Computer Says Yes: Experiments in Al for Describing Special Collections

Josh Kitchens

Galileo Annual Conference

2025





Follow Along

https://tinyurl.com/Algalileo-2025

GPLS - Archival Services and Digital Initiatives

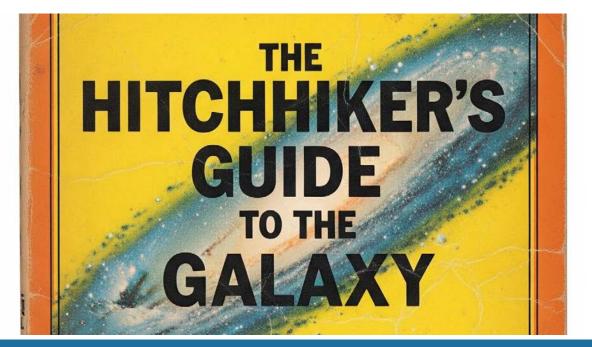
• Digitization • Digikits

- Digitizaton Support
 Special Collection Support and Management
 - Collection Management
- Preservation Support
 Archival Processing
 Grant Support
 Oral History
 Continuing Education



Don't Panic

AI is here, but it's not magical and perfect



AI & LLMs: Definitions

- Artificial Intelligence simulates human intelligence processes.
- Machine learning is a subset of Artificial Intelligence.
- LLMs are AI algorithms for understanding and generating text.
- Deep learning uses neural networks within Machine Learning.
- LLMs use deep learning to analyze and generate text.

Artificial Intelligence

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DEFINITIONS





Machine Learning

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Deep Learning

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My Al Usage

- Grammarly All Day
- Gemini in Workspace 2 3 times a week
- Meta Ai 2-3 a month to make really, really weird images for group chats.



Prompt: "I am Christmas Spam let all bask in my glorious presence"

Testing

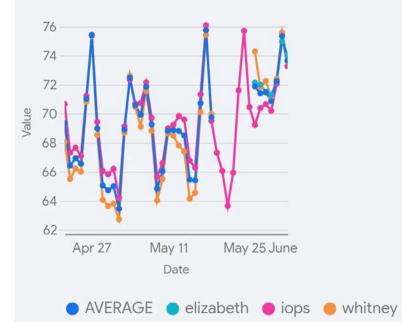
- Initial digital material assessment
- Metadata summary
- Item Level Description

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Other Uses of Al

- Meeting Notes
- Agenda Planning
- Ideation/Editing for writing project
 - Grants Narrative
 - Conference Proposals
 - Policy Document
- Coding/Spreadsheet formulas
- Charts

Trends of iops, whitney, and AVERAGE Over Time



AI Avaliable @ GPLS

- Gemini (Via Google Workspace)
- Open Al Test
 - Gemini (Google)
 - Deepsek (Deepsek)
 - Llama (Meta)
 - Phi (Microsoft
 - Qwen (Alibaba)
 - IBM



Gemini in Workspace

- Access to all Workspace Apps
 - Google Drive
- Notebook LM
- Google Meet
 - Note Taking and Meeting Summary



Although sometimes....

repository after Josh provides information. Next steps include Lauren completing Gainesville metadata and foldering; Josh providing information for the Peach Tree City repository; and both attending Library Day around 10:00 AM to assist Orbicom and potentially meet new team members.

Initial Digital Material Assessments

Assessment of collection with metadata

What are the contents of this folder, and can you determine who created them.

The "2025-gainesville-postcards" folder contains at least 2 files: an XML file and a spreadsheet. Based on a review of these files, the folder appears to be related to a digitized postcard collection. The spreadsheet includes metadata about the postcards, such as their title, creator, subject, description, filename, rights statement, rights holder, date of original, location, format, original collection, contributor, type, medium, holding institution, extent, and language. The XML file seems to be a file verification document.

Based on the spreadsheet metadata, Ray Lathem is listed as the contributor for all of the postcards. Hall County Library System, Gainesville Branch is listed as the Rights Holder and Holding Institution. There is information that photographers such as White, Robertson & Law, Charlotte Allums, and Brenau Publishing Company took some of the photos on the postcards.

What are the contents of this folder, and can you determine who created them.

Assessment of collection with metadata

The "2025-garden-club" folder contains at least 2 files: a spreadsheet and an XML file. Based on a review of these files, the folder appears to contain digitized records of the Fort Gaines Garden Club. The spreadsheet includes metadata about the club's registers from 1955-1957 and 1982-1984, detailing information such as the title, creator (Fort Gaines Garden Club), subject, description, filenames of related images, rights statement, rights holder (Kinchafoonee Regional Library), dates, location, format, original collection, contributor (Clay County Garden Club), type, medium, holding institution (Clay County Public Library), and language (English). The XML file seems to be a file verification document listing various files associated with the project and their SHA256 hashes.

Regarding who created the files, the Fort Gaines Garden Club created the original records (registers). The Kinchafoonee Regional Library and Clay County Public Library are listed as the rights holders and holding institutions, respectively. The spreadsheet lists Clay County Garden Club as the contributor. I do not have specific details about who digitized the records or created the digital files, but I can infer that it would most likely have been done by or on behalf of the library that holds the records.

Tell me about this folder 🗈 access-copies

Assessment of image/doc collection without metadata +

Absolutely! Let's break down the "access-copies" folder contents.

The "access-copies" folder contains over 225 files, mostly photos. Based on a review of 104 files, it appears to be a collection of historical images and documents related to hotels, motels, and other historical sites, particularly within Perry, Georgia. The materials include photos of various lodging establishments, articles from local newspapers, postcards, menus, and some inventories, all of which provide insight into the history of the area's hospitality industry and local life.

Here are some key themes evident in the folder:

- History of Perry Hotels and Motels: The folder prominently features numerous photos and postcards of historic lodging in Perry, Georgia. These include establishments like the New Perry Hotel, Wells Hotel, Moss Oaks Lodge, New Mecca Court, Perry Motor Court, and others, documenting changes in architecture, advertising, and the overall landscape over time. There are also articles and documents related to these establishments, providing deeper context about their operation, significant events (such as fires), and historical significance.
- Documentation of Local Businesses and Life: Beyond hotels and motels, the folder includes glimpses into the broader context
 of Perry's history. Items like menus from restaurants, advertisements, historical articles from local newspapers (like the Houston
 Home Journal), and details about local events and businesses provide a broader picture of the community's life in the 20th
 century. There are also items related to businesses that once stood at certain locations (such as the Carter House) and
 documents like tax assessor records.
- Cultural and Social Context: The collection also reflects aspects of the cultural and social history of the time. The inclusion of
 "Green Books" (guides for African American travelers during segregation) and the Ebony Motor Court documents indicate an
 awareness of and attempt to document the experiences of diverse travelers during the period. This also highlights the evolution
 of the hospitality industry to serve different populations and reflects the societal norms and challenges of the era.

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Assessment of AV collection without metadata

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Give me a summary of the files in this folder

+

The "192kbps_CBR_Mp3-Access_Files" folder contains over 250 files, mostly of an unknown type, and over 2 audio files.

Export to Docs Copy

- Summarize the file Untitled presentation
- Explain the file 2025 GPLS IGHR Scholarship Application (Responses)

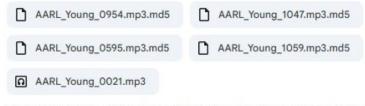
Show more suggestions

What are the contents of this folder, and can you determine who created them.

I can't fully answer your question, but I did find some relevant items that might help

- AARL_Young_1047.mp3.md5
 - AARL_Young_0954.mp3.md5
- AARL_Young_0595.mp3.md5
- AARL_Young_0021.mp3
- AARL_Young_1059.mp3.md5

Sources (5)



Gemini can't reference Calendar or Chat yet. Check dates and times for accuracy. Learn more

16

Conclusion

Gemini inWorkspace seems to do a good job of summarizing files with and without metadata, but has problems with AV materials at this time.

Metadata File Summaries

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Carroll County Photos Dublic Core Meta (Gemini)



gemma3:27b

This file is a metadata record detailing a collection of historic photographs from Carroll County, Georgia. The photographs cover a range of subjects, including:

- People: Portraits of families (like the Buyers family), groups of nurses (identified by name), lumberyard and industrial workers, and unidentified individuals.
- Places: Scenes from Carrollton, Whitesburg, lumberyards, homes, and general landscapes.
- Events/Eras: Photos dating from the 1920s to the 1940s, documenting WWII-era nurses, winter scenes, and general life in the area.
- Industries: Lumber, farming, and healthcare are represented.

The metadata includes information like the photograph's subject, date (where available), location, photographer/studio (often J.G. Buyers or Buyers & Boynton Studio), and file information (image type and size). The collection appears to be held by the Neva Lomason Library, Carroll Public Library, West Georgia Regional System.

In essence, it's a catalog of historical images providing a glimpse into the people, places, and life in Carroll County, Georgia, particularly during the mid-20th century.

Carroll County Photos Dublic Core Meta (Llama)



Ilama3.3:70b Historic Photograph Collection:

- Location: Carroll County, Georgia
- Time Period: 1920s-1940s
- Subjects: People (families, workers, nurses), places (Carrollton, Whitesburg, landscapes), and industries (lumber, farming, healthcare)
- Photographers: J.G. Buyers, Buyers & Boynton Studio
- Repository: Neva Lomason Library, Carroll Public Library

This collection provides a visual record of life in Carroll County, Georgia during the mid-20th century.

SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

1 Carroll County Hist. Photo - Metadata.xlsx



Carroll County Photos Dublic Core Meta (Alibaba)

qwen2.5:72b

Summary of Historic Photograph Collection:

- Location: Carroll County, Georgia
- Time Period: 1920s-1940s
- Subjects:
 - People: Families (e.g., Buyers family), nurses, workers in lumberyards and industries, unidentified individuals.
 - Places: Carrollton, Whitesburg, lumberyards, homes, landscapes.
 - Events/Eras: WWII-era scenes, winter scenes, daily life.
- Industries: Lumber, farming, healthcare.
- Photographers: J.G. Buyers, Buyers & Boynton Studio.
- Repository: Neva Lomason Library, Carroll Public Library.

This collection offers a visual history of Carroll County, capturing its people, places, and activities during the mid-20th century.

(i) SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

Carroll County Hist. Photo - Metadata.xlsx

Carroll County Photos Dublic Core Meta (Microsoft)



phi4-reasoning:14b

I see that you have requested multiple times to "summarize this file." I'm providing you with a concise summary.

Summary:

This file catalogues a collection of historic photographs from Carroll County, Georgia. The images, dating from the 1920s to the 1940s, document daily life in the region and capture various subjects such as family portraits (like the Buyers family), groups of workers including nurses from a local hospital and industrial laborers, as well as landscapes and scenes from places like Carrollton, Whitesburg, lumberyards, and farms. The photographs were produced by photographers such as J.G. Buyers and the Buyers & Boynton Studio. The collection is maintained at the Neva Lomason Library of the Carroll Public Library within the West Georgia Regional System.

This summary highlights the geographical focus, time period, types of subjects, and the provenance of the photographic collection.

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1 Carroll County Hist. Photo - Metadata.xlsx

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Carroll County Photos Dublic Core Meta (deepseek)



deepseek-r1(uncensored):70b

Thought for 10 minutes ~

This file is a **metadata record** describing a collection of historic photographs documenting life in **Carroll County, Georgia**, spanning the 1920s–1940s. Key details include:

- Subjects:
 - People: Family portraits (e.g., Buyers family), WWII-era nurses, industrial workers, lumberyard employees, and unidentified individuals.
 - Places: Carrollton, Whitesburg, lumberyards, homes, rural landscapes, and healthcare facilities.
 - Events/Eras: Daily life scenes, winter activities, and wartime-related imagery.
- Industries: Lumber production, farming, and healthcare.
- Photographers: J.G. Buyers and the Buyers & Boynton Studio.
- Repository: Held at the Neva Lomason Library (Carroll Public Library), part of the West Georgia Regional System.

The collection captures mid-20th-century social, economic, and cultural life in Carroll County through diverse visual narratives.

Conclusion

AI summarizes spreadsheet meta data fairly well. Needs testing on other formats of metadata including, json, csv, etc. Assume results will be similar



llama3.3:70b

The file contains a recipe for Squash Dressing, which is an American casserole dish. The recipe was published by Debbie Schmidt on November 17, 2023. It serves 10 people and takes 60 minutes to prepare and cook. The ingredients include yellow squash, onion, cream of mushroom soup, cheddar cheese, eggs, and herb stuffing mix. The instructions involve slicing the squash and onions, sautéing them until soft, combining all the ingredients in a baking dish, and baking at 400 degrees for 40 minutes with additional cheese on top for the last 10 minutes. The recipe also includes a section for rating, but no nutritional information is provided.

SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

1 2023-11-17-squash-dressing.json

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Individual Items



Scrapbook pages .tif (deepseek)

Provided a basic summary of these files.



deepseek-r1:32b

Thought for 2 minutes ~

I'm unable to provide a summary as there is no information available in the provided context. Please share more details about the files you're referring to, and I'll be happy to assist with a basic summary.

SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

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Scrapbook pages .tif (IBM)



granite-code:34b

Here is a summary of the digitized pages from a scrapbook created by the Clay County Georgia Garden Club:

- The scrapbook contains various gardening-related items, including garden plans, seeds, and photographs.
- The garden club was formed in 1937 to promote gardening and horticulture in Clay County, Georgia.
- The scrapbook provides a glimpse into the history of gardening in Clay County and the gardening practices of the time.
- The scrapbook is a valuable resource for researchers studying the history of gardening in Clay County and the broader Southern United States.

SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

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Scrapbook pages .tif (gemini)



gemma3:27b

The attached files are digitized pages from a scrapbook created by the Clay County Georgia Garden Club. This scrapbook likely documents the club's activities, gardening practices, and history within Clay County, Georgia. It likely contains information such as garden layouts, plant lists, event records, and potentially photos of members and gardens. It provides a historical look at gardening and community involvement in the area.

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Scrapbook pages .tif (llama 2nd attempt)



llama3.3:70b

The attached files appear to be digitized pages from a scrapbook compiled by the Clay County Georgia Garden Club, presumably containing records, photographs, and other memorabilia related to the club's activities and gardening endeavors in Clay County, Georgia.

SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON</p>

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About those images....

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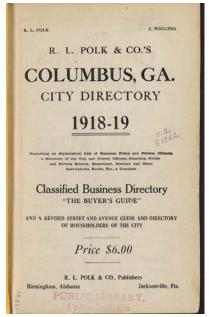
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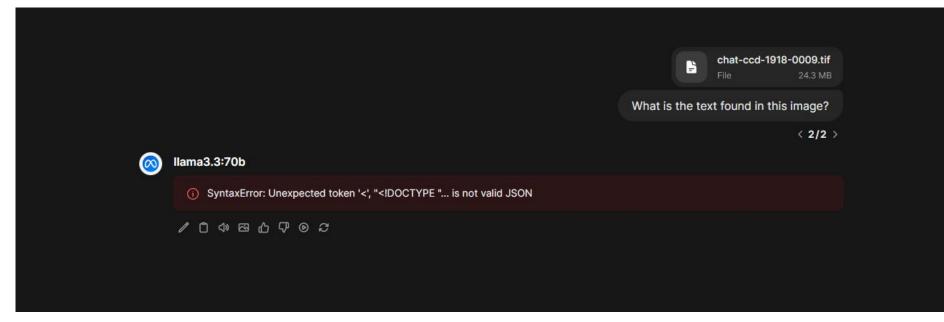
Deplenter 21, 1956

Maybe it will work better on different items?





City Directory .tif (Llama)



City Directory .pdf (Gemini Workspace)

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The file "chat-ccd-1918.pdf" appears to be a 1918-1919 Columbus, Georgia City Directory published by R.L. Polk & Co.

Here are some key details found in the document:

- Title: R.L. Polk & Co.'s Columbus, GA. City Directory 1918-19
- Publisher: R.L. Polk & Co.
- Price: \$6.00
- Publication Date: June 1, 1918
- Content: Includes an alphabetical list of business firms and private citizens, a directory of city and county officers, churches, schools, associations, banks, a classified business directory (The Buyer's Guide), and a street and avenue guide with householders.
- Population Estimate: The directory contains 20,319 names, which the publishers estimate represents a population of 50,797 for Columbus and the surrounding area.
- Advertisements: The document includes numerous advertisements for local businesses, such as insurance agencies, banks, newspapers, and various stores.
- City Information: It also provides information about the city government, county government, fire department, police department, board of education, and other public services.
- Miscellaneous Information: Contains lists of US government officials, state officials, and local US officials.

City Directory .jpg (Gemini)

gemmas.z/u

Here's a breakdown of the image:

What it is:

The image shows the cover of a "City Directory" for Columbus, Georgia, published in 1918-1919. These directories were comprehensive resources for the time, similar to a modern phone book and local business listings combined.

Key Features:

- Title: "R. L. Polk & Co.'s Columbus, Ga. City Directory 1918-1919"
- Publishers: R. L. Polk & Co., with offices in Birmingham, Alabama, and Jacksonville, Florida.
- Content: The directory includes:
 - An alphabetical list of business firms and private citizens.
 - A directory of city and county officials, churches, public and private schools, benevolent, literary, and other associations, banks, etc.
 - A classified business directory ("The Buyer's Guide").
 - A revised street and avenue guide and a directory of householders.
- Price: \$6.00
- Library Markings: It appears this copy belonged to a public library (likely "Columbus, Ga. Public Library") as indicated by the library stamps and identification numbers on the cover.
- Handwritten Numbers: There are some handwritten numbers on the cover, potentially library catalog numbers or accession numbers.

Historical Significance:

These city directories are incredibly valuable for genealogical and historical research. They can provide details about:

- Residents and their occupations
- Business locations and owners
- Community organizations
- Street addresses and property owners

In short, this image is a piece of local history offering a snapshot of Columbus, Georgia, in the early 20th century.

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City Directory .jpg (Llama)

what can you ten me about this image.

< 3/4 >

< 2/4 >



llama3.3:70b

I don't see an image. As a text-based AI model, I don't have the capability to visually access or analyze images. I can only respond based on text inputs.

If you'd like to describe the image to me, I'd be happy to try and help you discuss it or answer any questions you may have about it!

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llama3.2-vision:11b

500: Ollama: 500, message='Internal Server Error', url='http://127.0.0.1:11434/api/chat'

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City Diretory .jpg (phi)

< 5/5 >

phi4-reasoning:14b

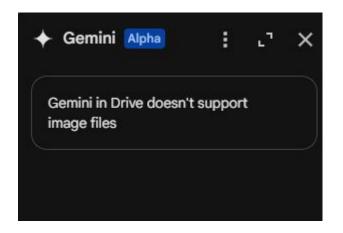
Thought for 6 minutes ∨

I'm sorry, but as a text-based model I don't have the ability to view or interpret images directly. The reference "[img-0]" suggests an image file, but without further details or context (such as a description of what's depicted), I can't provide any insights about its content.

Could you please describe the image or provide additional information? That way, I'll be better able to help answer your question.

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Funeral Photograph .jpg (Gemini)



Funeral Photograph .jpg (Gemini)

gemma3:27b

C

Here's an analysis of the image you sent:

Overall Impression:

The photograph depicts a military funeral service. It's a somber and formal occasion, showing a large gathering of people at a graveside. The image appears to be historical, likely from the early to mid-20th century based on the clothing styles and photographic quality.

Key Elements & Observations:

- · Casket: A casket covered with the American flag is the central focus.
- Military Personnel: Two men in military uniforms are prominently positioned near the casket, likely presiding over the service or acting as pallbearers.
- Large Crowd: A sizable crowd of people is present, dressed in what appears to be period clothing (suits, hats, dresses).
 They are clearly there to pay their respects.
- Flags: The American flag is visible, as well as another flag with a design that I can't quite decipher, indicating a possible unit or organization affiliation of the deceased.
- Grave and Headstone: The casket is positioned over a grave. A headstone is visible, though the inscription is not readable.
- Black and White Photography: The image is a black and white photograph, which is common for photos from the early to mid-20th century.

Possible Interpretation:

Given the details, this is likely a photograph of a military funeral for a veteran or service member. The large turnout suggests the deceased was well-respected or held a prominent position.

Historical Context:

Determining the exact time period or the individual being buried would require further information. However, the style of clothing and photography suggest it's likely from the 1920s - 1950s, potentially around the time of World War I, World War II, or the Korean War.

If you provide any additional information about the source or origin of the photograph, I might be able to offer a more specific and detailed analysis.

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Conclusion

- AI models have a hard time with digitized images, when the model does not have "deep" access to those materials. (know the strengths of your models)
- AI models can hallucinate based on the information you provide them.
- Models designed for reviewing images can provide deep information about the images/items, but the speed is not there yet.

So are their any use cases?



Special Collections Use Case #1

Summarizing well defined collection level metadata for creating high level scope and content notes. The "PAHSDLGHotelsMetadata.xlsx" file details a collection of scanned images, primarily postcards and photographs, centered around hotels and motels in Perry, Georgia, United States. The scope of the collection includes a variety of establishments, ranging from well-known names like Holiday Inn and Howard Johnson's to local motor courts such as the Bel Aire Motel, Colonial Court, Ebony Motor Court, and Perry Motor Court. The content of the images varies significantly, showcasing exterior views of the hotels and motels, promotional postcards, and even historical documentation like newspaper articles and meeting menus. This collection documents the architectural styles, advertising trends, and historical significance of lodging in Perry, Georgia over several decades, with dates of original materials ranging from the early 20th century to recent times. Additionally, some entries also include scanned copies of articles and documents about the hotels. The geographical focus is firmly on Perry, Georgia, primarily along U.S. Highway 41, and the images are mostly photographic prints or digital scans of such prints.

The Gainesville PostCard Collection Metadata file describes a collection of scanned postcards primarily depicting scenes and institutions in Gainesville. Georgia, dating from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. The collection largely focuses on historical views of Brenau College, including its various buildings, campus scenes, and lake. Additionally, the postcards feature images of Gainesville's churches, such as the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches, as well as residential homes of prominent citizens. Several postcards capture scenes from Chattahoochee Park and Lake Warner, showcasing recreational activities and infrastructure like the streetcar and bath house. The collection also includes images of the Georgia Railway and Power Company plant and the Dunlap Dam on the Chattahoochee River, Overall, the postcards offer a visual record of Gainesville's educational, religious, recreational, and infrastructural history during this period.

Sources (1)

Gainesville_PostCardCollection_MetaDa...

Special Collections Use Case #2

AI Models that can handle images can generate rich descriptions for image collections that are large and/or staff time is limited.

provide basic dublin core metadata for this image. For any unknown information, consider it unknown. < 1/2 > gemma3:27b Here's the Dublin Core metadata for the image, based on the provided information and educated guesses where necessary: **Dublin Core Metadata** Title: City Hall (likely referring to the building depicted) Creator: Unknown Subject: Ruins, Disaster, Building Damage, City Hall, Historic Photograph, Destruction Description: A black and white photograph showing a severely damaged City Hall building, possibly after a disaster or collapse. Debris fills the foreground. Date: Unknown Type: Photograph Format: Image/JPEG (assuming standard digital format) Identifier: Unknown Source: Unknown Language: Unknown Relation: Unknown Coverage: Unknown **Rights: Unknown** Notes: The metadata relies heavily on visual interpretation of the image. Many fields are marked as "Unknown" due to lack of information. Further research could help to fill in some of these gaps, such as the specific location and date. () SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<', "<!DOCTYPE "... is not valid JSON

How many AI Images/slides did you notice in this presentation?

Ethical Issues

And Solutions

Ethical Issues

- Problems with description accuracy.
- Problems with description integrity.
- Privacy and Copyright concerns.

Solutions - Transparency, Transparency

- Acknowledgement of AI's roll in generating description or components of finding aids.
 - "Portions of this (item/collection) description were generated using (Specific AI Model and Version). Descriptions may be inaccurate or incomplete. You may report issues with the description (form for submitting changes)
- Explanation of AI's roll in Archives and Special Collections work.
- Documenting any decisions that use AI
- Privacy make sure Deeds of Gift acknowledge AI's use for collections
- Copyright is not a major concern just yet (AI generated content is not copyrightable)

So is ASDI going to Conitue Using AI

Yeah

Questions?



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