

University of Lausanne, Switzerland uses Extensis Portfolio in Forensic Science

Company Profile:

The University of Lausanne, with its School of Criminal Justice, is the first University to offer a Degree in forensic sciences. The School offers a BSc and MSc to a total course of almost 350 students from around the world.

Industry:

Education

Project Goals:

- Provide routing XMP indexation into searchable collections of images
- Integrate a digital asset management system with its e-learning platform
- Control access by user groups

Solution Implemented:

- Portfolio Server and Clients
 - Portfolio SQL-Connect
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Overview

In 2005, The School of Criminal Justice looked to implement a solution to organise and manage all its photographs. The goal was to find a digital asset management (DAM) system that enabled three main processes: image indexation with specific XMP metadata fields; creation of searchable collections; and image access and reuse for a number of different purposes.

Challenge

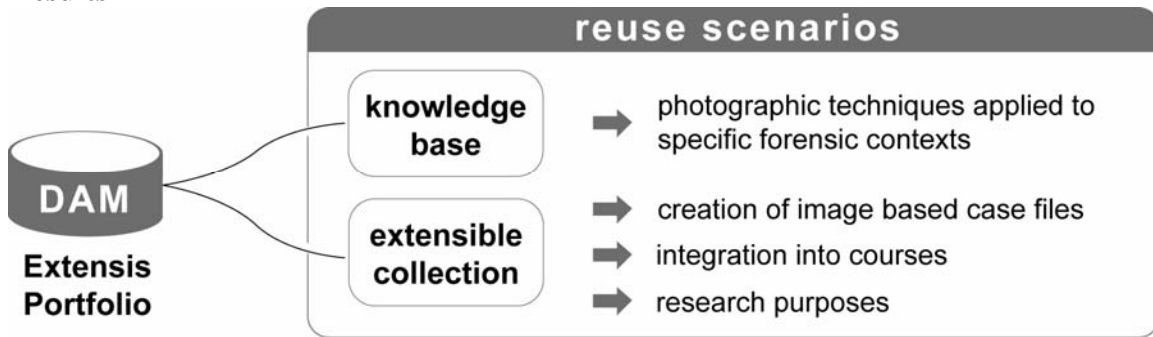
- Produce a workflow of image production, indexation, correction, and storage
- Implement a digital asset management system that interacts with the existing e-learning platform
- Define functionalities and access for specific user groups
- Allow users to easily find and access images for reuse in different educational contexts
- Automate the cataloguing and indexation of images using specific XMP metadata fields

Solution

Portfolio server, with its feature set and its flexibility, imposed itself very quickly as the ideal solution. “We need very specific information in our images. Portfolio adapts itself very easily to our own XMP indexation schema for cataloguing and also for embedding metadata into the file itself,” said Romain Voisard, IT Manager for the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Lausanne.

By adding the Portfolio SQL-Connect module, The School of Criminal Justice was in position to connect Portfolio Server with the MySQL database of its e-learning platform. “Thanks to SQL-Connect, the management of student’s images, including the submission, storage, correction and feedback, is transparent and integrated into the e-learning course itself,” said Voisard. “There is no need to teach students how and when to use different systems; everything is accessed by the e-learning system”.

Results



Configured and managed by two members of staff, The School of Criminal Justice's fully functional Portfolio Server solution allows for the creation of extensible searchable catalogues of images, each relating to specific forensic topics, allowing them to be reused in different contexts.

- Organisation of images into easy-to-use searchable catalogues
- Connection of Portfolio Server with the MySQL database of the University's e-learning content management system (using SQL-Connect)
- Efficient tool for the creation of image based caseworks

"The organisation of all our photographs has already had a profound impact on the institution: first in the manner of handling forensic images in terms of chain of custody and secondly in the manner of teaching with the multiplication of image based casework exercises," concludes Christophe Champod, Professor at the University of Lausanne.

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