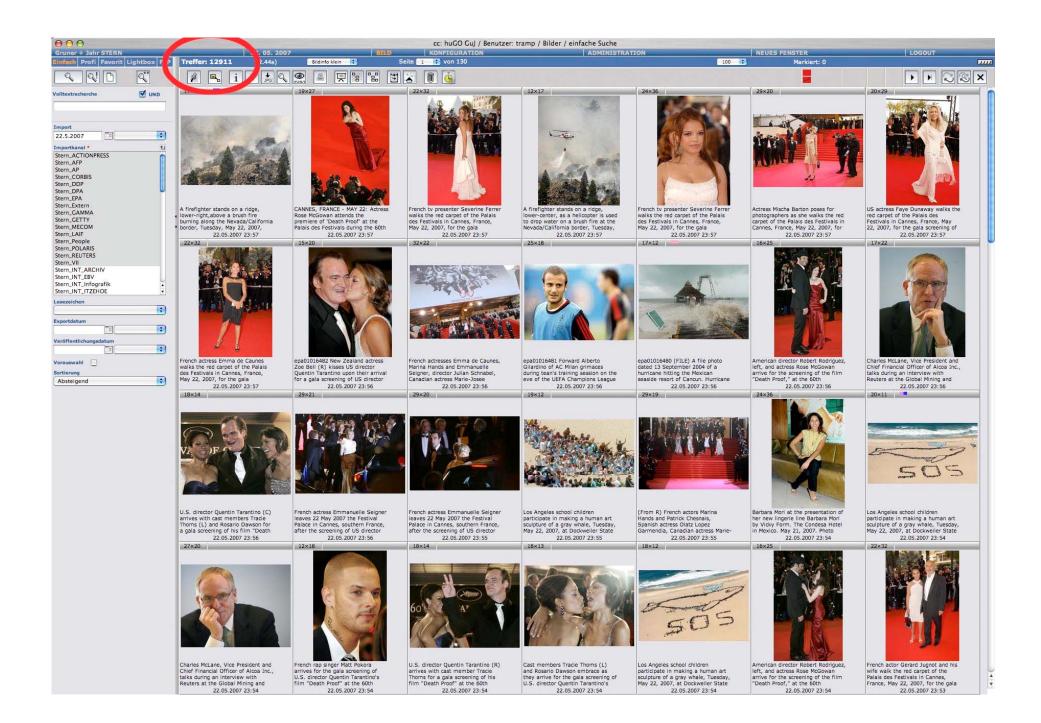
# When the picture tide rises

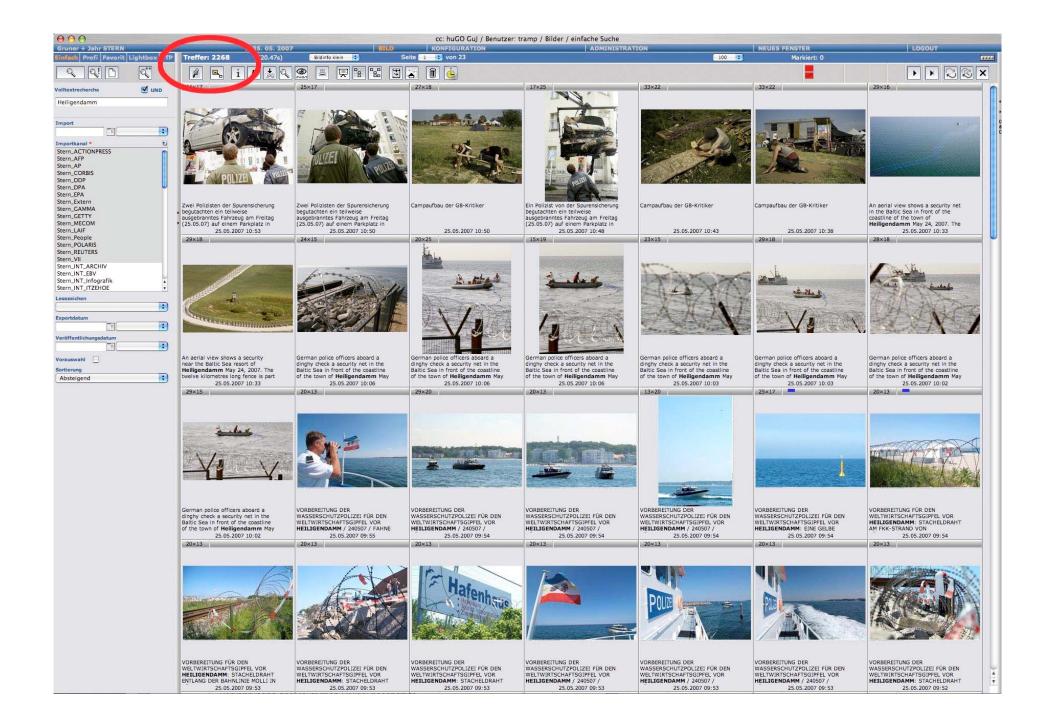
Photo Metadata Conference

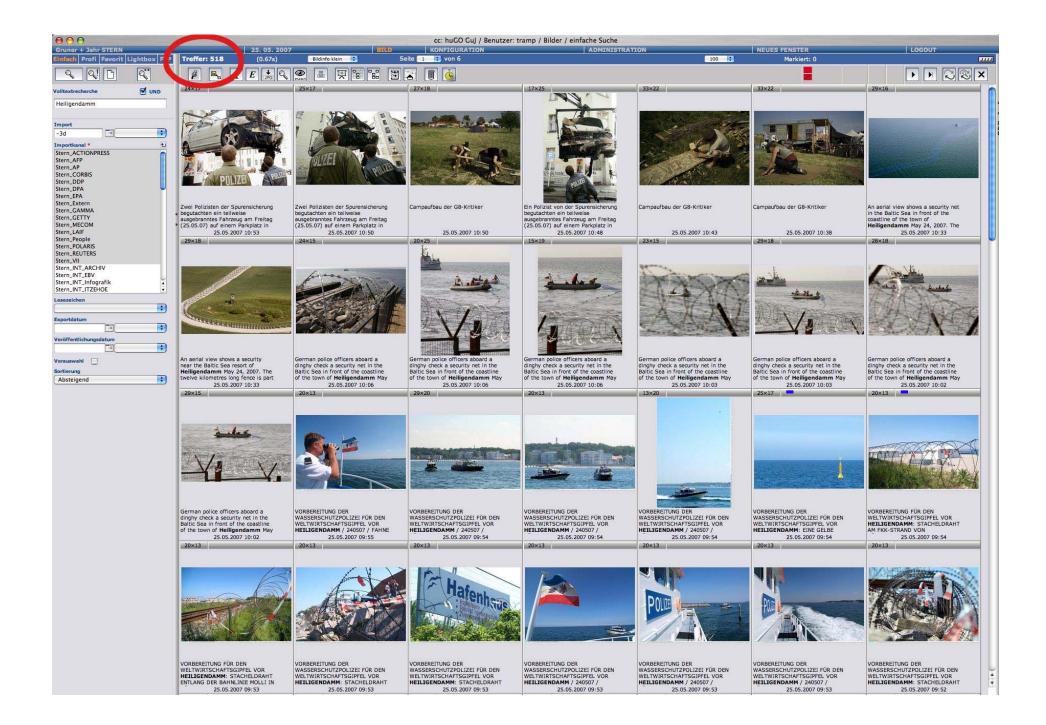
Florence, 7th June, 2007

- Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted and very honoured to have been asked to hold the opening speech for the "International Photo Metadata Conference of the IPTC".
- This morning, I would like to invite you to come with me on a short trip through the infinite reaches of our digital image world.
- But before we embark on this journey, allow me to introduce myself and the magazine I work for, Der Stern. I have worked for Stern for eleven years, for the past eight have been one of a team of two photo editors.
- We have a staff of nineteen: eleven picture researchers and eight assistants or secretaries. We have offices in Paris, London, New York and Hong Kong, where another six picture researchers work. As you can see, this is a fairly large team because photos are extremely important for Stern. We work every day, including weekends, and, if necessary, we'll also come in over Christmas or New Year. Unlike a few decades ago, there is simply no way we could structure our work any differently: if we leave the office at 6 p.m. on a Friday and return at 8 a.m. on the following Monday morning we would have a substantial backlog on our hands. Over the weekend our system receives around 25,000 new images. Monday morning is deadline for Stern; the editorial conference takes place at 8 a.m. and my editor in chief will want to know if there are any new, important photos which need to be included in that week's issue.
- We import images continuously from 12 press agencies, receiving around 12,000 pictures a day. However, we only use approximately 250 photos per issue, in other words just around 0.3 per cent.
- Additionally, we have online access to around 300 databases and can search, download and use approximately 60 million images at any hour of the day.
- Let's log on to Stern's editorial system from here and look at a few images together, than you can see, how many pictures we get on a normal workday.



- These figures show that we no longer have the problem we had, say, up to 15 years ago of not having enough photos. The opposite is true: we now have access to such a multitude of images when researching for any given story that the search process has become timeconsuming. Finding the right image, the relevant image and the most appealing image has become an extremely lengthy process.
- Yesterday, as I am sure you all know, was the opening day of the G8 summit meeting in Heiligendamm, a small German village on the Baltic coast.
- We are going to search through all the news agencies Stern uses in Hamburg; we'll enter "Heiligendamm" as our search term and won't specify a particular period of time. As you can see, this search returns 2,268 results, all of which we have to view.
- Not exactly effective, is it? To get better results we need to narrow down the search parameters slightly by applying some search filters, for example by defining a specific period of time.





- Now we've trimmed our results down to 518 images, so that has worked quite well.
- But what if you are not searching for just any old picture of Heiligendamm, but for images of the security measures put in place by the German police force?

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Stern_EPA Stern_Extern	Protesters, dressed as G8 leaders,	Protectory, dracead as CB landary	Protesters, dressed as G8 leaders	Vom 6. bis 8. Juni kommen im	Vom 6. bis 8. Juni kommen im	Der Anmelder einer	epa01015842 Cardboard cut-outs
Stern_GAMMA Stern_GETTY Stern_MECOM	<ul> <li>gesture during a demonstration in Berlin, May 24, 2007, against the</li> <li>upcoming G8 summit. The summit</li> </ul>	Protesters, dressed as G8 leaders and as German popular polar bear Knut, run during a demonstration in Berlin, May 24, 2007, against the	and as German popular polar bear Knut, run during a <b>demonstration</b> in Berlin, May 24, 2007, against the	Mecklenburgischen Ostseebad Heiligendamm die Staats- und Regierungschefs der acht führenden	Heiligendamm die Staats- und Regierungschefs der acht führenden	Demonstration gegen den ASEM- Gipfel, Andreas Blechschmidt, spricht am Dienstag (22.05.07) im	representing the G8 heads of state stand behind the security fence installed for the G8 heads of state
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Vorauswahl	epa01015841 Claudia Roth (L), Chairwoman of Bundnis 90/Greens, and Astrid Rothe-Beinlich (R),	Banners against the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, reflect in the sunglasses of a protester who	Picture made available on 20 May 2007 shows protesters display banners against the G8 summit in	epa01013850 Picture made available on 20 May 2007 shows protesters display banners against	epa01013849 Picture made available on 20 May 2007 shows protesters display banners against	epa01013848 Picture made available on 20 May 2007 shows protesters display banners against	epa01013847 Picture made available on 20 May 2007 shows banners against the G8 summit in
Absteigend	member of the party's board, hold 22.05.2007 14:23 17×11	participates in a demonstration of 20.05.2007 17:42 12×18	Heiligendamm, Germany, in a 20.05.2007 17:33 29×20	the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, 20.05.2007 17:27 22×20	the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, 20.05.2007 17:27 18×25	the GB summit in Heiligendamm, 20.05.2007 17:26 33×15	Heiligendamm, Germany, 20.05.2007 17:26
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	Protesters walk with banners against the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, in a	Ein Transparent mit der Aufschrift "Stop G8", aufgenommen am Samstag (19.05.07) bei einer	Ein Teilnehmer einer Demonstration haelt am Samstag (19.05.07) vor der	Ein Teilnehmer einer Demonstration haelt am Samstag (19.05.07) vor der	Ein Teilnehmer einer Demonstration haelt am Samstag (19.05.07) vor der Bundesanwaltschaft in Karlsruhe ein	** ARCHIV ** Demonstranten fordern am 1. Mai 2007 waehrend einer Kundgebung in Berlin auf	** BILD DER WOCHE ** Polizisten laufen am Mittwoch, 9. Mai 2007, waehrend einer <b>Demonstration</b>
	demonstration of around 300 20.05.2007 17:19 25×25	Demonstration vor der 19.05.2007 17:29 20×25	Bundesanwaltschaft in Karlsruhe ein 19.05.2007 17:27 25×18	Bundesanwaltschaft in Karlsruhe ein 19.05.2007 17:27 25×16	Bundesanwaltschaft in Karlsruhe ein 19.05.2007 17:27 21×25	einermTransparent den G8 Gipfel 12.05.2007 16:36 25×18	gegen den bevorstehenden G-8 12.05.2007 09:15 20×25
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	Deutschland, Heiligendamm, Proteste zum G8-Gipfel am 06 08.06.2007, Globalisierungsgegner	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Police remove a placard reading "black uniform = SS?" on a balcony	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Police use a water cannon to disperse protestors during a	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Police use a water cannon to disperse protestors during a	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Demonstrators block the street during a demonstration in front of	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Police leave after a demonstration in front of the	HAMBURG, GERMANY - MAY 09: Police patrol in front of a placard which reads "Shut down the G8!"
	treffen sich auf der Seebruecke, 10.05.2007 11:03	during a demonstration in front of 10.05.2007 04:00	demonstration in front of the 10.05.2007 03:58	disperse protestors during a demonstration in front of the 10.05.2007 03:58	during a <b>demonstration</b> in front of the "Rote Flora", a stronghold of G8 10.05.2007 03:58	"Rote Flora", a stronghold of G8 10.05.2007 03:58	during a demonstration at the 10.05.2007 03:58

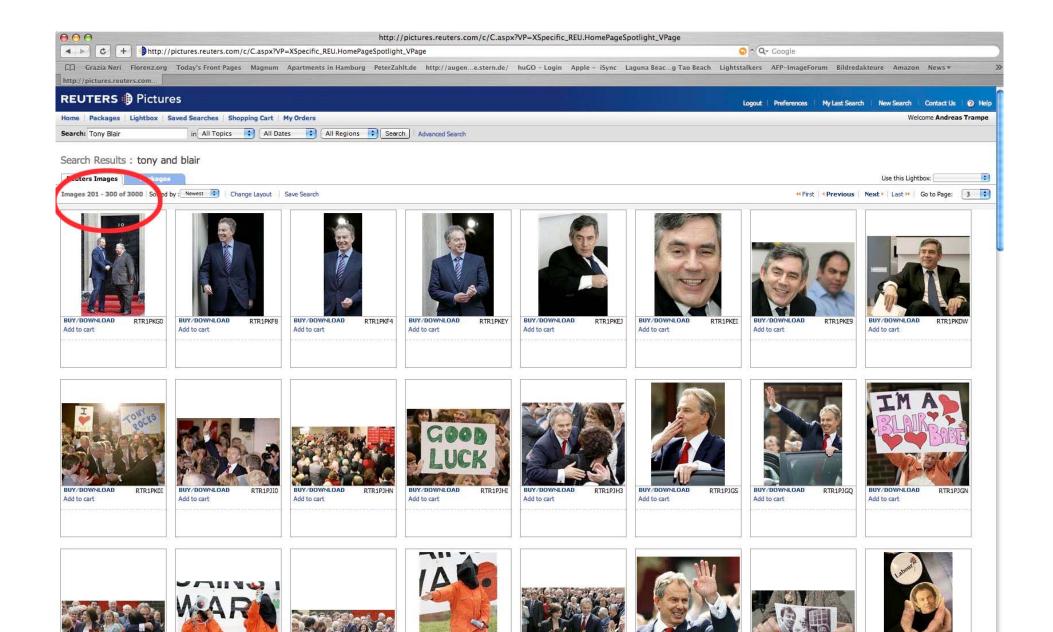
• Again, this has been quite effective; the results are concise, and the quantity is manageable, particularly if we narrow the time frame even further.

Now let's extend our task slightly. To coincide with the coverage of the G8 summit, you have been asked to do a portrait of Tony Blair. As this is the last time he'll be attending a G8 summit meeting, it is a good time to review his ten years in power. This search is a little more difficult to limit in terms of the time frame, because you need images from the past ten years of his premiership. What were the highlights of his ten years in power?

- It's early in the morning, you haven't had your cup of coffee yet and the only
  notable events you can think of are that he was an adamant supporter of the
  Northern Ireland peace process, that he sent his soldiers to fight in Iraq and that
  the British economy is doing quite well.
- Difficult, to say the least!

As most of the material in the Stern database is fairly recent, we will have to use online searches to find what we want. Let's start with the traditional British agency, Reuters. And because we need images from the past ten years, we'll

simply enter "Tony Blair".



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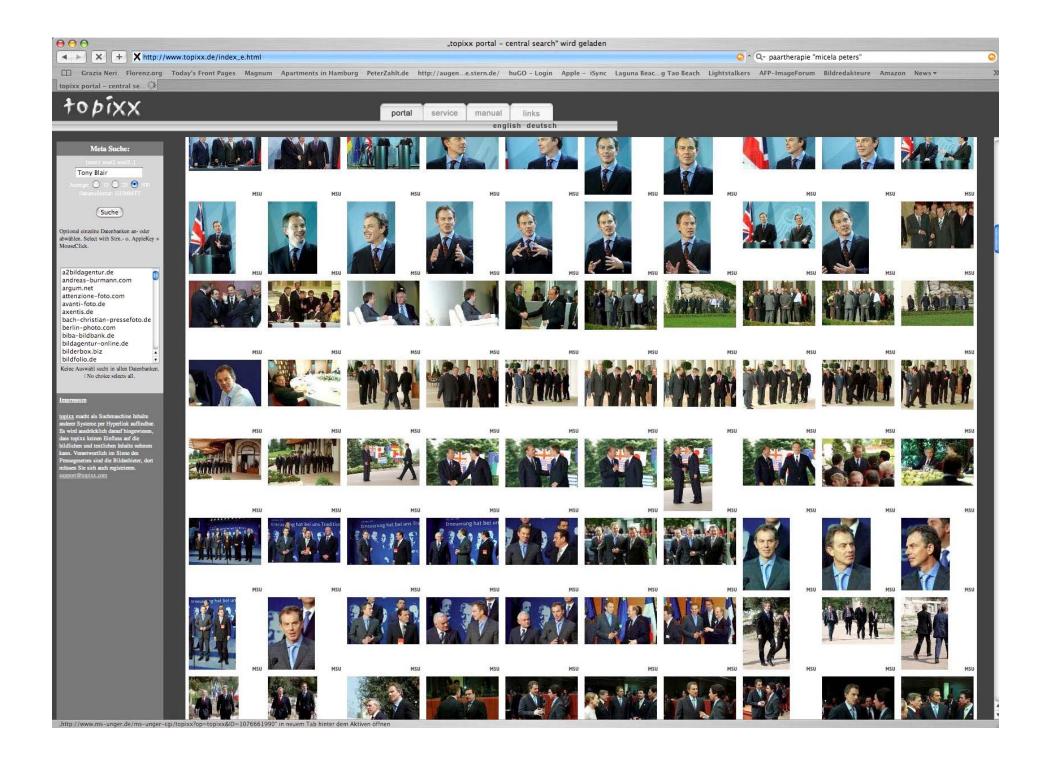
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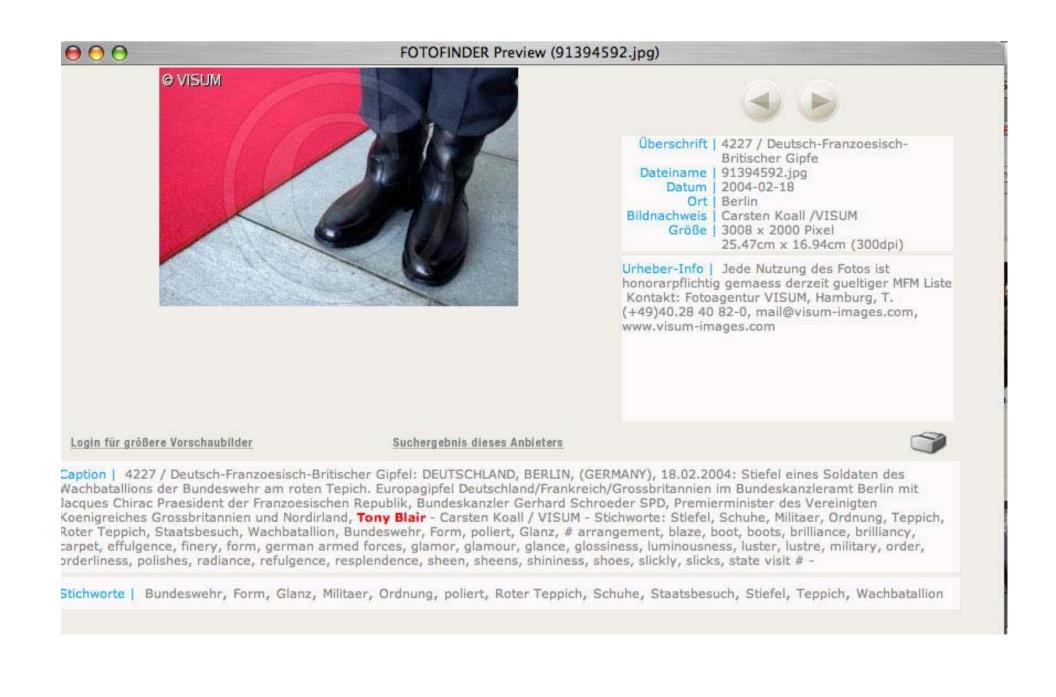
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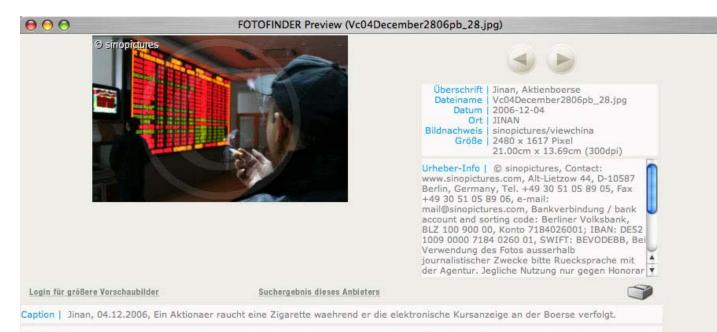
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- That was a big mistake. Reuters has hit back with a flood of images, returning 30 pages, each containing 100 photos. This is obviously going to take some time.
- Reuters and the other major image agencies, such as AFP and Gamma, have since realised that this can be a problem and have started offering packages, image libraries, covering specific events. The agencies' picture editors preselect the best images and compile them in special libraries.
- Remember that so far we have only searched one database. Just imagine if we
  were to start searching in one of the numerous image portals (these are meta
  search engines covering several photo agencies). Let's start with a successful
  German portal, like Topixx.de. This portal brings together more than 130
  photographers and small photo agencies.
- On the one hand side, this is a good thing, because it lets us search more than 130 databases at one time.

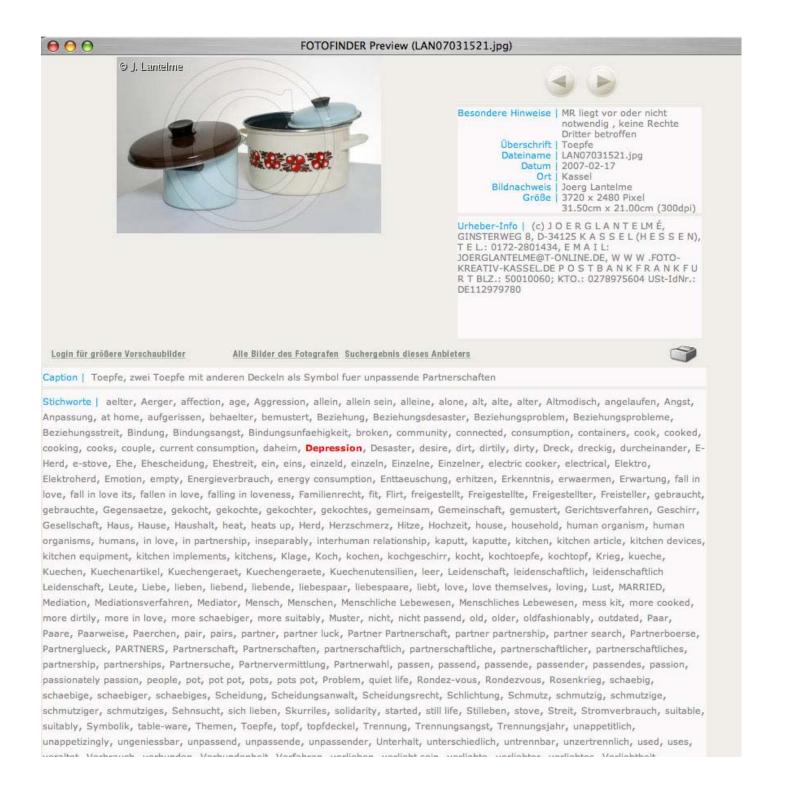


- On the other side: not only is the sheer quantity of the results disheartening, but the quality of the selections is often bad. A common problem in small agencies is that the photographers edit their own photos, and it can, understandably, be very difficult for them to select the best of their own pictures. The result is lots of pictures but not very many motifs.
- But what could make life easier for us, the users, the agencies' clients? What could really be improved in the everyday business of utilizing images? In technical terms, the definition, function and use of IPTC standards is common knowledge; the necessary fields have been documented umpteen times and yet, unfortunately, they are more often than not used incorrectly in everyday situations.
- One of the main problems is that staff at the image agencies or photographers misuse the IPTC fields, unleashing an orgy of keywords upon us. Some slap over 100 keywords on their images to make sure that more of their work appears whenever anyone starts a search, thus increasing the likelihood that their pictures will actually be published.





Stichworte | Aktien, Aktienboerse, Aktienhandel, Aktienkurs, Aktienkurse, Aktionaer, Aktionaere, Anzeige, Anzeigen, Asia, Asiatisch, Asien, Ausland, back view, board, boards, Boerse, Boersen, Boersenkurs, Boersenkurse, Boersenmarkt, business, China, Chinese, Chinesen, chinesisch, Chn, cigaret, cigaretts, cigarette, cigarettes, disappointed, disappointment, Display, Displays, East Asia, economy, enttaeuscht, Enttaeuschung, exchange, finance, Finanzen, Finanzmarkt, from behind, **frustration**, Geld, Geldmaerkte, Geldmarkt, Geste, Gesten, gesticulate, gesticulates, gesticulating, Gestik, gestikulieren, gestikuliert, gesture, gestures, Haende, Hand, hands, indoor photo, indoor photos, indoor view, indoors, innen, Innenansicht, Innenaufnahme, Innenaufnahmen, Innenraeume, Innenraeum, inside, interior, Kurs, Kurstafel, loss, losses, Maenner, Maerkte, male, man, Mann, market, market price, market-price, Markt, men, Mensch, Menschen, money, Ostasien, people, People's republic of China, Person, Personen, persons, quotation, rauchender, Raucher, raucht, rear view, red, roetlich, rot, rote, roter, rotes, Ruecken, Rueckenansicht, share price, share trade, shareholder, shareholders, shares, smoker, smokes, speculate, speculates, speculate, speculating, speculation, Spekulant, Spekulanten, Spekulation, spekulieren, spekuliert, stakeholder, stakeholder stockholder, stock, stock exchange, stock exchange price, stock price, stock-exchange, stockholders, Verlust, Verluste, Volksrepublik China, von hinten, Wertpapiere, Wirtschaft, Zigarette, Zigaretten

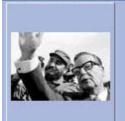


- You really begin to wonder: what on earth was the guy thinking of when he keyworded his pictures?!
- But we have also to admit that searching for images for a specific topic can be very difficult. A depressed person will usually look quite ordinary; okay, perhaps he shouldn't be laughing happily on the picture. But depression, frustration, love or anger, are emotions which can be difficult to visualise. Art buyers in advertising agencies, who often need emotional images, will be more than aware of this problem.
- Another very popular trick is to "rejuvenate" the images in the IPTC record 2, field 55. Simply enter today's date although the picture is an old archive image. This is usually done intentionally, as all editorial systems will display the most recent

images first.



File photo showing Chilean President Salvador Allende (R) alongside Cuban President Fidel Castro, during his visit to Chile in 1972. Some 3,000 to 4,000 people were killed or forcibly disappeared during former dictator Augusto Pinochet s anticommunist crackdown, after here toppled the Socialist leader Allende. The media s obsession with September 11, a date burned into the Charan psyche long before the 101 World Trade Center attacks turned the date into a symbol for Americans, has shocked people with spine-chilling to be an esh evidence on some of the shadier episodes of the dictatorship. REUTERS/FILE PP03090053 MB/GN



# Bild ID: 11263937 - 25.01.2007 18:35 Uhr

## Notiz

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### Motivbeschreibung IPTC 2:120

File photo showing Chilean President Salvador Allende (R) alongside Cuban President Fidel Castro, during his visit to Chile in 1972. Some 3,000 to 4,000 people were killed or forcibly disappeared during former dictator Augusto Pinochet's anti-communist crackdown, after he toppled the Socialist leader Allende. The media's obsession with September 11, a date burned into the Chilean psyche long before the 2001 World Trade Center attacks turned the date into a symbol for Americans, has shocked people with spine-chilling testimony and fresh evidence on some of the shadler episodes of the dictatorship. REUTERS/FILE PP03090053 MB/GN

### Titel IPTC 2:105

FILE PHOTO OF FORMER CHILEAN PRESIDENT ALLENDE AND FIDEL CASTRO IN SANTIAGO.

### Besondere Hinweise IPTC 2:040 Ouelle / Redaktion IPTC 2:115 Fotograf IPTC 2:80 X80002 STR New Bildrechte IPTC 2:110 Objekt Name IPTC 2:005 REUTERS CHILE ANNIVERSARY Staat / Province IPTC 2:95 Ort IPTC 2:90 Land IPTC 2:101 Chile - Republic of Santiago Stichtwort IPTC 2:25 6.2:103 Autor IPTC 2:122 araggenercou STG04D MB/GN -Aufnahme vom (IPTC) Ressort IPTC 2:15 Löschen am 1 09.09.2003 Status ..\ N technical Image Info 🛠 Orig.Dateiname RTR2QV6.jpg Bildorientation quer Orig.Pfad \ReutersCastro\Castro\_A\_life\_in\_Power\_37\_pix Importzeit 25.01.2007 18:35 Uhr Mandant IMP B STERN AGT FTP tech.Bildgröße max Druckgröße(304 dpi) 18×13 2.200 Pixel × 1.509 Pixel Orig.Format Bildfarbtiefe 8 bit/Pixel Joint Photographic Experts Group JFIF format Größe der Datei 1.101 kB Unkompr. Bildgröße 9.726 kB

- But experienced photo editors are more than familiar with this trick.
- What would you think if you were asked to find photos of Florence and found this particular picture?

 $\Theta \Theta \Theta$ 

# FOTOFINDER Preview (1f23-06-0728.jpg)





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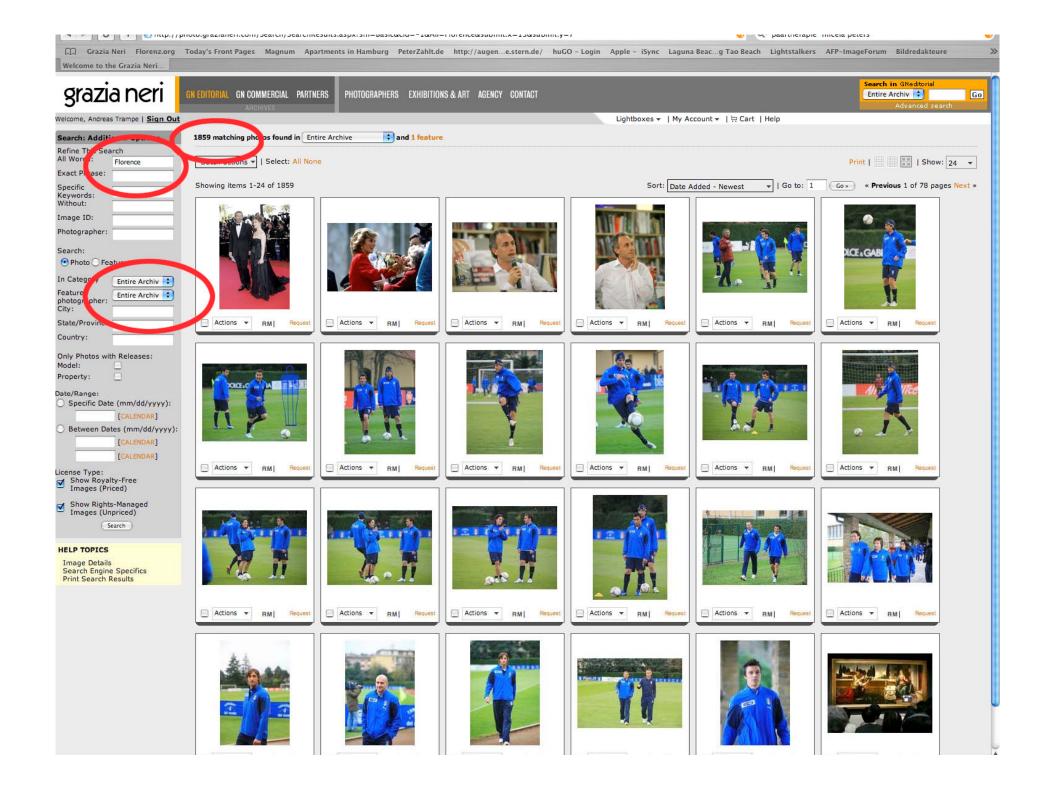
Login für größere Vorschaubilder



• The truth is that many trainees are key wording pictures in the agencies, many photographers or their assistants have never received an adequate training. They are largely self-taught or are trained on the job by their colleagues, who themselves have never had proper training.

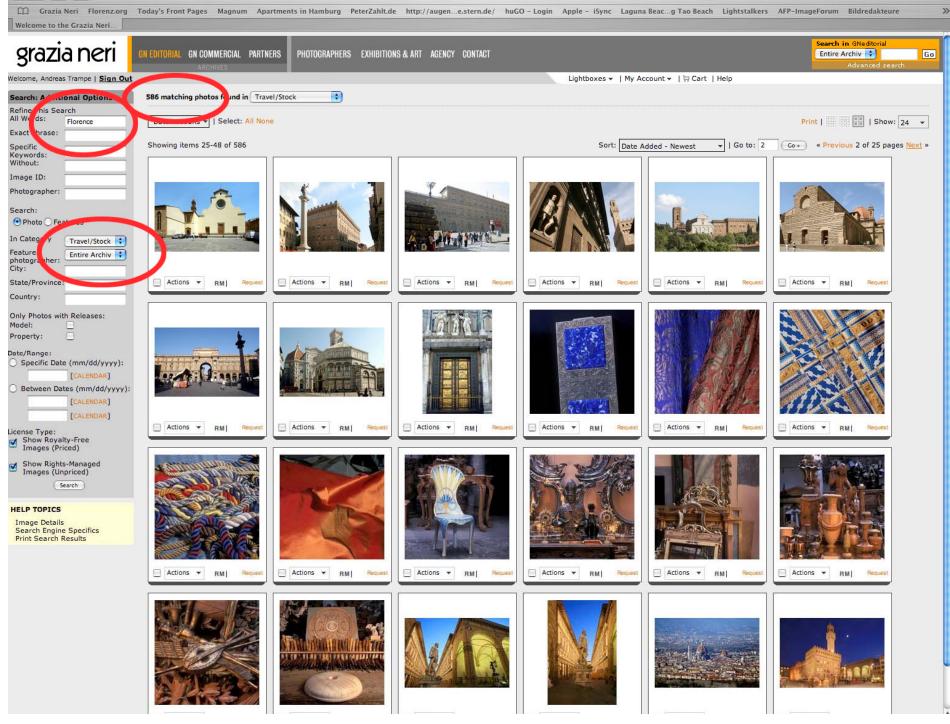
They search desperately for standards and guidelines – and most of them would love to be able do things better.

But there's no negative example without an exception: Florence can also look like this:



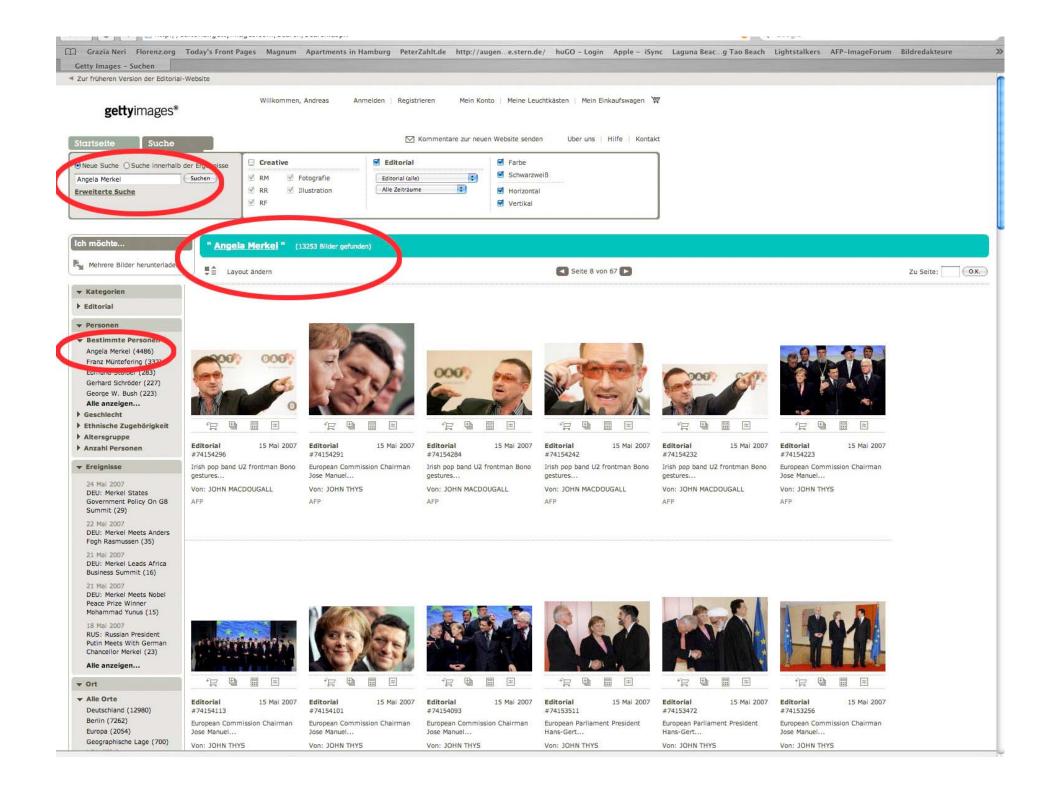
• and if you're clever and limit the search even further, then your results could look like this:

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- Using effective search filters, to ensure that the pictures you get actually show Florence the city, and not some football player from Florence, is becoming increasingly important. And that holds particularly true for person searches.
- Just over half of all Stern's image searches are for pictures of people.

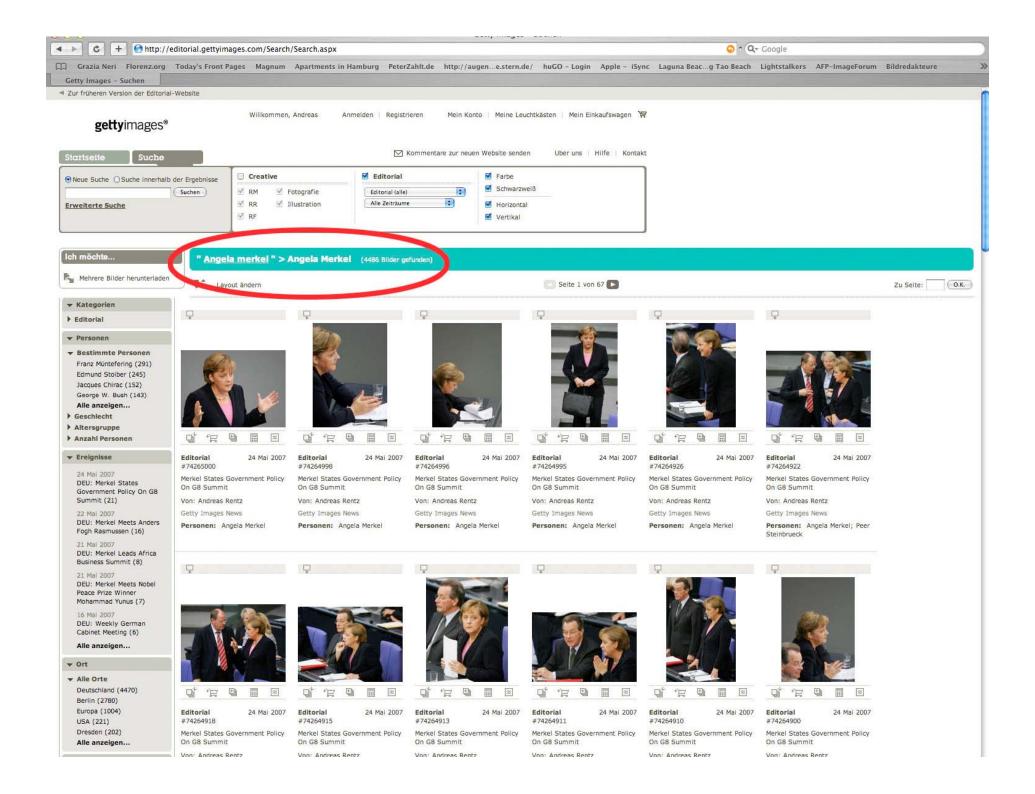
Let's do a search at one of the giants of the image industry, Getty Images. Our search will be for images of the German chancellor, Angela Merkel.



 You can see the problem here. In addition to the large quantity of results – which no picture researcher would ever be able to go through – the results also include a whole lot of pictures that have absolutely nothing or very little to do with Angela Merkel.

This is not a Getty problem, but a general problem of online image searches. We expect the agencies to give their images a journalistic caption. The result is that when we search for images of Angela Merkel we also get a whole load of pictures that do not show her, but, for example, people demonstrating against her policy where her name is mentioned in the photo caption.

- Hundreds of picture researchers are forced to go through ten-thousands of images every day, simply because the databases does'nt offer a better, more precise way of working.
- Getty Images has attempted to solve this problem by letting users specify that only images that actually show Angela Merkel are to be returned.

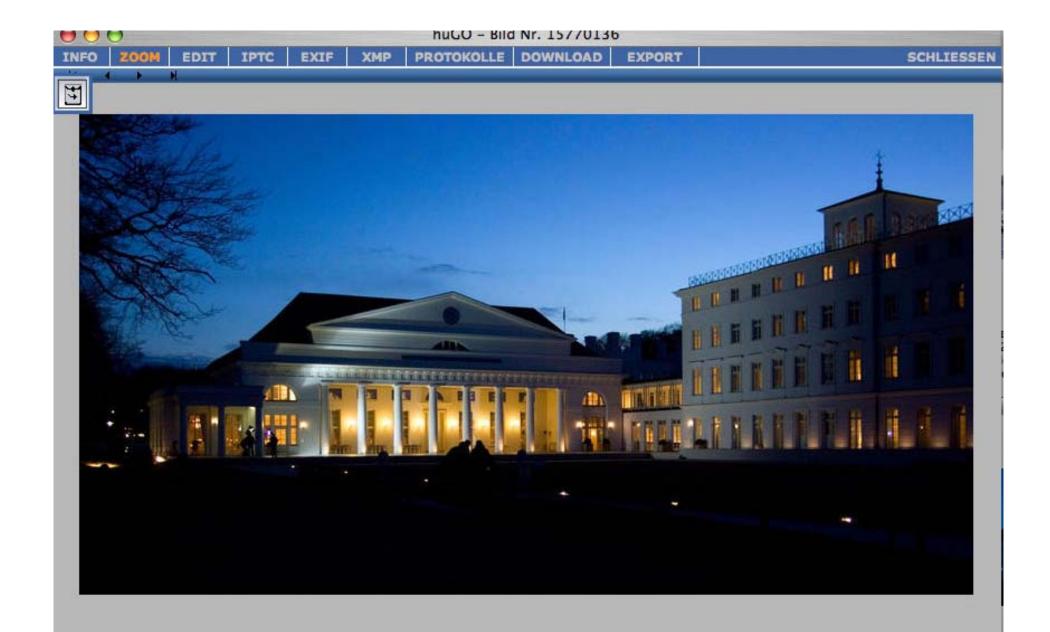


- These solutions will become more and more important in the future; in our world everything is digital and the image libraries in archives are growing by the hour.
- In the future: where will I turn first to search for images? If I know in advance that the results are going to be very, very large?
- How about introducing a new, specially defined and internationally communicated IPTC field called "pictured person"?
- More and more freelance photographers and small agencies sends their photos direct to us. In our era of flat rate broadband and ftp transfers this makes sense.
- But many copyright holders are worried that they will not receive their fee once the image has been published because the advertising agency, the editorial offices or the television station does not know them personally. So they write their name, their address, telephone number and bank account details in the IPTC header. Mostly in the field that the majority of offices import: the image description, IPTC record 2, field120, sometimes also in the "Special Instructions", IPTC record 2, field 40.
- What a helpful thing to do...



24.05.2007 IMP B STERN AGT FTP Felipe Massa (BRA) Ferrari F2007. Formula One World Championship, Rd 5, Monaco Grand Prix, Practice Day, Monte-Carlo, Monaco, Thursday 24 May 2007. DIGITAL IMAGE

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Quelle / Resolution IPTC 2:15     Fotograf IPTC 2:80       © Sutton/BK&R     -					IPTC 2:80			
Bildrechte IPTC 2:110 Sutton			Objekt Name IPTC 2:005 Formula One World Championship					
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18.05.2007 IMP B STERN AGT FTP

Foto: J. Koehler / bildermeer.com, Tel. 01785320598 Blick auf das Gelaende des Kempinski-Grand-Hotels in Heiligendamm. Das Hotel wird der Tagungsort des G8-Gipfels vom 6. bis 8. Juni 2007. - WEITERE BILDER AUF ANFRAGE ! ------

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# Stichtwort IPTC 2:25

Ostdeutschland, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Mecklenburg, Vorpommern, Neue -Laender, Deutschland, Europa, Pommern, EU, Europaelsche Union, Norddeutschland, Neue Bundeslaender, Bundeslaender, Europa, 21, Jahrhundert, weisse Stadt am

Objekt Name IPTC 2:005 Heiligendamm vor dem G8-Gipfel

Ort IPTC 2:90 Heiligendamm

Auftraggebercode IPTC 2:103

Autor IPTC 2:122 J. Koehler - phone 0049178532059

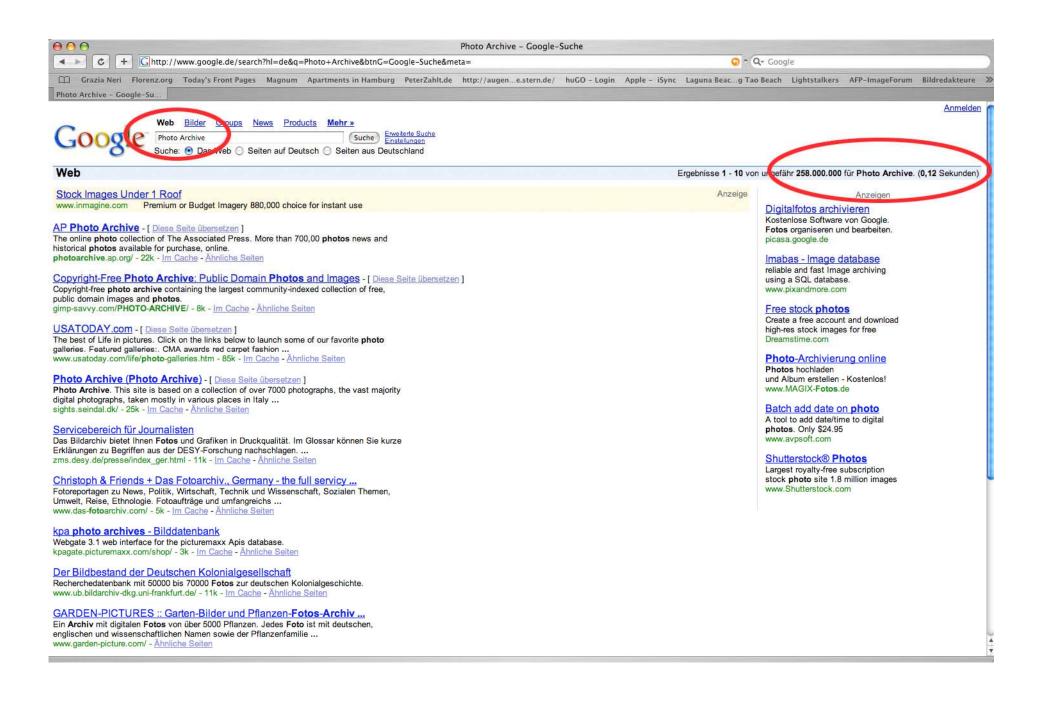
Land IPTC 2:101

Deutschland

- So, even if you don't know Mr Koehler or Mr Beckmann personal, even if you've never heard of them here are their telephone numbers. Give them a call, ask for better quality images or other valuable information about the image.
- But some times, this workflow can be rather annoying, because many German photographers seem to have an account with the Dresdner Bank, a large, very popular bank in Germany. Mr Koehler has his account with the BMW bank in Munich. You can probably imagine what will happen the next time you start a search for images of BMW cars.

The ideal solution would be if we could configure our databases so that they ignore a specific – internationally pre-defined – field during the search. This field could then be used for all this kind of information about the agencies and photographers. Perhaps one of the existing IPTC fields could be used? Or a new one entitled "Photographer's personal informations"?

- One thing is for certain: users, photo editors and art buyers will in future select their choice of image sources radical : who do they really want to work with?
- This will be necessary to ensure their survival in the day-to-day deluge of images.
- You are likely to work only with those agencies that fulfil your own journalistic, visual and organisational quality standards.
- For the future, I would love to see the following motto becoming universally accepted: Less is more!!! Lots of attractive motifs in as few images as possible.
- Otherwise our business is likely to succumb to what I will term "Googlisation". Have you ever been on page 81 of a Google search? No? Why do you think that is?



- Google did this search in 0.12 seconds. Great, eh?
- 251,000,000 entries in Google. But I know how fast and efficient you are. Shall we say 15 seconds per website? Then this search will take you 44,791 days, or just under 122 years but that doesn't include any coffee breaks!

Good luck!

and thank you very much for you attention