites?
- Can the practicability of these facets be measured according to the canons and principles specified by faceted classification researchers?

Image: Edited based on the design by Cassandra, Y 16 - Taipei American School.
Preliminary impressions:
- Majority museums provide searching or browsing by artists (name, nationality/culture).
- The facets are around WHAT & HOW, WHERE, and WHEN;
- ... yet, WHERE could refer to very different perspectives although all are place-related.
- Curatorial units/collections are the hidden facets behind the filters of WHAT & HOW.
Conclusions

- The factors influencing the front-end facets are impacted by
  - the nature of the collections
    - quantity
    - time span
    - Types
    - Complexity
    - Consistency
    - uncertainty level
    - uniqueness and
    - popularity
  - the nature of the back-end data (structured or non-structured data).
- In general, the analysis of the application of faceted systems outside the bibliographic domain has provided the authors a unique experience in studying how museums, especially art museums, employ common and unique approaches in facilitating the explorations of their online collections.