

9.11 Multimedia for Art ReTrieval (M4ART)

Thijs Kok, Egon van den Broek, Eduard Hoenkamp, Theo Schouten, Peter Petiet, Louis Vuurpijl (VU, RU)

e.vandenbroek@nici.kun.nl, hoenkamp@acm.org, ths@cs.kun.nl, vuurpijl@nici.kun.nl

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The prototype of an online Multimedia for Art ReTrieval (M4ART) system is introduced, which provides entrance to the digitized collection of the National Gallery of the Netherlands (the Rijksmuseum). The current online system of the Rijksmuseum is text-based and requires expert knowledge concerning the work searched for, else it fails in retrieving it. M4ART extends this system with querying by an example image that can be uploaded to the system or can be selected through browsing the collection. The global color distribution and (optionally) a set of texture features of the example image are extracted and compared with those of the images in the collection.

Hence, based on either text or content-based features, the collection can be queried. Moreover, the matching process of M4ART can be inspected. With the latter feature, M4ART not only integrates the means to inspect collections by both experts and laypersons in one system but also provides the means to let the user to understand its working. These characteristics make M4ART a unique system to access, enhance, and retrieve the knowledge available in digitized art collections.