VISUAL ARCHIVE
PROTOTYPE

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BACKGROUND

- Connection to digital material
- Accessibility
- Need of more usability studies
PROBLEM

- Even small archival repositories can have immense collections
- Not all collections are created equal in terms of digitization
- Archives are for the preservation of information and to allow access to collections
- Interface features
FOCUS

- A visual interface can enhance
  - Intuitiveness
  - Efficiency
  - Effectiveness
- Result = Increasing accessibility
This experimental research project will explore how individuals search:

- Visual information retrieval system
- Archival setting

10 individuals from different academic backgrounds search using a prototype of a visually oriented interface

Subset of existing archive built by the PI
WHY A VISUAL ARCHIVE?

- Everything is interactive
- Everything that should be represented is visually represented
- Removal of extra information
- Prototype tested using a touch screen computer or tablet
WHAT TO TEST

- Visual cues
- Browsing
- Filtering
- Overall thoughts and reactions to interactable space
FINDINGS

- Good visual representation
  - More enjoyable to browse and find images
  - “Might not know what I want until I see it like that”
- Easy to filter between types
MOVING FORWARD

- Making changes to interface
- Conducting a more in depth usability study
  - Expanding sample
  - Comparison between visual system and traditional interface system
THANKS

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