




PhotoArcs
creating and sharing photo-narratives



Morgan Ames and Lilia Manguy
Information Visualization and Presentation
Fall 2005

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Narratives in Photography

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Narratives and Identity





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Geoffrey Bowker's lecture at SIMS



- The Ideal of Perfect Memory ...
 - Whatever doesn't make it into digital form will be forgotten
 - Databases are used to store massive amounts of data
 - However... "Database and narrative are natural enemies" (The Database, Manovich 1999)
 - If true, then the database needs to be modified to accommodate narrative, to enable a memory repository
 - Similarly, the saving and sharing of photographs need improvement so stories and memories won't be lost

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Physical Narratives

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Online Albums and Photoblogs

no narrative implicit narrative some narrative primarily narrative



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Timeline Interfaces

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Photo-organization

Timequilt

Fotofile

MediaBrowser

PhotoMesa

PhotoFinder

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Photo-sharing

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Tradeoffs of Existing Methods

- Face-to-face sharing
- Remote sharing:
 - Textual annotation
 - Recording audio clips
 - Online albums and Flickr sets
 - Photoblogs

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Goals for PhotoArcs

- Interactivity in narratives
- Multi-person narratives
 - Narrative balance: from one author to fully-shared
- Cross-album narratives
- Different versions of narrative
- Intersecting narratives
- Narrative histories and identity
- “Ludic Technology” (Bill Gaver)

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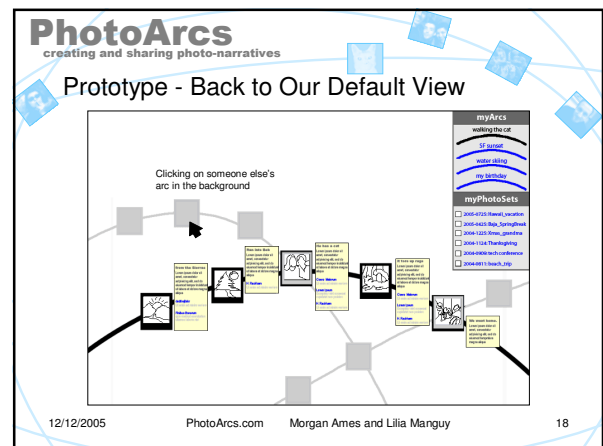
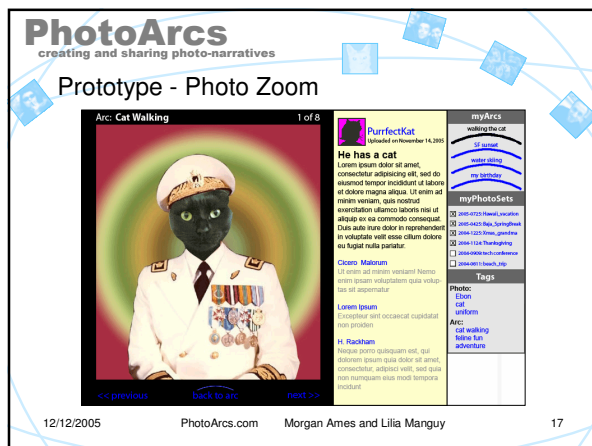
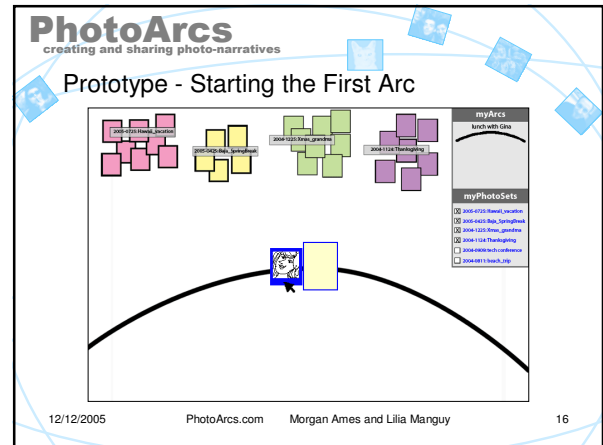
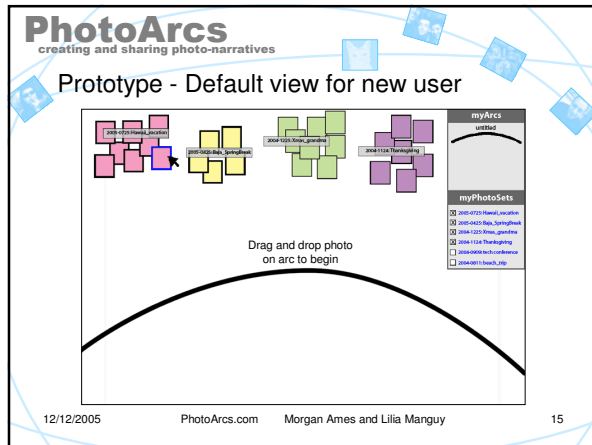
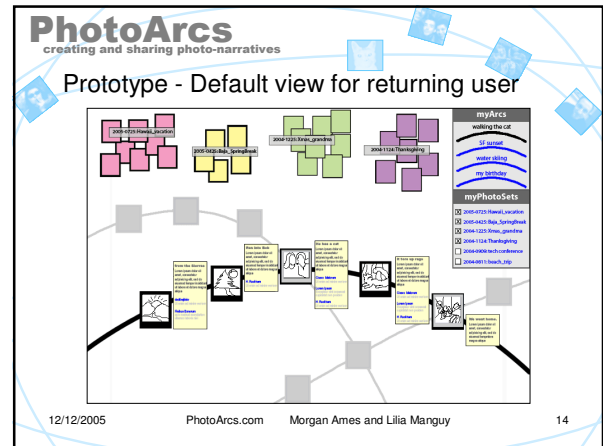
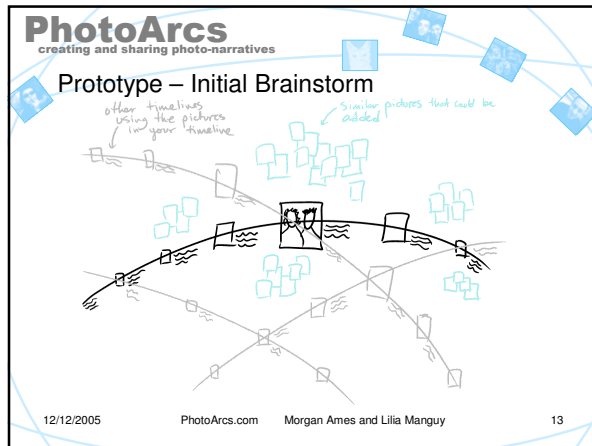
Target Audience

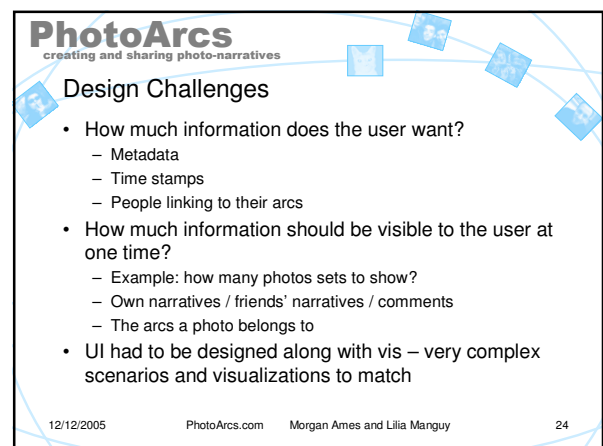
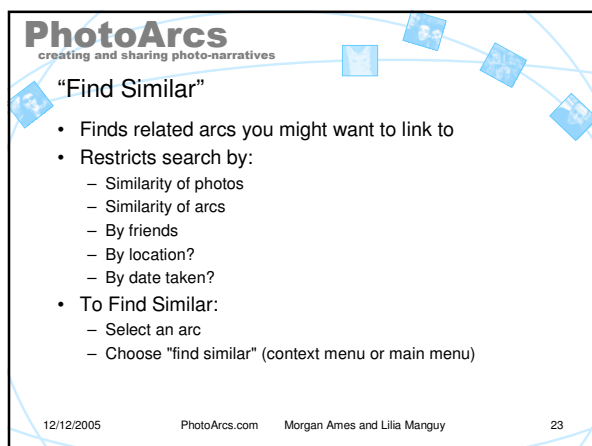
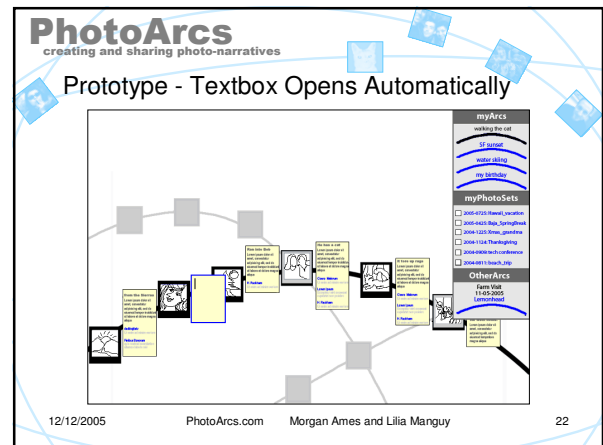
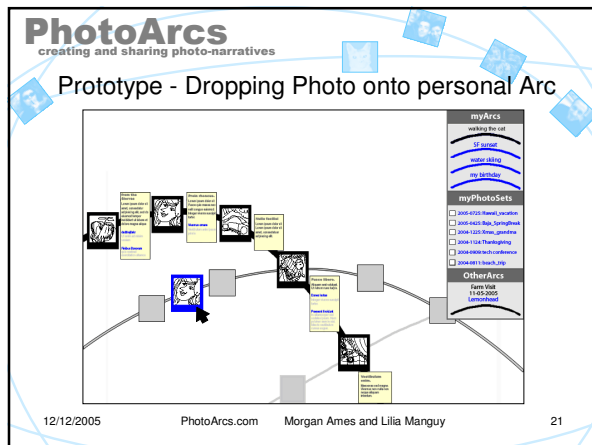
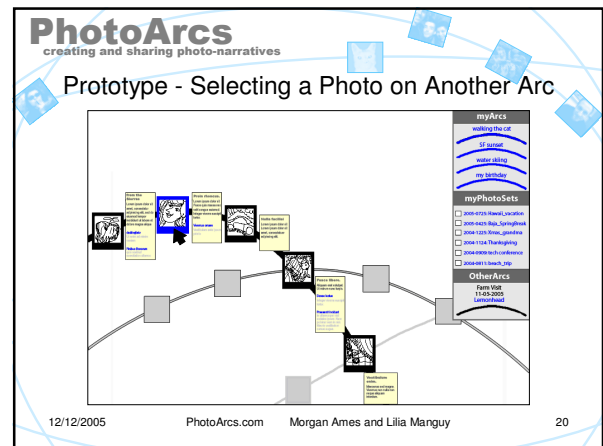
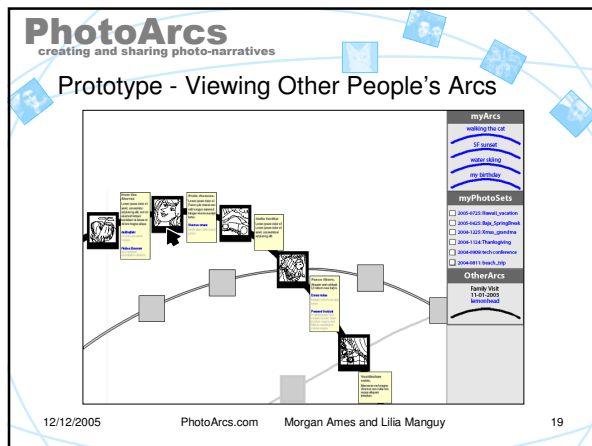
- Photobloggers
- Family photographers
- Life-chroniclers

Use Cases

- Co-narrating a shared event
- Stories for those who weren't there
- Finding others' narratives about the same event

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Design Challenges

- Arcs that intersect multiple times



- Synchronous multi-author narratives

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For Further Exploration

- Privacy filters
- Audio clips (for those who want them)
- Photo-browsing history PhotoArc
- Automatic PhotoArc creation
- PhotoArcs ↔ photoblogs
- Enable playback of the construction of a PhotoArc

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Questions and Discussion

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