



Unconference Critique Digitale Report- Oct. 21-22, 2021

## **Combining information from diverse collections and sources – accessing visualization**

*Panel A1- Basel*

*21.10.21, 13h30 - 14h15*

*Panel suggested by: Victoria Fleury, University of Zurich*

*Reporter: Anna Janka*

### **Discussion leader and core topic presentation:**

The panel was proposed by Victoria Fleury, a doctoral student in art history at the University of Zurich. Her work focuses on analyzing the metadata of digitalized artworks in different databases. By doing so, she tried to identify replicas of Claude Monet's paintings, created during Monet's lifetime.

### **Main arguments in the discussion:**

The discussion was mainly focused on metadata, how scholars should categorize different objects and work with different metadata standards. Two main issues arose during the panel. Firstly, there is a sampling issue. Since primarily western, European documents are digitized, a researcher might have a biased sample and therefore is unable to include all artifacts in museums worldwide in their analysis. As a second challenge, the group reflected on metadata standards and criticized how each research community has its own standard. These standards are too specific for other research disciplines to adopt them. They make interdisciplinary research more complicated. On the contrary, if researchers use the standards of big initiatives, like the Dublin Core Metadata Standard, the descriptions are often too broad and not specific enough for the researcher who wants to work with the objects. The participants agreed that there should be a middle ground that unfortunately does not exist yet.

### **Proposed solutions:**

Lastly, the panelists spoke about the advantages of publishing a doctoral thesis or a research paper online. This creates new opportunities for visualizing the data. Scholars can create more interactive graphics and charts with which the reader can engage. Additionally, researchers can embed audio samples and video snippets directly in the papers. These visualizations and more detailed information can allow a deeper understanding of the data for the reader and could ensue new research questions.