Form and meaning

Classification and interpretation
ICONCLASS

New release overview 2021
It has been more than 10 years since the last major update to the iconclass.org website.
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Last significant change:
Linked Open Data in 2015
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Focus of new release:

improving the user experience
Complete re-write in progress

With support from the https://henrivandewaalfoundation.org/
Highlights:

Up to date web standards, also support mobiles and tablets

Tree-based navigation

Easy copy-and-paste of notations

Bibliography

Save and annotate own work

API - for linking eg. Catalogue/Museum Management systems

Discussion forum

More languages (notably Portuguese, 日本語, and partials 芬兰语 / 荷兰语 / 中文 / 波兰语)
buzzwords
Python/Javascript
Test-driven development
IIIF
SPARQL endpoint
SKOS API
Linked.art
Wikidata
and ...
Upload (drag-and-drop) and catalog your own images, share them.

Collections imported - to an Illustrated Iconclass

Choose and annotate any public IIIF resource
Can an *Illustrated Iconclass* play a role in the automation of image indexing?
What are the ambitions and goals of automated image indexing?
Do we want algorithms to identify a sleeping lion as the emblem of a vigilant ruler?
and distinguish it from a lion that ...

- is a symbol of saint Mark
- is killed by Hercules
- is an attribute of saint Jerome
- attacks a monkey to symbolize a man curing himself of a fever
- guards and protects a building
- is killed by Samson
- represents Strength that bows for Justice
- denotes a "couragious man"
- is subjugated by the god of Love
- symbolizes Fortitude and Constancy
- is a loving and wise father
- is a sign of the Zodiac
Should algorithms identify a common meaning, e.g. "Slow Haste" (Festina lente) in a variety of forms?
What should a testset help us "teach" an algorithm?
- to identify form?
- to identify meaning?
A dataset of 87,749 images with assigned Iconclass notations to be used in training.

READ THIS PDF FIRST
A word is worth a thousand pictures

Why the use of Iconclass will make Artificial Intelligence smarter. An analysis of Iconclass and AI by Hans Brandhorst.

Iconclass AI Test Set
A test dataset and challenge to apply machine learning to collections described with the Iconclass classification system.

"The quality of your achieved results always depends on the quality (and quantity) of your training data" - Prof. Dr. Harald Sack, Kaiserslautern Institut für Technologie, Do Neural Networks Dream of Semantics? (see presentation)
random selection from an aggregated corpus of circa 1 million images classified with Iconclass...

stored in a single "metabotnik" bitmap ...

500 pixels to the longest side of each picture ...

Data Description

A dataset of 87749 images with assigned Iconclass notations to be used in training. The dataset is available as a 3.1GB zip file. (MD5: 779b2ca9e977c58ed818e3823a676973) All image files are in a single directory, so beware of just unzipping the file.

The data.json file is a map of filenames to Iconclass notations, here is what the first few entries look like:

```json
{
    "IIiLM_1956438510.jpg": [
        "31A235",
        "31A24(+1)",
        "61B(+54)",
        "31A2212(+1)",
        "31D14"
    ],
    "IIiLM_859728949.jpg": [
        "41D92",
        "25G41"
    ]
}
```
But ...

All notations are linked to complete images, not to the relevant coordinates in the bitmaps.

Where is the blindfold?
Jesus is mocked with eyes covered
Can we automate indexing the "raised hand"?

Not very intelligent perhaps, but very useful...
Can/should we create a pattern library as a testset for AI and ML?

Dataset of visual patterns tagged with Iconclass - testbed for Artificial Intelligence applications

11F4 Madonna
Virgin and child
11837 hats

11K31 devil, demon
124 hats

31A231 kneeling on both knees
782 hats