Meet Flickr.org

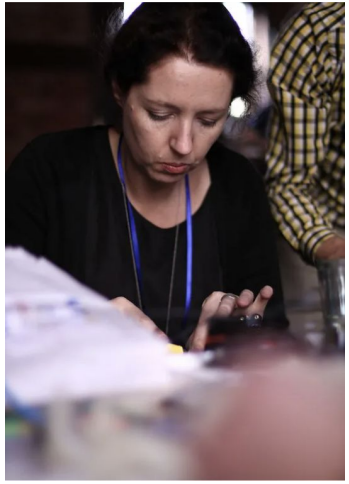
& Data Lifeboat

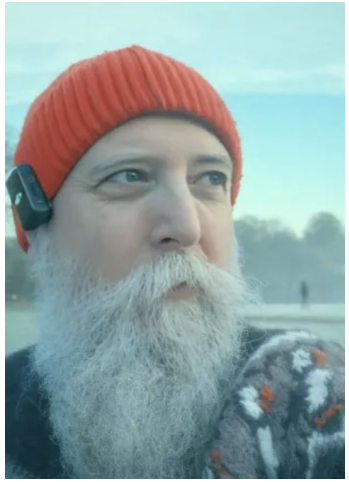
George Oates, glo@flickr.org

flickr.org

Established 2022

Keep Flickr pictures visible for 100 years.





Community
Design
Director
Engineering
Operations
Research

Flickr Commons

A unique collection of historical photography from over 100 cultural institutions from all around the world, all with no known copyright restrictions.

Read more ›

Content Mobility

Investigating the life of a photo before it gets to Flickr, while it's on the platform, and where it might travel after that.

Read more ›

Creative Archives

How might we approach this massive digital archive with fresh 21st century tactics to ensure its longevity?

Read more ›

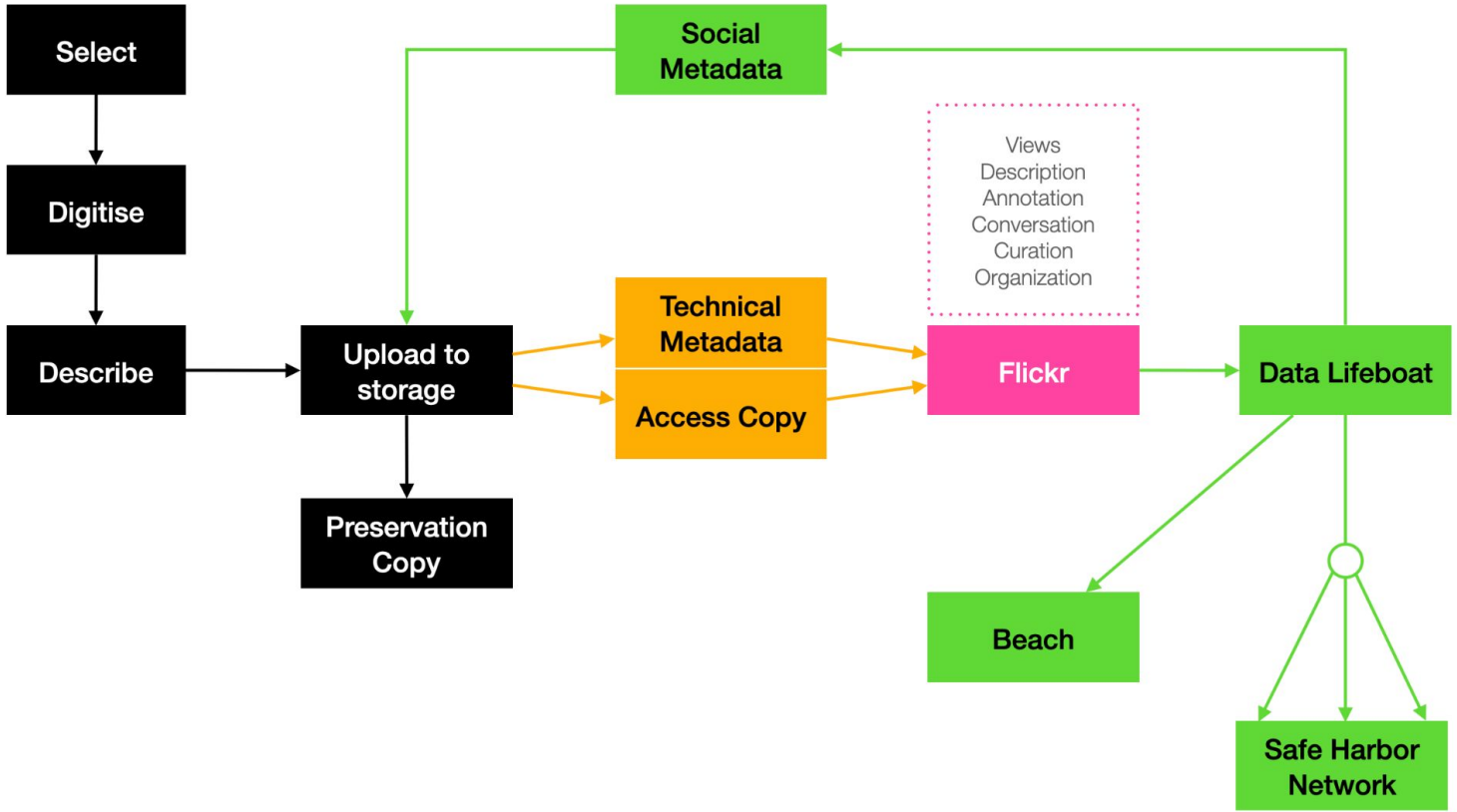
New Curators

Flickr is already full of curation, in albums, galleries, using tags, or sharing in groups. How might we harness this social cataloguing to create new interpretations or arrangements?

Read more ›

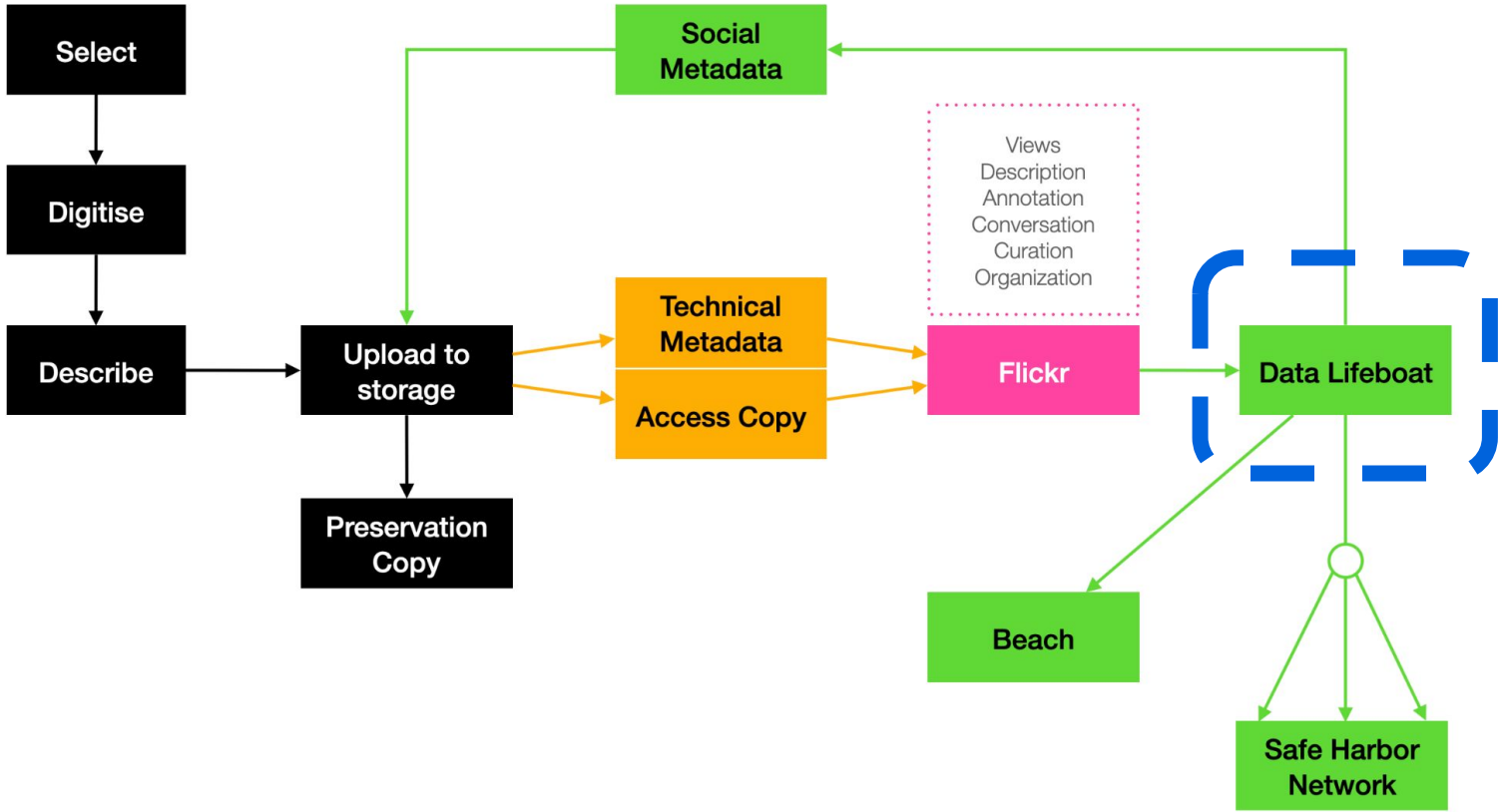
flickr.org/programs

Flickr Commons
17 years old
115 members
1,862,812 photographs
4.54 billion views
344,803 comments by 57,486 people
594,906 tags
commons.flickr.org
TEA HOUSE, KEW GARDEN, DESTROYED BY SUFFRAGETTES
2535-2



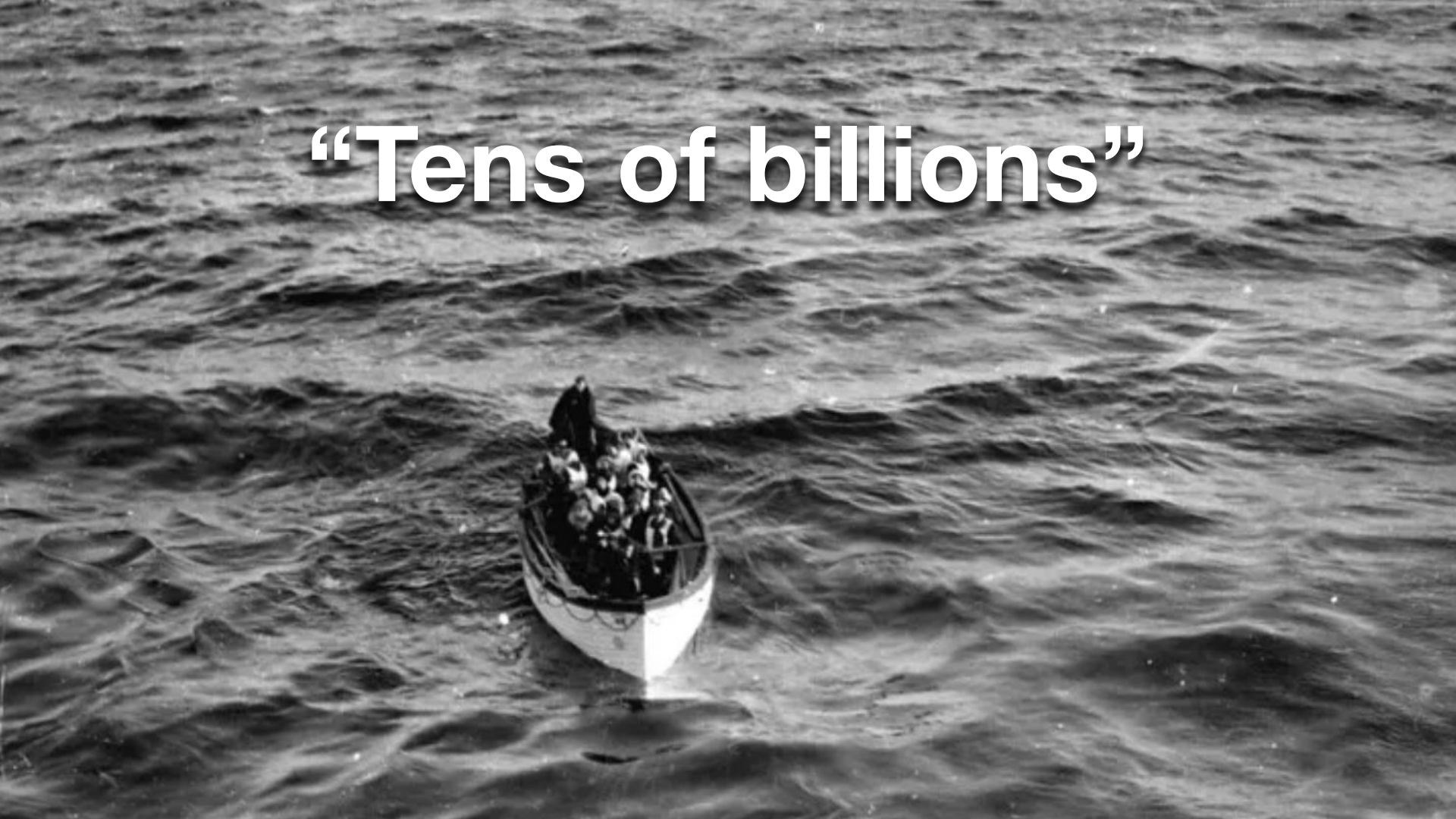
Accessible Archives 2025-2027

flickr.org



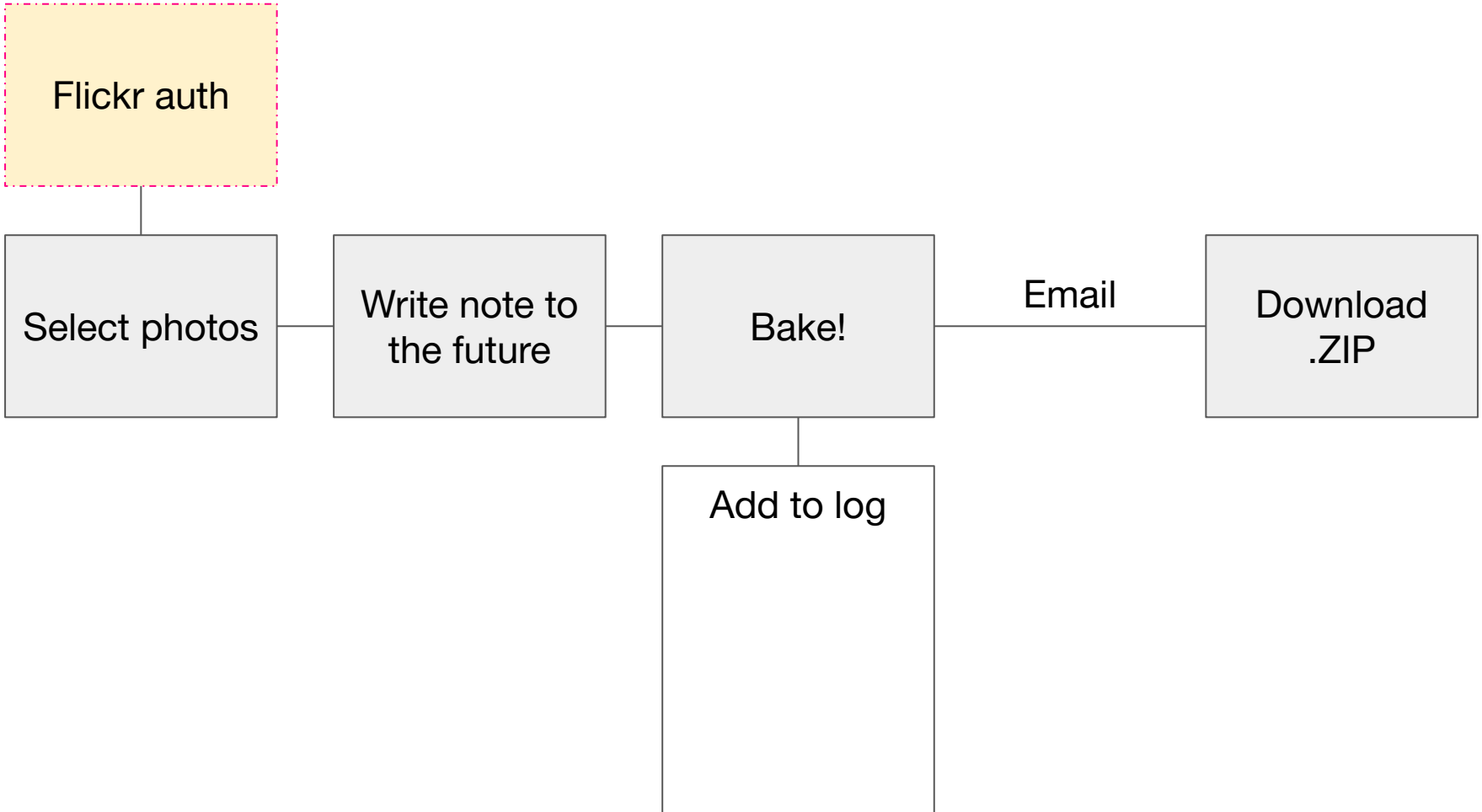
Accessible Archives 2025-2027

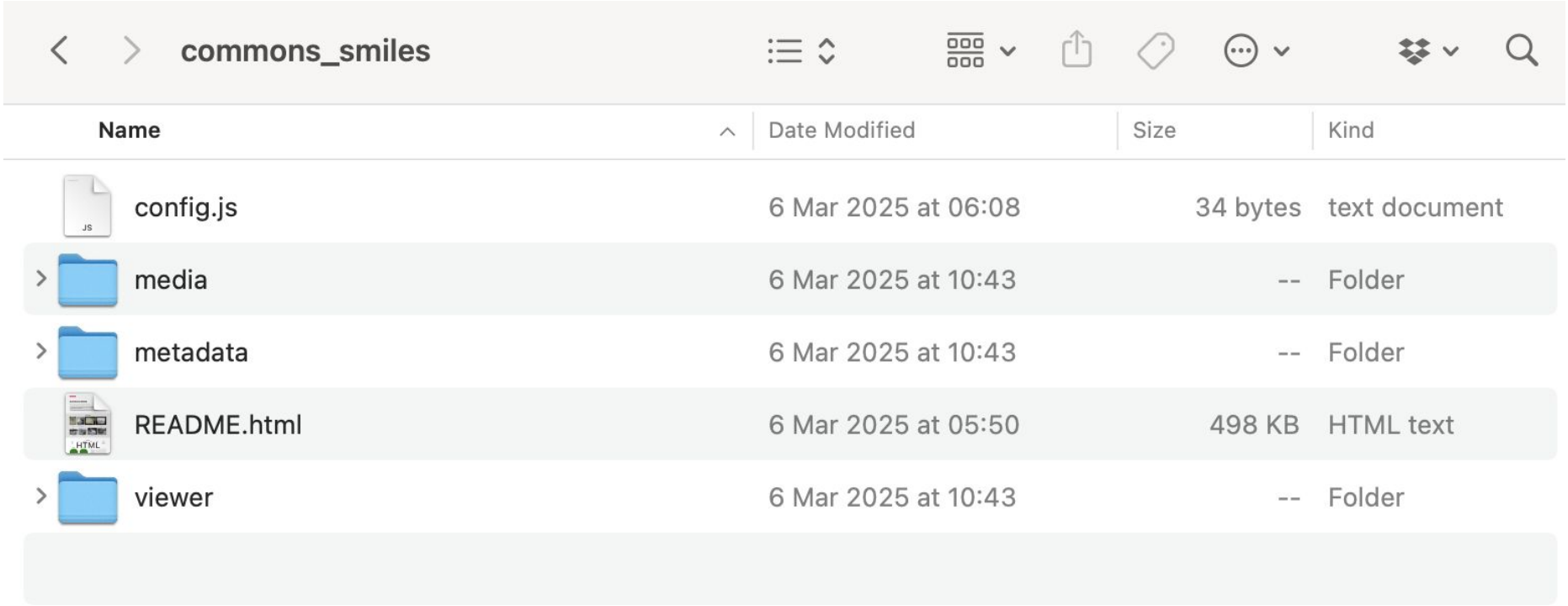
flickr.org

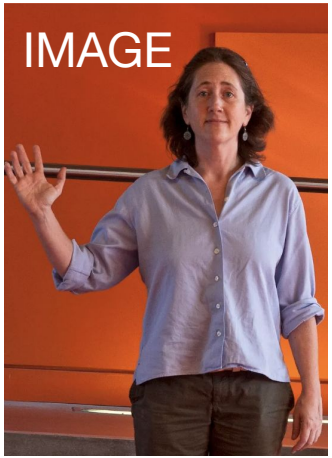

“Tens of billions”

What if

Flickr.com
goes down?


Flickr auth
Select photos
Write note to the future
Bake!
Email
Download .ZIP
Add to log


commons_smiles
Name
Date Modified
Size
Kind
config.js
6 Mar 2025 at 06:08
34 bytes
text document
media
6 Mar 2025 at 10:43
--
Folder
metadata
6 Mar 2025 at 10:43
--
Folder
README.html
6 Mar 2025 at 05:50
498 KB
HTML text
viewer
6 Mar 2025 at 10:43
--
Folder



TECHNICAL
metadata

SOCIAL
metadata

GENERATED
metadata

flickr You Explore Prints Photos, people, or groups

Back to galleries list Edit Comments Share

Commons Smiles

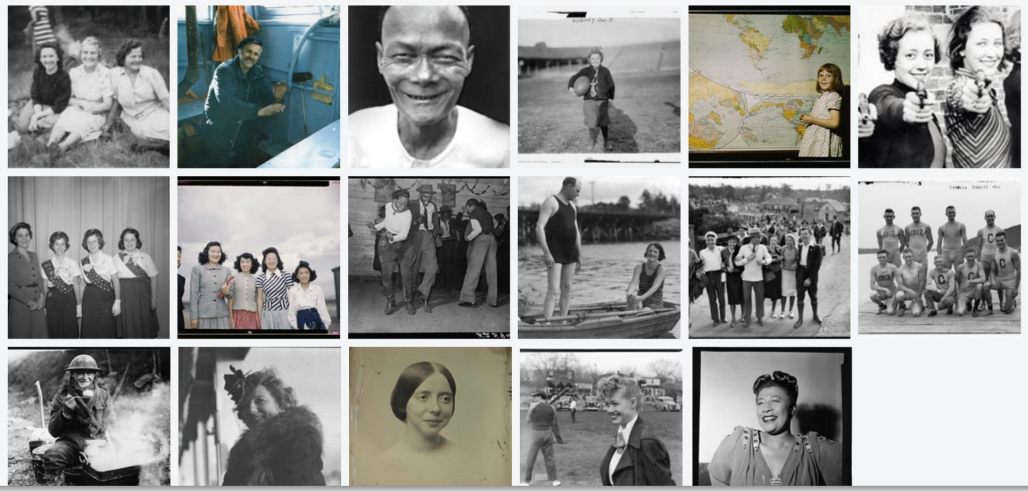
a gallery curated by YOU!

This was always one of my favourite examples of a collection that emerged spontaneously from within the Commons photos, just by adding a tag.

read more

17 items • 478 views • 0 comments

Add Reorder



config.js

media

metadata

README.html

viewer

DATA LIFEBOAT

Photos Documentation

Commons Smiles

This Data Lifeboat was created by George Oates on 6 March 2025.

This was always one of my favourite examples of a collection that emerged spontaneously from within the Commons photos, just by adding a tag.

This Data Lifeboat was created as a demo of the Data Lifeboat for Flickr Foundation staff.

Popular tags

woman

libraryofcongress

smile

smiles

smiling

1940s

women

old

woman

libraryofcongress

smile

smiles

smiling

1940s

women

old

Statistics

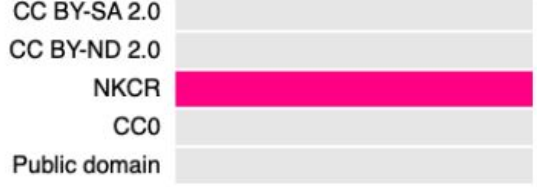
9.2	17	891,451	236	272	465
MB	photos	views	comments	tags	contributors

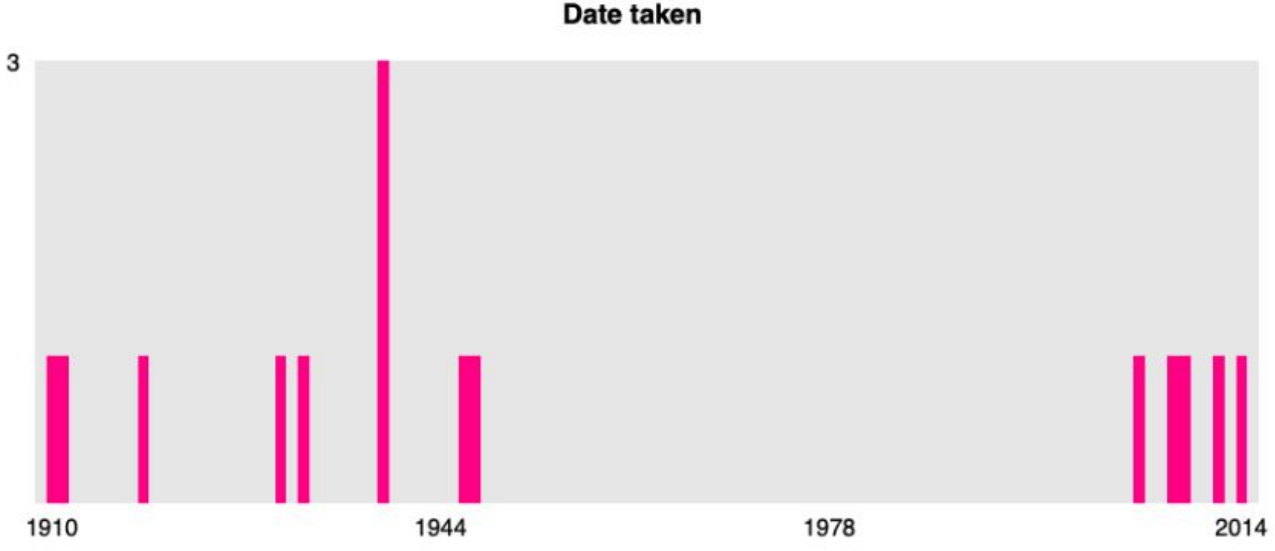
Privacy

Safety

Licenses

All rights reserved	
CC BY-NC-SA 2.0	
CC BY-NC 2.0	
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0	





This Data Lifeboat was created by George Oates on 6 March 2025.

It was created with Data Lifeboat v2025.1 and the ID is COMMONS_SMILES.

This initiative is brought to you by the non-profit Flickr Foundation.

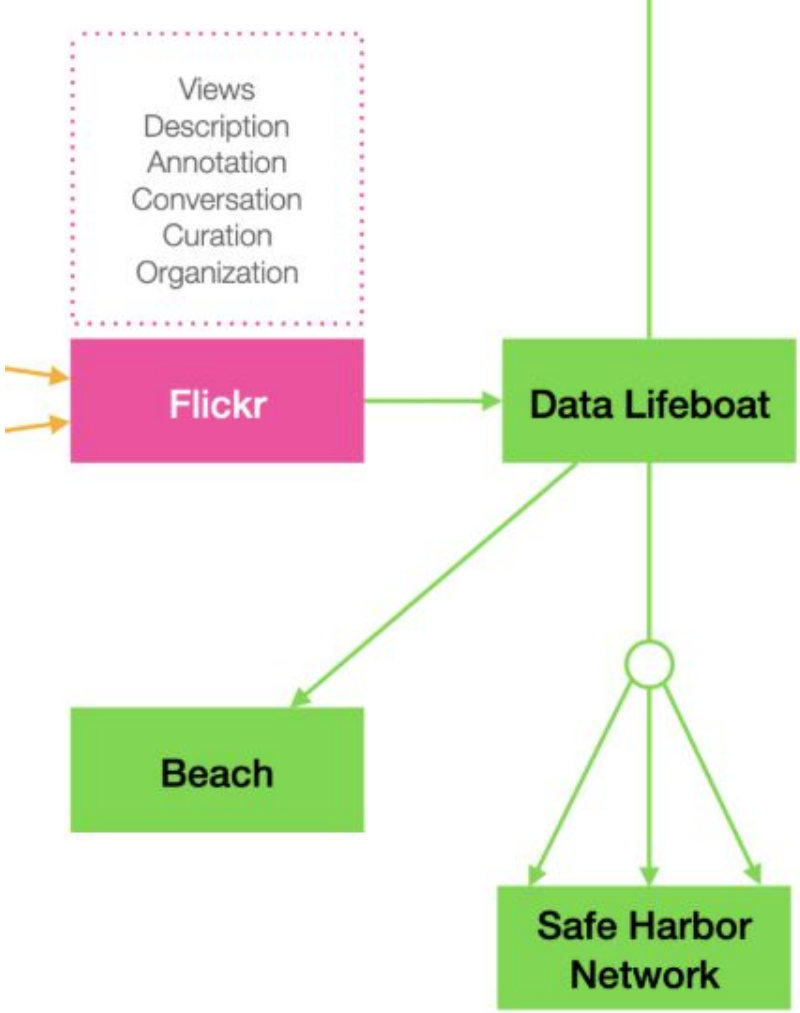
Self-contained, self-describing

What's in a Data Lifeboat?

When you open a Data Lifeboat folder, you'll find the following files and folders:

- `README.html` – this is the entry point to the Data Lifeboat viewer. It opens a tiny app that lets you browse the photos and metadata in this Data Lifeboat.
- `media/` – this has the media files, i.e. the photos and videos that are in this Data Lifeboat. It includes both small low-resolution thumbnails and high-resolution originals (if available).
- `metadata/` – machine-readable metadata that describes all the photos in this Data Lifeboat. You can read the Data docs to understand the structure of these files.
- `viewer/` – this has the code for the viewer that lets you browse the contents of the Data Lifeboat in your browser.

```
This Data Lifeboat was created by George Oates on 6 March 2025.
It was created with Data Lifeboat v2025.1 and the ID is COMMONS_SMILES.
This initiative is brought to you by the non-profit Flickr Foundation.
```


Views
Description
Annotation
Conversation
Curation
Organization
Flickr
Data Lifeboat
Beach
Safe Harbor Network

On archive.org!

Proto dock for Safe Harbor

archive.org/details/commons_smiles

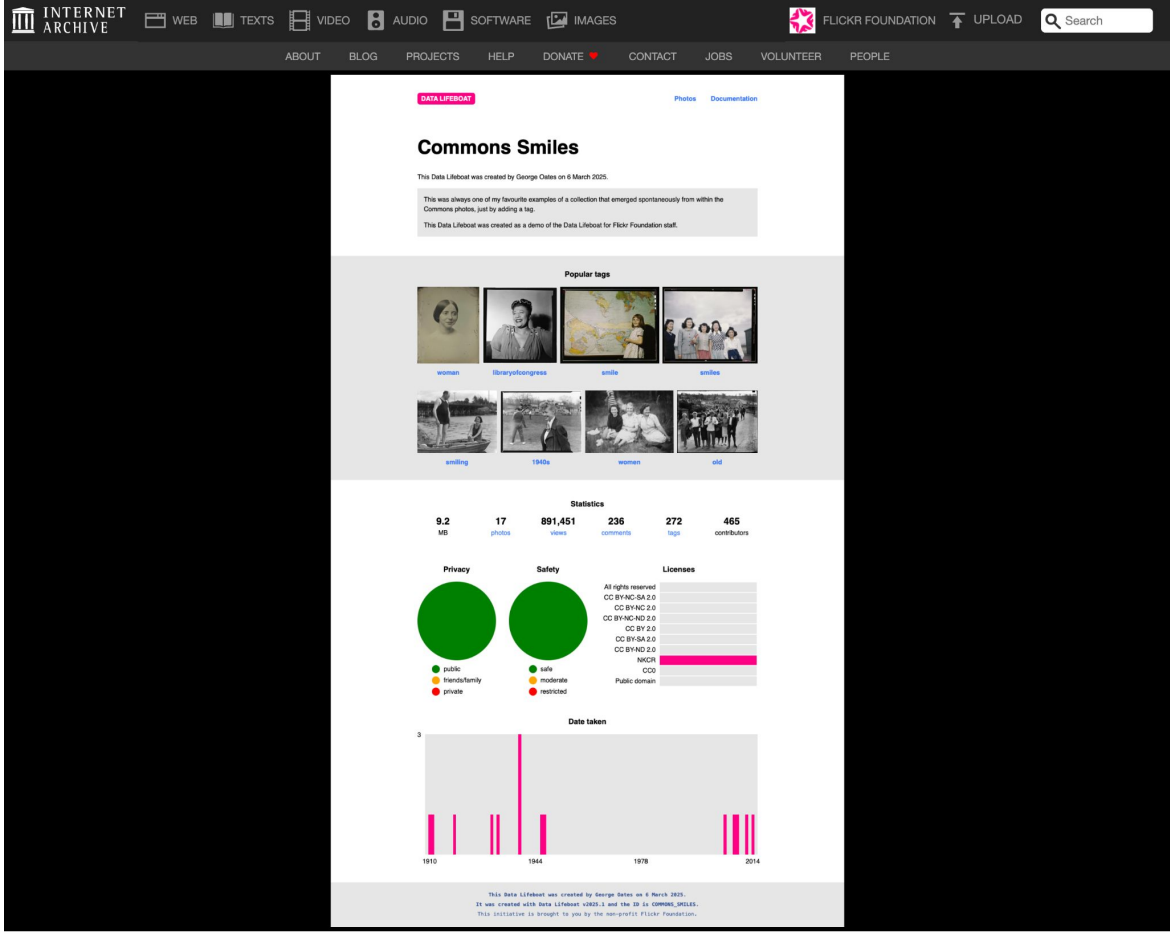
DOWNLOAD OPTIONS

HTML	1 file
ITEM TILE	1 file
PNG	1 file
TORRENT	1 file
ZIP	1 file

SHOW ALL

8 Files

8 Original



82
ENOLA
GAY

DATA LIFEBOAT

Photos Documentation

Enola Gay on Flickr Commons

This Data Lifeboat was created by Flickr Foundation on 24 March 2025.

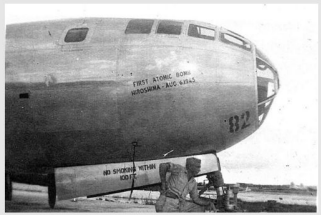
Photos of Enola Gay, gathered so we can preserve them.

This Data Lifeboat was created as a demo of Data Lifeboat.

Popular tags

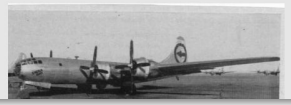
enolagay

aviation



b29

aircraft



airplane

bomber

militaryaviation

projectsilverplate

Statistics

16	6.4	40,820	4	63	8
photos	MB	views	comments	tags	contributors

Privacy

public
friends/family
private

Safety

safe
moderate
restricted

Licenses

All rights reserved	
CC BY-NC-SA 2.0	
CC BY-NC 2.0	
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0	
CC BY 2.0	
CC BY-SA 2.0	
CC BY-ND 2.0	
NKCR	
CC0	
Public domain	

DATA LIFEBOAT

Photos Documentation

Docs

In this documentation section, you can find:

- Information about what Data Lifeboat is (this page)
- Specifications for the machine-readable metadata files inside a Data Lifeboat (see data)
- The policies that the Data Lifeboat's creator agreed to (see policies)

A Data Lifeboat is a self-contained archival sliver of Flickr.com. It contains photos and social metadata – the original image, any metadata added by the member who uploaded it to Flickr, and social context like comments and tags.

Data Lifeboats are created by the Flickr Foundation.

Eventually this page will have a more detailed description of what a Data Lifeboat is.

What's in a Data Lifeboat?

When you open a Data Lifeboat folder, you'll find the following files and folders:

- `README.html` – this is the entry point to the Data Lifeboat viewer. It opens a tiny app that lets you browse the photos and metadata in this Data Lifeboat.
- `media/` – this has the media files, i.e. the photos and videos that are in this Data Lifeboat. It includes both small low-resolution thumbnails and high-resolution originals (if available).
- `metadata/` – machine-readable metadata that describes all the photos in this Data Lifeboat. You can read the Data docs to understand the structure of these files.
- `viewer/` – this has the code for the viewer that lets you browse the contents of the Data Lifeboat in your browser.

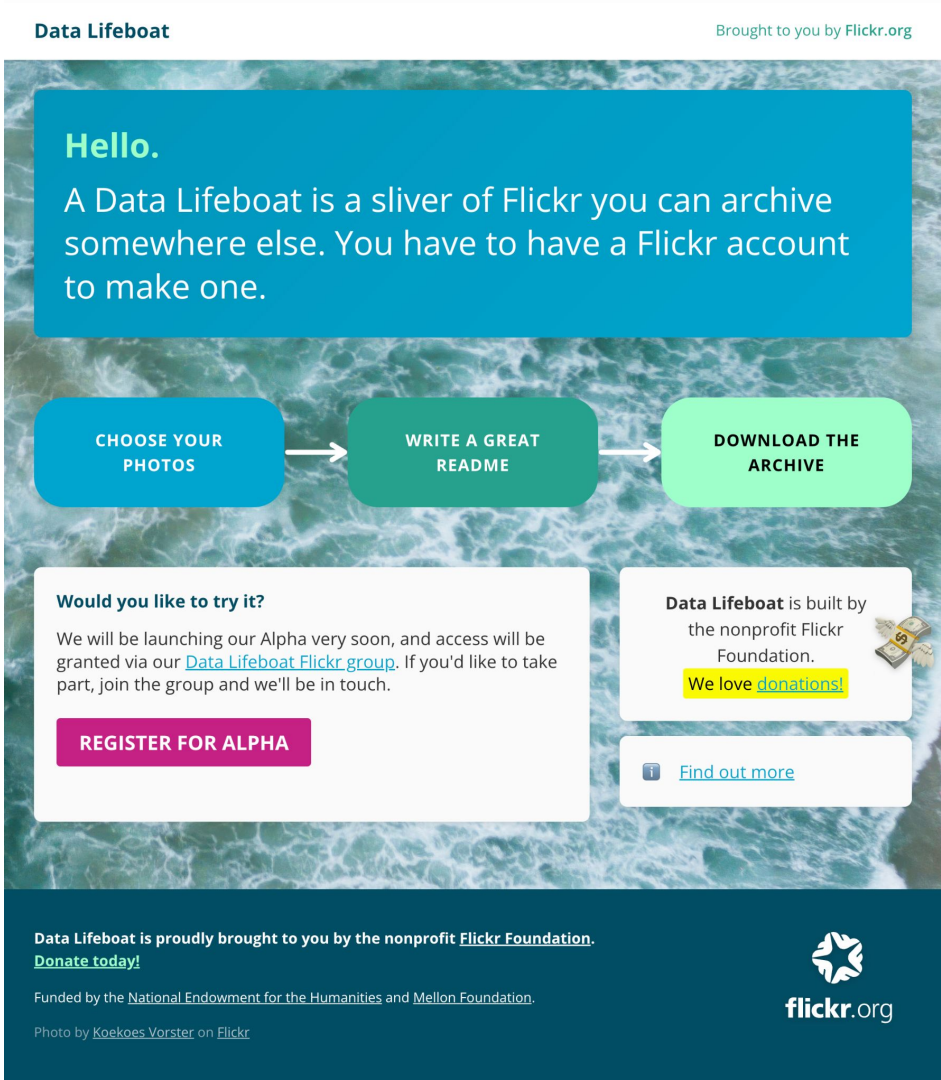
AC.Tibb.P.001 Paul Tibbets

- Uploaded by: SDASM Archives
- License: No known copyright restrictions
- 0 comments
- 2 favorites
- 2,312 views
- Date taken: September 29, 2010
- Date uploaded: September 29, 2010
- Tags: autograph, paultibbets, enolagay, b29, b29stratofortress, tibbets, boeingb29superfortress, boeingb29, silverplate, boeing, aviation, aircraft, airplane, bomber, militaryaviation, projectsilverplate, usaaf4486292, af4486292, 4486292, usaaf, 509thcompositegroup, 509thcg, glennlmartincompany, martin, martinomaha, b29superfortress, boeingsuperfortress, superfortress, b2945mo, wrightaeronautical, wright, wrightr3350, r3350, r335041, pilot
- Visibility: public

Technical and social

datalifeboat.flickr.org

Alpha coming in summer!



Thank you!

Sign up for the Alpha!

datalifeboat.flickr.org

George Oates, glo@flickr.org