

RESEARCH THEME

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Title of the doctoral research Visual exploration of digital archives

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Abstract During the last decades, we have seen a rising adoption of digitization in many kinds of archives – historical, cultural, company archives to make a few examples. At the same time, the production of born-digital data (such as interaction on social media, or historical copies of websites) created new challenges and opportunities. In particular, the previous experiences in the creation of digital solutions for enabling the experience of archives, opened the issue related to longevity: how can we design digital solutions that last in time? How can we design processes that ease the conservation and maintenance of the interfaces? Another critical topic related to the visual exploration of archives is related to the emerging technologies in the field of machine learning and the so-called “Artificial Intelligence”: how can approaches coming from those fields enable a new way to curate and experience the content of digital or digitized archives? Finally, having today an advanced state of the art on technologies and methods for the creation of digital surrogates, an increasing number of organizations are reflecting on the digitization of their collections. Designers often work in a context in which the archive is still not digitized – but at the same time, there is a need to imagine solutions for its fruition. The Ph.D. candidate will tackle the presented critical issues by working on applied projects, by designing and prototyping possible solutions and creating a network of collaborations with experts from other fields.

Keywords Information visualization, digital archives