

**Workshop on Preserving Intellectual Assets: Institutional Repositories and Open Access. An introduction to image retrieval
TEI Thessalonikis, Sindos, September 2006**

1. Introduction

Today, I want you to experience the issues involved in the indexing of images.

I have a number of images on Powerpoint of buildings, places and paintings and I want you to index them in two ways. Firstly simply by choosing keywords which you think reflect the content of each image. Secondly I want you to try to index the image using terms which you can find in an online thesaurus. The objective is not simply to index the images but to cause you to think about the problems that you encountered.

The instructions below should be self-explanatory instructions about the exercise in indexing images.

2. Actions

2.1. Write down the keywords which you think describe the content of the image.

You can use as many or as few keywords as you think appropriate. It might help you to think about what the image is about and then try to turn this into keywords.

2.2. Look at each of the images again and try to answer the question: in answer to what question do you think this image would be a good answer?

2.3. Now think about the process of indexing the images. What did you find difficult about the process?

You should record your answers for later discussion. There is not necessarily a CORRECT answer. The objective is to cause you to think about what the image conveys.

2.4 Now try to index the same three images using the Art and Architecture thesaurus.

This is the best developed thesaurus for the indexing of images. It can be found at

<http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabulary/aat/>

Check out How to use thesaurus browser, then try to index the images using the language of the thesaurus. Again record your index terms and your thoughts on the process of indexing using the thesaurus.

In what ways did AAT either help or hinder the indexing process?

Dick Hartley
September 2006.