

THE S.E.P.I.A. PROJECT

The SEPIA Project is a use case scanrio for providing greater access to the visual content of image collections on the web for Blind and Visually Impaired users.

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< Reconceptualize the way we write descriptive metadata >

Stadium - the attributes and content of the photograph that give it meaning in a cultural narrative. These include the details of time, place, culture, history, actions, and messages that are captured in the frame. The pieces that create the narrative of the Stadium can also be the elements that informed the user of the object’s existence and created the path to the digital object or cultural heritage collection during the ISP. The accurate details listed in the metadata that explain the content and context of an image are what defines its Stadium.

Puncticum - equates more to the intellectual level of absorption of the presented information narrative. This is where the intention of the information is to inform and reflect the user’s personal worldview, congruent with Kuhlthau’s Formulation stage. The Punticum allows for critical thinking, personal reflection and the connection that the user creates with the information. The revelation of the puncticum creates details which establish a direct relationship with the object or person within it. These two concepts create a venue for a higher conceptual arrangement of ideas within metadata to support rich image description. They provide a framework for the questions of how to write a better description, and what constitutes as a better description.

< ABSTRACT >

This poster presents an introduction to the SEPIA project with Blind and Visually Impaired (BVI) individuals as the designated intended user base.

This project embodies a methodology and use-case scenario for utilizing a new data model to enhance and optimize metadata to heighten access to digital image content with screen readers.

By making use of current technology, cultural heritage institutions, archives and libraries should have a platform to provide Blind and Visually Impaired users with the opportunity to access and learn from visual content. The SEPIA project aims to deploy a conceptual model that will provide a leap in the right direction to alleviate the marginalization of visual content seeking users who are Blind and Visually Impaired

< HYPOTHESIS >

The objective is to define a methodology to create, transform, curate and enhance preexisting collections metadata to enable a screen reader accessible environment. To divulge the reconceptualization of metadata, the goal of the SEPIA project is to illustrate the first use case scenario with the documentary images from the May 4th Collection at Kent State University.

The project combines creation of a mediator element between the raw metadata and the display metadata with accurate and mindful description writing.

Providing screen reader users with a direct path to clear and descriptive information that pertains to the visual content of digital image objects.

< Reconceptualize data for display and assistive technology access >

In Cultural Heritage Institutions, collections content is often pushed into HTML framework from content management systems. This framework places content outside of the typical HTML cues as the creating systems have complex configurations of code to supply the visual environment.

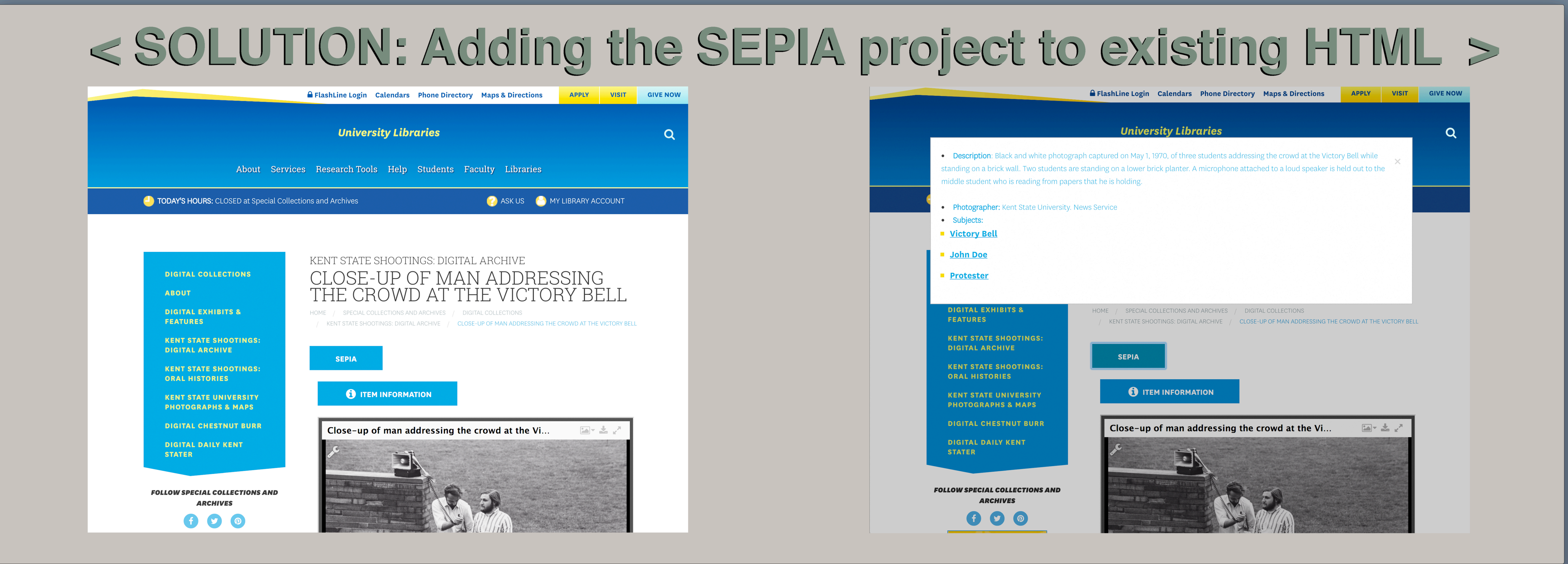
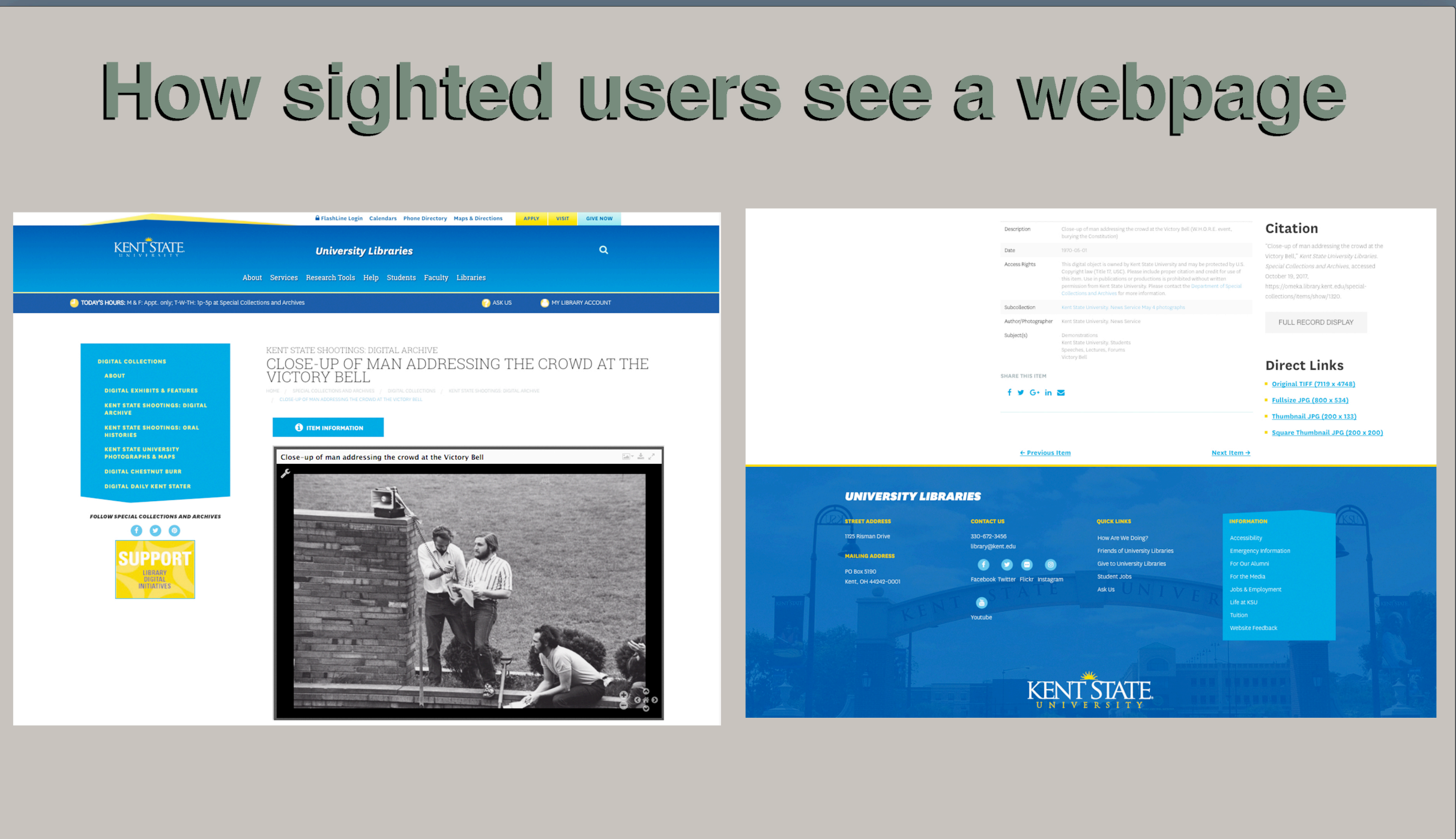
SEPIA identifies the metadata elements that can be pulled from the record and presented outside of the dynamic framework.

The mediator element creates an area of information that is simple to access and read.

```
< style>
    #next-item {float: right limportant;}
</style>
<!--<p>Sepia Test</p> <-->
<!-- Trigger/Open The Modal -->
<button id="myBtn">SEPIA</button>

<!-- The Modal -->
<div id="myModal" class="modal">

    <!-- Modal content -->
    <div class="modal-content">
        <span class="close">&times;</span>
        <li><a href="test.html"><b>Description</b>:Black and
white photograph captured on May 1, 1970 during the W.H.O.R.E. event
when organizers were burying a copy of the U.S. Constitution in protest
of American troops invading Cambodia. The main subject is three male
students addressing the crowd while standing on a small brick wall adjacent
to the Victory Bell. The Victory Bell and the crowd are not seen in the
photograph as it is taken from the perspective of the crowd. There is one
man holding a microphone attached to a loudspeaker up to the face of
another man who is holding a stack of papers. </a></li>
        <br>
        <li><a href="test.html"><b> Photographer:</b> Kent
State University. News Service</a> </li>
        <li><a href="test.html"><b>Subjects:</b></a></li>
        <ul>
            <li><a href="one.html">Victory Bell</a></li>
            <li><a href="two.html">Burying the Constitu-
tion</a></li>
            <li><a href="three.html">Protester</a></li>
        </ul>
    </div>
</div>
```



< CONCLUSION >

Using javascript to create a modal box to act as the mediator element between content and user provides a clear and accessible solution to accessing metadata.

With the added focus of mindful and accurate descriptive information, visual image content can become accessible to this designated community.

This project strives to provide an opportunity for image collections to fall more in line with this possibility by creating collection specific data banks and tools that will lend themselves to further exploration in machine learning.

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