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

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**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.

**METHODOLOGY**

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.

**SOLUTION: Adding the SEPIA project to existing HTML**

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.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Dr. Marcia Zeng for sharing her endless wealth of knowledge and experience with me throughout this research process. Her assistance and encouragement enabled me to push my knowledge boundaries and task myself with making a strong contribution to the research of information access.