

Structured Browsing of Image Databases

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We discuss various techniques to make the browsing and querying of large image collections easier and more efficient and demonstrate how images may be combined with a standard textual database schema in such a way as to make the browsing of these images relatively straightforward. We discuss how, in certain domains, one can also impose a virtual world metaphor on the information through which the user can navigate without difficulty. This is an example of what we call a virtual world database. In such databases, associative retrieval includes two-way navigation between a 3-D graphics representation of a virtual world and particular images, as well as between sets of images.