



Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (www.loc.gov/pictures)

The Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (PPOC) contains catalog records and digital images representing a rich cross-section of still pictures held by the Prints & Photographs Division and, in some cases, other units of the Library of Congress.

The Collections

- 14 million pictures: photographs, fine and popular prints, cartoons, posters, and architectural and engineering drawings
- 15th century to the present
- U.S. history and culture is a strength, but international in scope

Scope of the Catalog

- Provides access through group or item records to about 75 % of the Division's holdings.
- 1.25 million digital images (for some images, only thumbnails display to those searching outside the Library of Congress because of potential rights considerations)

Recently Added Features

- Visual display options (gallery, grid, slide show)
- Sharing tools – users can readily bookmark, add to social networking sites, email links to single items, search results, Web pages
- Robust retrieval (“view all”) & accessible metadata – index terms and collection information readily available; better exposure to external search engines

Technical Information

Library of Congress staff built the Prints & Photographs Online Catalog application with several software tools and components:

Source data:

- MARC 21: descriptive information (metadata) in the catalog records [\[11\]](#)
- XML: data in the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials and HABS/HAER/HALS
- json + html: narrative information about each collection
- tiff + jpeg + gif: image files

(over)

Server-side main web application:

- Python programming language [1]
- Django web application framework [2]
- Apache HTTP server [3]
- MySQL relational database [4]

Server-side search services:

- Apache Solr/Lucene search engine [5]
- search engine customizations in java

Client-side (browser) components:

- languages/standards: HTML, css, javascript, json, rss, flash, xml

Development team support tools:

- Gforge: issue tracking, requirements management [6]
- subversion: source code management (versioning, etc.) [7]
- Aptana + Pydev: graphical development environment [8], [9]

Production hosting:

- multi-processor, intel-based server running 64-bit Red Hat Enterprise Linux [10]

The Library of Congress is not using a commercial repository system or digital asset management application to present the Prints & Photographs Online Catalog or to manage digital objects.

References:

- [1] Python - <http://www.python.org/>
- [2] Django - <http://www.djangoproject.com/>
- [3] Apache - <http://httpd.apache.org/>
- [4] MySQL - <http://www.mysql.com/>
- [5] Solr - <http://lucene.apache.org/solr/>
- [6] Gforge - <http://gforge.org/gf/>
- [7] Subversion - <http://subversion.apache.org/>
- [8] Aptana - <http://www.aptana.com/>
- [9] Pydev - <http://pydev.org/>
- [10] Red Hat - <http://www.redhat.com/>
- [11] MARC - <http://www.loc.gov/marc/>