

Archipanion

Making collections searchable with AI

ABOUT ARCHIPANION

9

team members

programmers, AI specialists, and archivists

20+

years of history

from software development to AI innovation

5

years in AI

helping Archives, Libraries & Museums use AI
responsibly

Archipanion is the specialist AI division of 4eyes GmbH, a Swiss company co-founded by Markus Stauffiger and Andi Keller and active for more than 20 years.

THE TEAM

Archipanion brings together nine AI specialists, archivists, and software engineers, principally based in Switzerland, with additional specialist staff in Aotearoa New Zealand.

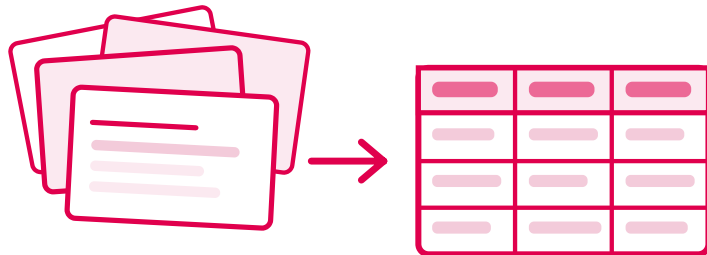
THE FOCUS

Over the past five years, the team has focused on the responsible application of AI for libraries, archives and museums.

TWO PRINCIPAL SERVICES

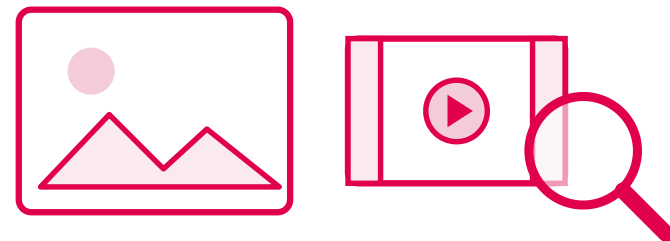
Archipanion's two principal services are **AI metadata extraction** and **AI visual search**.

AI METADATA EXTRACTION



AI metadata extraction transforms large volumes of scanned documents into structured datasets that support fast, collection-wide search.

AI VISUAL SEARCH



AI visual search enables users to explore large image and video collections through visual content rather than metadata alone.

AI metadata extraction

WHAT IT DOES

Archipanion's AI metadata extraction service converts scanned archival records into structured, searchable data by extracting strategically selected fields such as names, dates, reference details and other high-value descriptive information.

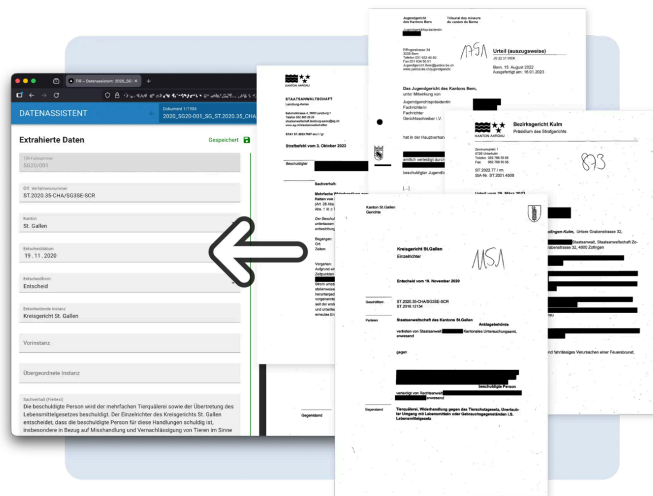
WHERE THE DATA GOES

The resulting data can be integrated into an existing catalogue system and/or made available through a dedicated search interface, allowing users to search across an entire collection while linking every result back to the original digitised record for context and verification.

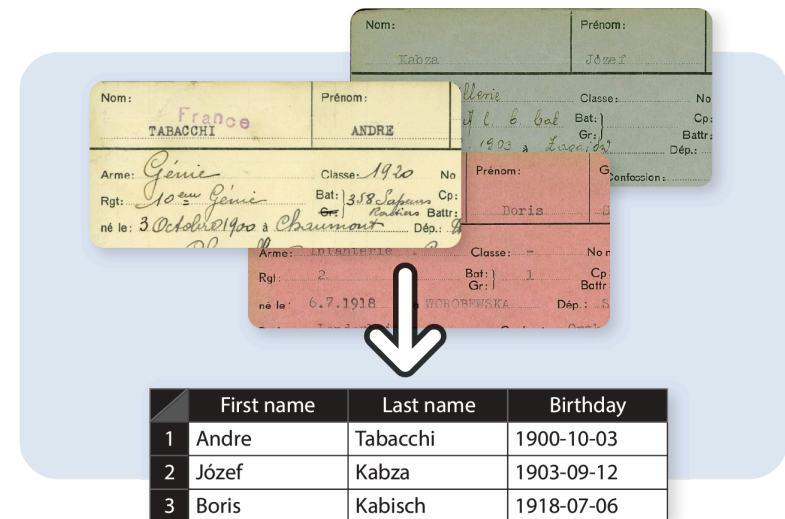
IN PRACTICE

In practice, this means that archival staff, researchers and the public can search across thousands of records at once, reducing work that might otherwise take hours or days of page-by-page checking to collection-wide searching in minutes.

CLIENT EXAMPLES



Tier im Recht receives around 2,000 animal-welfare court decisions each year, from courts across Switzerland's cantons and in German, French and Italian. AI extracts the key details of every case - canton, court, offence category, law articles, etc. - into a structured database.

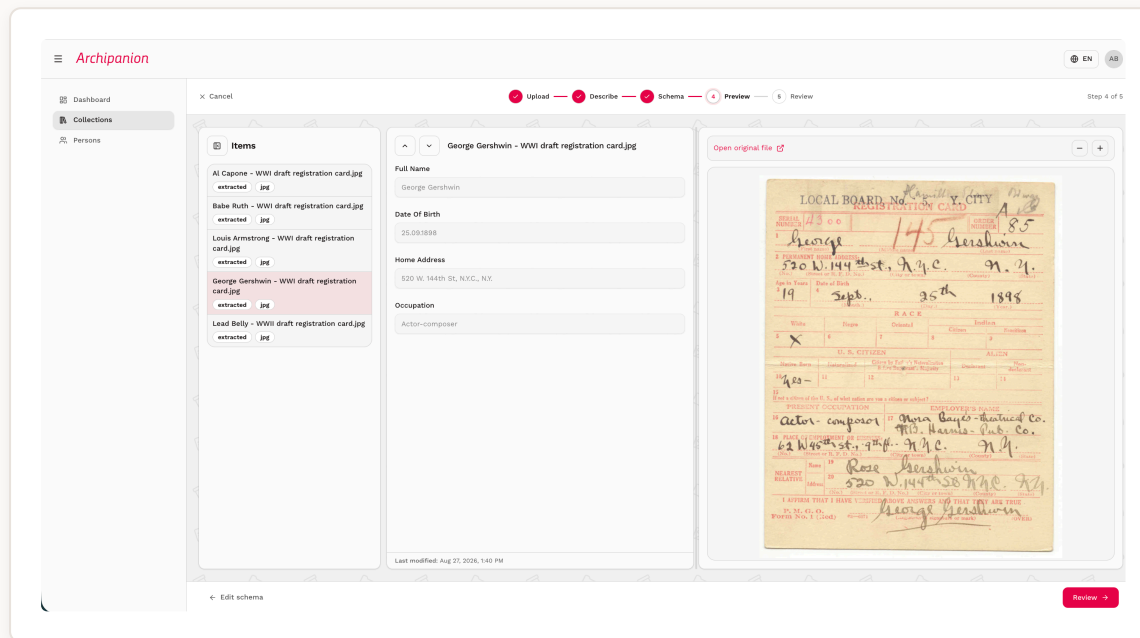


The Swiss Federal Archives hold 500,000 Second World War prisoner-of-war index cards. A pilot made the first 10,000 searchable by name, birth date and birthplace - cutting research time from months to minutes - and the extraction framework is now being applied to the full collection.

Archippanion Extract

Archippanion Extract is a self-service platform for AI metadata extraction. To date, the extraction service has been delivered by Archippanion - institutions supplied scanned collections and Archippanion specialists did the extraction work.

Archippanion Extract moves this work into collection professionals' own hands: archivists upload a collection, describe it in plain language, refine the extraction schema the platform proposes (the set of fields to be extracted, each with its own instruction to AI), preview results against the original scans, verify and correct values, and export structured data for integration into existing catalogue and collection-management systems.



Archippanion Extract enables collection staff to run AI metadata extraction themselves, within their own institution. In this example, George Gershwin's 1918 draft registration card becomes structured data: full name, date of birth, home address, and occupation.

Early access: a first group of institutions is being invited to trial Archippanion Extract on a selection of their own collections.

AI visual search

SEARCH BY WHAT APPEARS IN THE MATERIAL

Archipanion's AI Visual Search service makes image and video collections discoverable through visual content as well as catalogue metadata. The AI system analyses each image and, in the case of video, each frame, identifying content such as people, objects, places, scenes, visual styles and text visible on screen. This allows users to search for what appears in the material itself, rather than relying only on what has been manually recorded in a catalogue entry.

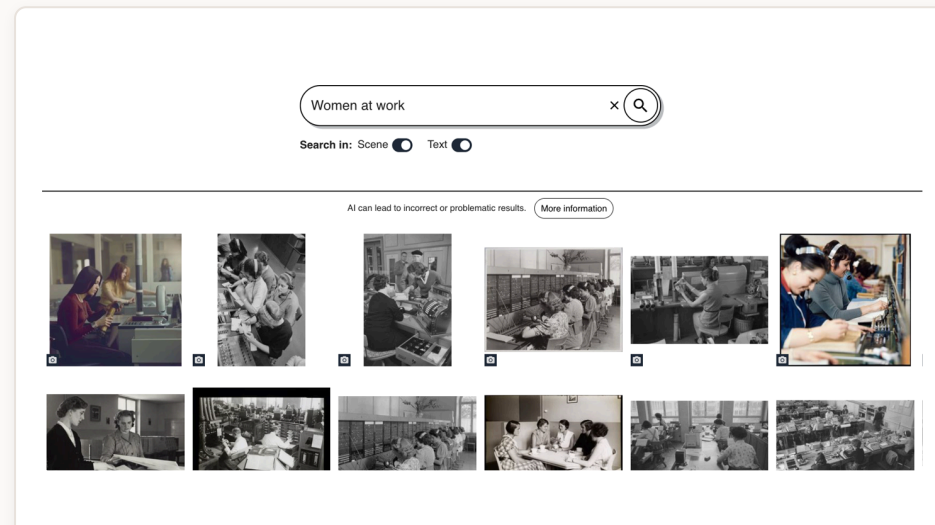
A LAYERED DISCOVERY ENVIRONMENT

Users can search across existing metadata, AI-identified visual content, text in images and video frames, and, for audiovisual collections, full-text audio transcripts. These layers can be combined or switched on and off, helping users refine results while keeping catalogue metadata available as the authoritative contextual layer. The interface supports multi-word queries, cross-language searching, and “Find similar” functionality. For video, search results open directly at the relevant frame or timestamp.

ACROSS LEVELS OF DESCRIPTION

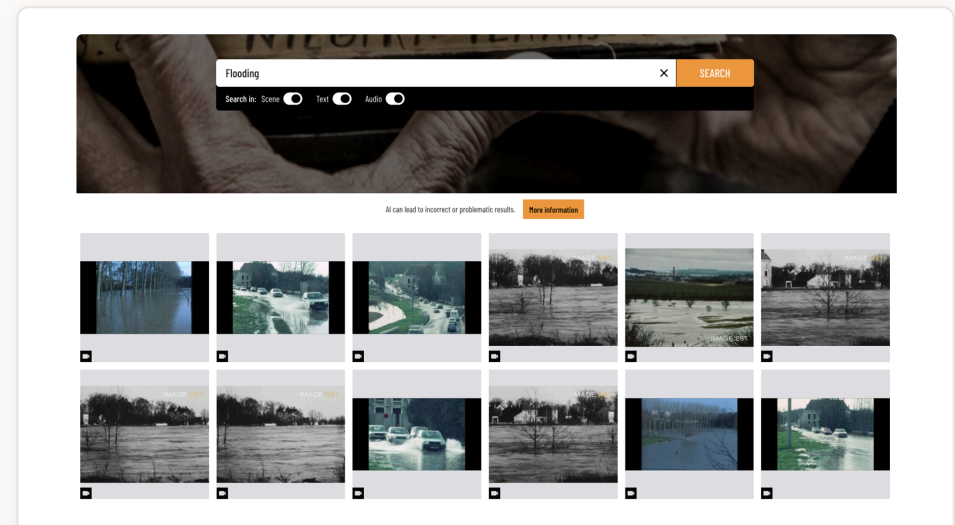
In under-described collections, visual search can make image and video collections searchable even when descriptive metadata is sparse or inconsistent. In well-described collections, it provides an additional way to explore the material, while the catalogue record continues to provide the authoritative archival context.

CLIENT EXAMPLES



AI can lead to incorrect or problematic results. [More information](#)

Searching some 40,000 digitised photographs from the PTT Archive and the Museum of Communication by what appears in the image: a search for **“women at work”** finds switchboard operators and typing pools, even where item-level description is limited.



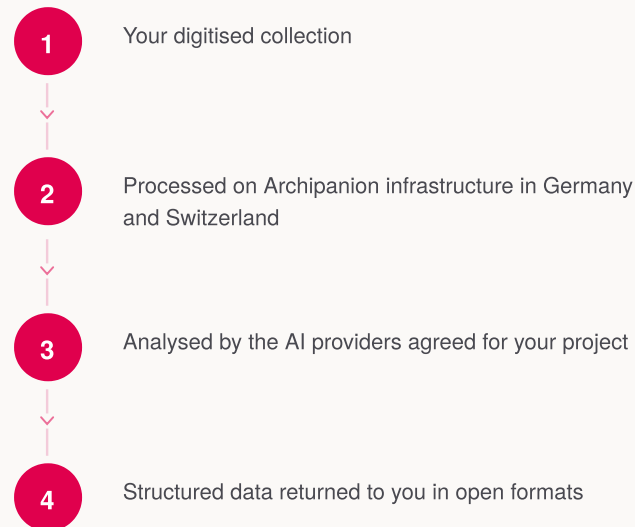
AI can lead to incorrect or problematic results. [More information](#)

A search for “flooding” on Amorce, the public platform of the Díazinteregio film-archive network: more than 200 environment-themed films searchable by scene, on-screen text and spoken word, with each search result opening the film at the relevant moment.

Data protection

Across all of Archipanion's work, AI is applied in line with the specific data protection requirements of the collection being processed.

WHERE YOUR DATA GOES



YOUR COLLECTIONS STAY YOURS

No rights are claimed over your material or the metadata created from it.

NO AI TRAINING

Client data is not used to train AI models. Not by Archipanion, and not by the AI providers we work with.

PROVENANCE STAYS VISIBLE

We can share with you the prompts and models used for your project. For AI metadata extraction, every value extracted by AI from your collections can be viewed side by side against the original, so your experts can check and correct the results before anything enters your catalogue.

SENSITIVE MATERIAL, BY AGREEMENT

Which tools, which providers, which safeguards: agreed with you. Where personal or sensitive data is involved, we prepare the data-processing agreement as part of the setup.

Case studies

Archipanion documents publicly shareable case studies from completed projects so that practice-based experience can contribute to evidence-based learning across the archives, libraries and museums sector.

Collections using AI metadata extraction

Historical Archives of the European Union - agenda details extracted from multi-language Council session documents, discoverable by topic in the existing catalogue.

Swiss Federal Archives - the first 10,000 records of a 500,000-card Second World War catalogue made searchable, reducing search time from months to minutes.

State Archive of Graubünden - archival finding aids turned into structured records for import into their catalogue.

Central Archive of the Evangelical Church of the Palatinate - 1,548 index cards converted into a structured dataset.

Tier im Recht (TIR) - thousands of complex legal documents transformed into a structured database for analysis and advocacy.

Bielefeld University Library - AI-assisted cataloguing of digitised 19th-century children's books.

BKW - key information extracted from around 120,000 legacy infrastructure applications.

Collections using AI visual search

Bern City Archives - around 8,000 digitised photographs searchable by what appears in the image, with the online catalogue for context.

PTT Archive / Museum of Communication - around 40,000 digitised images explorable by visual content.

Swiss Federal Archives (newsreels) - 200+ hours of Swiss newsreels (1940-1975) searchable by visual content and on-screen text.

Amorce (Diazinteregio network film archives) - 30+ hours of environmental archival film searchable by scene, on-screen text and full-text transcript.

Galt Museum & Archives - 18,000 digitised press photographs with little or no metadata turned into a searchable online resource.

“This advancement ensures that the rich visual heritage preserved within the Galt archive can be easily explored and enjoyed by individuals from all walks of life.”

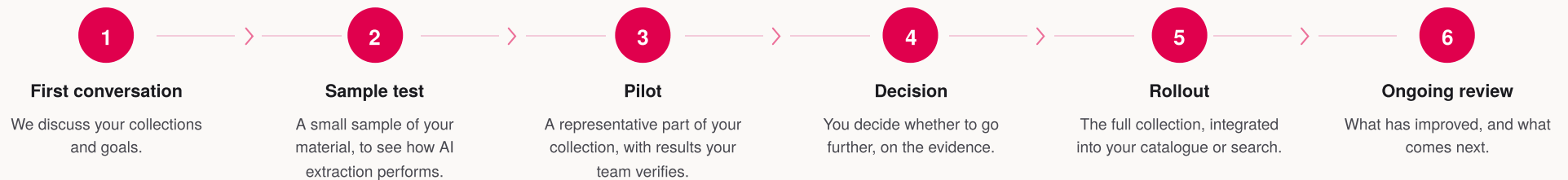
Andrew Chernevych, Head Archivist, Galt Museum & Archives

Read the case studies: www.archipanion.com/en/clients

How we work with you

Six steps take your collection from first conversation to searchable catalogue data.

THE PROCESS



A STAGED APPROACH

Work proceeds in defined stages, each with a clear scope and outcome. Results are reviewed before the next stage is agreed, so there is no large commitment at the outset.

PILOTS MANAGE RISK

A pilot exists to manage risk: you see real results on a sample of your own collection before any larger commitment.

BUILDING ON RESULTS

Regular reviews after rollout look at what has improved for staff and researchers, and what is worth doing next.

What a pilot looks like: a representative sample of your collection, a few weeks from start to results, and a fixed price, typically from CHF/EUR 5,000.

Let's talk about your collection

Our team will talk with you about your collections, your goals, and what is possible.

WEBSITE

www.archipanion.com/en

CLIENT CASE STUDIES

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BOOK A MEETING

www.archipanion.com/meet

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