

Project #1

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/193510939@N08/9201HhinV6>

I've decided to use my personal 35mm photo collection from my long-awaited trip to Tokyo in December 2023 with one of my best friends. Although the trip was brief due to our differing schedules, it was wonderful to finally visit a country we had both longed to see since we became friends in high school. I took the photos with a Kodak FunSaver 35mm single-use camera, chosen for its nostalgic aesthetic and run-and-gun quality.

Before creating my personal Flickr photo collection, I had to consider some key details for the metadata fields. The Kodak FunSaver, being an analog camera, does not automate metadata, meaning I had to account for its manual capabilities (i.e. physical print) and the differences from the digitized counterparts that I uploaded to Flickr. Kodak's capture metadata differs from the metadata of its digitized equivalent, which was generated during the film development process.

Below are the descriptive, structural, and administrative metadata fields I used, along with their justifications for identification, retrieval, and potential licensing issues. These fields were selected based on metadata standards from our previous DAM lessons, such as NISO and the Dublin Core elements:

- **File Name & Extension:** Follows a structured naming convention (COLLECTION_PHOTO NUMBER_YYYYMMDD.FILE EXTENSION) for easy reference and local ability.
- **Location/Geomap:** Adds geographical context by identifying where the image was taken.
- **Subject:** Specifies the people or figures within the image for identification.
- **Description:** Enhances accessibility by serving as alternative text and providing detailed image context.
- **Photographer:** Credits the individual responsible for the photo.

- Brand: Identifies the camera's manufacturer (Kodak), providing insight into the type of device used.
- Camera Model Name: Specifies the camera model, contributing to the technical metadata.
- Photo Sensor Technology: Clarifies the technology used to capture the image (e.g., CCD), affecting image quality.
- Camera-Supported File Format: Defines the output file format (JPEG) to explain how the image was captured and stored.
- Maximum Focal Length: Provides information about image composition and the field of view.
- Optical Zoom: Details the camera's zoom capabilities, influencing the image's framing.
- Photo Sensor Size: Affects image resolution and provides additional technical details.
- Exposure Control Type: Indicates whether the exposure was automatic, explaining lighting conditions.
- Photo Number: Assists in organizing photos sequentially for proper order and reference.
- Owner Settings/Usage Rights: Outlines the image's rights, including copyright and permissions. In my case, I owned the copyright to all posted photos.
- File Size: Records the file size to understand storage needs.
- Date Captured: Identifies when the analog photo was originally taken.
- Modified: Shows when the image was last edited, providing post-processing context.

- Dimensions: Displays the digital size of the image (e.g., 4500 x 3000 pixels) for resolution purposes.

After uploading all 16 digitized film stills to Flickr, I organized them into an album and gave it a descriptive, concise title: “Tokyo, Japan - December 2023.”

In terms of observations and garnered experience building this collection, bulk entry is possible depending on the type of metadata. For example, the “photographer” field can be applied to all images in bulk with Flickr’s features. Camera specs and usage rights are also well-suited for bulk input by using tags (in my case “Tokyo,” “Japan,” “35mm,” “film,” “Kodak,” and “FunSaver”). These keywords help describe the visible and technical elements of the photos, functioning as alternative text to enhance overall organization, web accessibility, and technical interoperability.

The only automated metadata accessible to me throughout this project was embedded in the digitized versions of the 35mm images. This added another layer of oversight, where I had to rely on personal memory and online research to identify, translate, and confirm visual elements in the scanned photos, such as locations. Once locations were confirmed, I manually input them into Flickr’s geotag function. Though time-consuming, the geotagging feature is beneficial for generating reports, data retrieval, and tracking in the long-run.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed identifying and creating the metadata for this photo album. It allowed me to relive memories and document details about my time in Tokyo that I might have otherwise forgotten without these frameworks in place. For instance, this project helped me recall a tour guide’s comment about a 300-year-old pine tree in Hama-Rikyu symbolizing longevity—an insight that became even more meaningful and serendipitous after discovering the subjects in photo 20. It also deepened my familiarity with Flickr’s metadata features, which I plan to leverage in future projects to streamline image management processes.