

Software for creating a Museum Visit Montage

A specific scenario, that the work of the group project should support, involves enabling school children or families to capture materials during visits to sites of special interest (such as museums or exploratoria) and then to create digital montages about their experience.

More specifically, during the visit users will be able to take their own photographs with digital cameras. They will also be able to tag artifacts that they are particularly interested in, so that later they can access additional information, such as text and graphics from the museum database. At the end of the visit users will be able to directly upload their own digital photographs, annotate them and combine them with components from the museum's database to tell the story of their own visiting experience. The created montages could either be displayed on site or taken home and kept as souvenirs by the visitors.

The group project will develop tools to support both:

1. The process of collecting materials (taking photographs and tagging objects)

To allow users to record artefacts that they have visited, the group project members will need to explore different options for tagging objects and implement the most suitable technique. Some options include:

- RFID tagging (where users either carry a portable RFID reader and artefacts have tags, or users carry a tag and there is a reader associated with each artefact),
- placing of bar codes, glyphs or other unique visual labels on artefacts (and recording these through portable readers or through photographs for later analysis)

2. The creation of a digital montage from a database of acquired components

The group project will need to create the "museum" database with some pre-prepared objects about example museum artefacts. An interface will be implemented that will allow users to add to the database their own materials collected during the visit.