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An analysis of the Photographs in Digital Archive of UNESCO

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Abstract

The present study discussed the digitally archived photographs available in the digital archive section of the website of UNESCO. A total of 5048 photographs have been analyzed based on the topic, country, year, photographer's name, and the name of the person. It is found that digital archives are playing an important role to know about one's culture, past events, and initiatives. Digital archives are advantageous over traditional archives as they can be preserved for a longer period whereas traditional archives have many drawbacks such as getting damaged by rain, moisture, fire, and natural disasters. Every event that is useful from a future point of view should be digitized.

Keywords- Archive, Digital Archive, UNESCO, Photographs

1. Introduction

Archives have always played an important role as sources of information and knowledge. The primary purpose is the preservation of important objects. To this end, physical objects are collected and organized according to rules established by archivists. Archives usually contain diverse objects including textual documents (e.g., manuscripts), graphical objects (e.g., paintings and drawings), or three-dimensional objects (e.g., sculptures). In short archives are collections of objects.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the world has entered a digital revolution where digital tools and apps are used extensively. So due to the fast revolution of technology digital information has become an even more important asset. This leads to archiving the documents in digital form. The digital archive also provides security of historical documents in terms of fire, humidity, and rain because these are archived in a digital format, not in manual form.

Digital archives today not only provide unprecedented access to rare archival materials but also enhance the exploration of these materials when integrated with tools for image analysis, data mining, and other modes of textual analytics.

2. Review of Literature

Several studies have been published on the topics related to photographs as mentioned below:

Meier (2021) studied bridging Aesthetics and Mathematics education using photography. The study is based on the "Mathematics and Photography" research project conducted at Volda University College in the period from 2016-2018. **Spires et. al. (2021)** worked on photography to explore people with diabetes' perspectives on food environments and observed a change in diet at the population level—a shift from a traditional diet, to one consisting of more energy-dense, processed foods, with more added sugar, salt, and fat. Implicated in this degradation of diet are changing local food environments.

Bäckman (2020) conducted a study on contract-labour photographs. The focus of this study was the work of photographer Gunnar Lundh, specifically the works collectively known as the stature photographs, images of rural contract laborers (or stature) that form part of a collection donated to the Nordic Museum in 1961. **Callau et. al. (2019)** studied landscape characterization. This study aimed to analyze the use of automated content analysis from photographs on Wikiloc, a crowdsourced sports platform, to characterize the landscape in the Ebro Delta Natural Park, a protected area in Spain.

Totty et.al. (2018) worked on the use of photographing surgical site infection. The objective of the study was to assess whether a clinician reviewing photographs of a wound was an acceptable substitute for clinical review to identify or exclude surgical site infection (SSI).

Mattouk and Talhaouk (2017) conducted a study on content analysis of nature photographs taken by Lebanese rural youth. The objective of this study is to analyze the findings of primary research involving a group of young people who live in rural areas in Lebanon and was conducted

with 77 young people aged 7–16 and residing in five rural villages located in different parts of Lebanon.

Peng (2017) worked on sharing food photographs on social media. This study aimed to analyze the sharing of food photographs on social media. **Kędra (2016)** conducted a study on enhancing visual literacy through the interpretation of photo genres. The study analyzed a typology that sets out four photo genres: news photography, reportage photography, portrait photography, and illustrative photography, with related phototypes.

Review of literature shows that few studies have been published on photographs. Literature review also revealed that no study have been published on/related to digital archive of UNESCO.

3. Objectives of the Study

The major objective of the present study is to analyze the photographs of the digital archive of UNESCO. Subsequently, the sub-objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out decade-wise distribution of photographs.
2. To find out topic/theme-wise distribution of photographs.
3. To find out continent-wise distribution of photographs.
4. To find out photographer-wise distribution of photographs.

4. Method of the study

The data presented in this paper have been accessed from the Digital Archive section of the official website of UNESCO. The digitization was made under the project named **Digitizing Our Shared UNESCO History** and there were an estimated 1,70,000 photographs from which only 5048 important photographs have been selected which covered geographical, cultural, and chronological diversity.

The collected data of photographs were sorted according to year, topic/theme, name of countries, and name of photographers, and the collected data is analyzed and interpreted using MS Excel. Some steps followed for the analysis of data to obtain the best results are as follows:

1. The data collected on an excel sheet has been separated using the sorting option and sorted according to year, topic/theme, country, and name of the photographer.

2. Further sorting is applied to the year to arrange it in ascending order using the smallest to largest option and then single years are separated to give a count to each year to know how many photographs are available in a single year.
3. Similarly, the topic/theme, geographical region, and name of the photographer have been also arranged in alphabetical order to give a count to know the exact number of photographs of a single topic/theme, country, and name of the photographer respectively.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

After the collection of data next step is analysis and interpretation of data. Data has been analyzed to bring order, structure and significance to the data collected. Data has been analyzed through frequency and percentage. Frequency analysis is extremely important for analysis and interpretation of any data at a glance. This will provide extremely useful information of photographs digitally archived in UNESCO.

Here F denotes Frequency and P denotes Percentage.

5.1 Decade-wise distribution

Table 5.1: Decade-wise distribution of photographs

S.No.	Year	F	P
1.	1940 – 1949	24	0.48%
2.	1950 – 1959	568	11.25%
3.	1960 – 1969	2985	59.13%
4.	1970 – 1979	1043	20.66%
5.	1980 – 1989	354	7.01%
6.	1990 – 1999	74	1.47%
Total		5048	100%

Table 5.1 shows the decade-wise distribution of photographs. It was found that there is a total of six-decade i.e. 1940-1949, 1950-1959, 1960-1969, 1970-1979, 1980-1989 and 1990-1999 in which every decade represents some frequencies of photographs which were captured such as 24(0.48%), 568(11.25%), 2985(59.13%), 1043(20.66%), 354(7.01%) and 74(1.47%) respectively.

It has been observed that the decade 1960-1969 has the highest number of photographs whereas the decade 1940 -1949 has the lowest number of photographs captured.

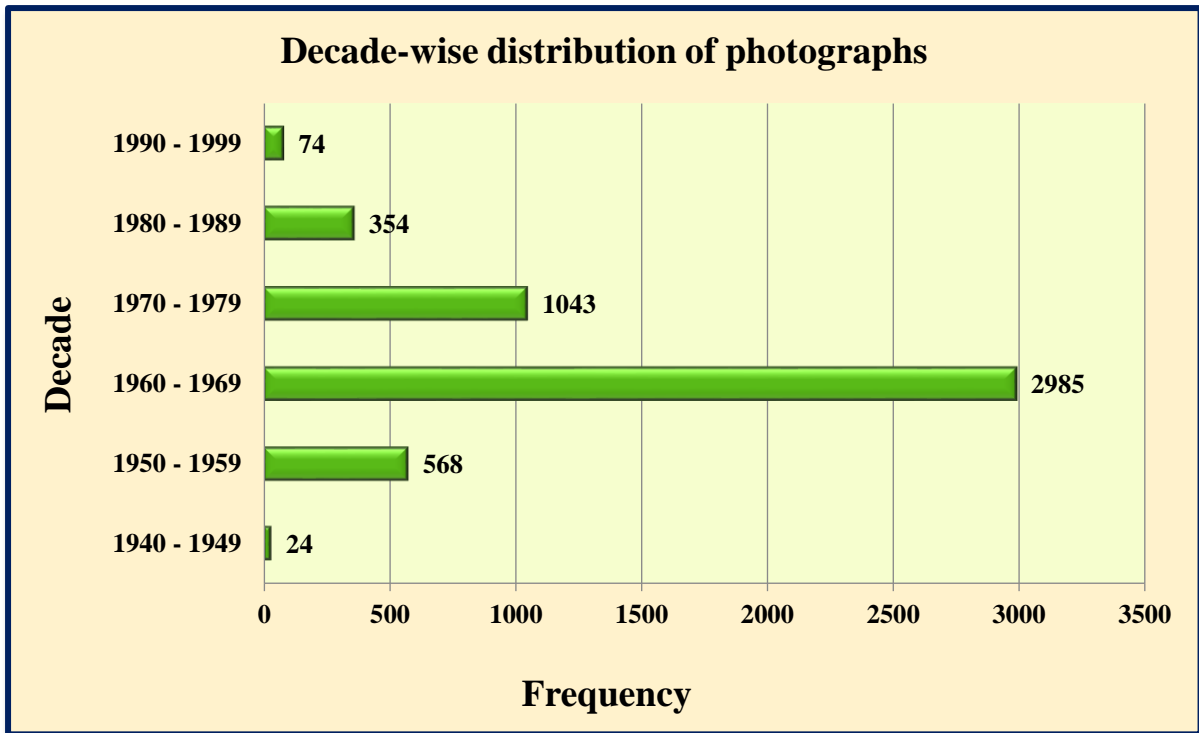


Figure 5.1

5.2 Topic/theme-wise distribution

Table 5.2 Status of availability and non-availability of Topics/Themes of photographs

S. No.	Status of Topics/Themes					
	Indicated		Not Indicated		Total	
1.	F	4992	F	56	F	5048
2.	P	98.89%	P	1.11%	P	100%

Table 5.2 shows the availability and non-availability status of the topics/themes of photographs. Out of 5048 photographs, 4992(98.89%) photographs have topics/themes, while 56(1.11%) do not have topics/themes in the photographs.

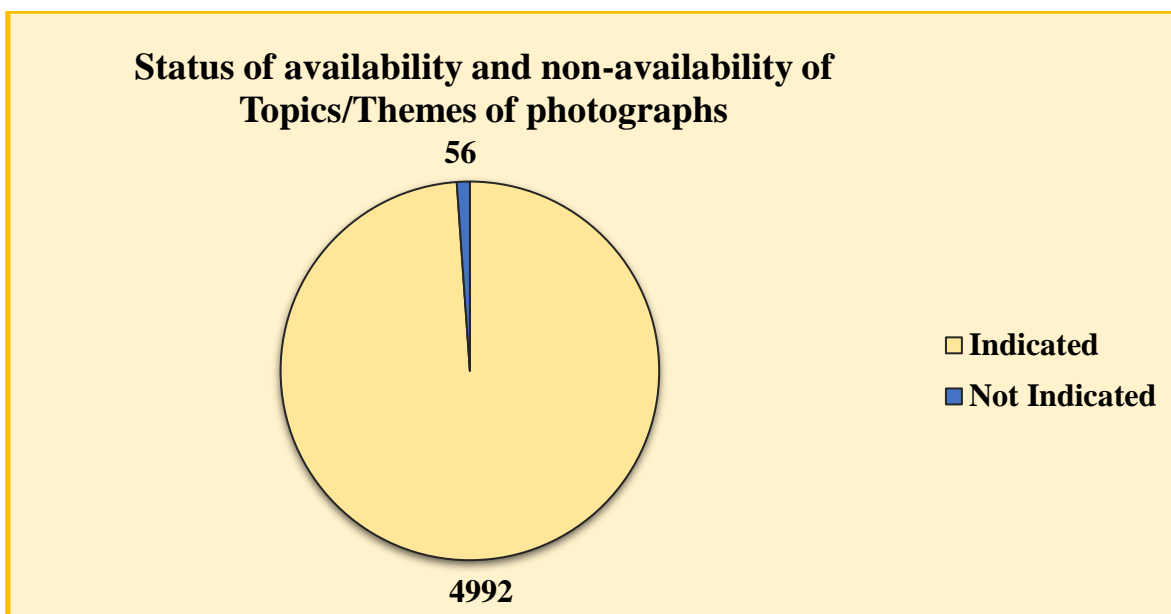


Figure 5.2

Table 5.2.1: Topic/Theme-wise distribution of photographs

S. No.	Topic/Theme	F	P
1.	Arid Zones	120	2.40%
2.	Arts and Recreation	243	4.87%
3.	Campaign	437	8.75%
4.	Education	708	14.18%
5.	Library/Reading	153	3.06%
6.	Nubia Campaign	418	8.37%
7.	Primary Education	429	8.59%
8.	Science	449	8.99%
9.	Social Science	526	10.54%
10.	Teacher Training	463	9.27%
11.	Technology	33	0.66%
12.	UNESCO History	460	9.21%
13.	UNESCO World Heritage	397	7.95%
14.	Women	94	1.88%
15.	Written Press/Vernacular languages	62	1.24%
Total		4992	100%

Table 5.2.1 depicts the Topic/Theme-wise distribution of Photographs and represents the overview of all photographs. An analysis is made on 4992(98.89%) photographs in terms of the topics/themes excluding all 56(1.11%) photographs in which topic/theme is not indicated.

It has been observed that the topic/theme of Education is covered the maximum number of times i.e. 708(14.18%) and Technology is covered the lowest number of times i.e. 33(0.66%) whereas Social Science, Teacher Training, UNESCO History, Science, Campaign, Primary Education, Nubia Campaign, UNESCO World Heritage, Arts and Recreation, Library/Reading, Arid Zones, Women and Written Press/Vernacular languages has the frequency 526(10.54%), 463(9.27%), 460(9.21%), 449(8.99%), 437(8.75), 429(8.59%), 418(8.37), 397(7.95%), 243(4.87%), 153(3.06), 120(2.24%), 94(1.88%) and 62(1.24%) respectively.

5.3 Continent-wise distribution.

Table 5.3 Photographs with country name

S. No.	Photographs with country name					
	Indicated		Not Indicated		Total	
1.	F	4711	F	335	F	5048
2.	P	93.32%	P	6.64%	P	100%

Table 5.3 shows the photographs with country names where photographs were to be taken. Total out of 5048 photos, 4711(93.32%) photographs have country names while 335(6.64%) do not have country names.

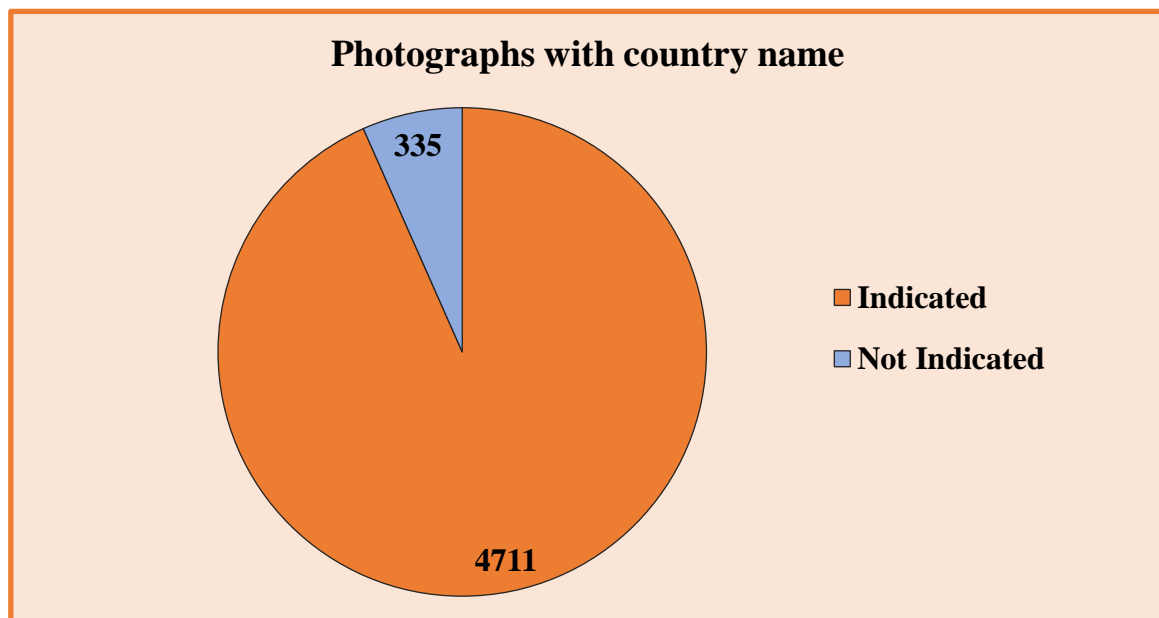


Figure 5.3

Table 5.3.1: Continent-wise distribution of photographs

S. No.	Continent	Country	F	P
1.	Africa	42	1546	32.82%
2.	Asia	32	1276	27.09%
3.	Europe	24	937	19.89%
4.	North America	13	218	4.63%
5.	South America	11	312	6.62%
6.	Australasia, Pacific Ocean Islands, Atlantic Ocean Islands, Arctic Islands, Antarctica, extraterrestrial world	9	26	0.55%
7.	Egypt; Syria; United Arab Republic (Nubia Campaign)	-	396	8.41%
Total		131	4711	100%

Table 5.3.1 depicts the continent-wise distribution of photographs. DDC 23rd edition has been used to distribute photographs continent-wise. There is a total of 4711(93.32%) photographs excluding all 335(6.64%) in which country name is not indicated. There is a total of 42 countries in the African continent in which a total of 1546(32.82%) photographs have been captured whereas in Asia continent total of 32 countries have 1276(27.09%), Europe continent totals 24 countries have 937(19.89%), North America continent total 13 continent have 218(4.63%), South America continent total 11 countries have 312(6.62%) and Australasia, Pacific Ocean Islands, Atlantic Ocean Islands, Arctic Islands, Antarctica, extraterrestrial world continent total 9 countries have 26(0.55%) number of photographs to be captured whereas Egypt; Syria; United Arab Republic (Nubia Campaign) with the frequency of 396(8.41%) photographs.

5.4 Photographer-wise distribution

Table 5.4: Status of availability and non-availability of the name of photographers of photographs

S. No.	Status of the name of Photographers					
	Indicated		Not Indicated		Total	
1.	F	4610	F	438	F	5048
2.	P	91.32%	P	8.68%	P	100%

Table 5.4 shows the availability and non-availability status of the name of photographers of photographs. Out of 5048 photographs, 4610(91.32%) photographs have the name of the photographer while 438(8.68%) do not have the name of the photographer respectively.

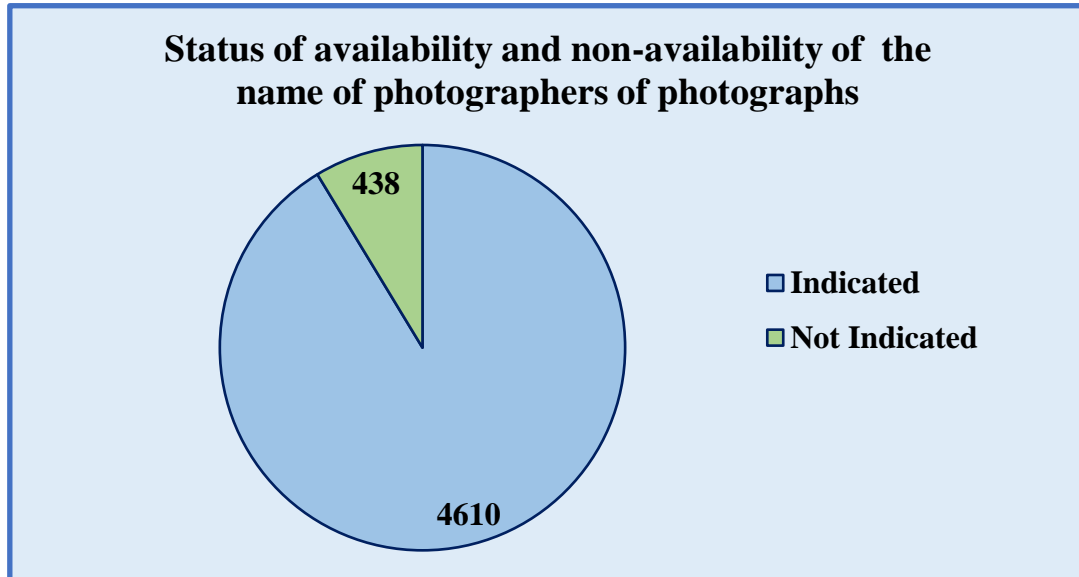


Figure 5.4

Table 5.4.1: Top 10 Photographers

S. No.	Name of Photographer	F	P
1.	Alexis N. Vorontzoff	261	10.34%
2.	Dominique Roger	1315	52.10%
3.	Eric Schwab	141	5.59%
4.	Gerda Bohm	65	2.58%
5.	M. Serrailier	79	3.13%
6.	Michel Claude	107	4.24%
7.	Paul Almasy	336	13.31%
8.	Paul Almasy; Vauthey	70	2.77%
9.	Pierre A. Pittet	63	2.50%
10.	Rex Keating	87	3.45%
Total		2524	100%

Table 5.4.1 shows the data of the top 10 photographers. It was found that among all these top 10 photographers Dominique Roger has taken the highest number of photographs i.e. 1315(52.10%) whereas Pierre A. Pittet has taken the lowest number of photographs i.e.

63(2.50%). The photographers such as Paul Almasy, Alexis N. Vorontzoff, Eric Schwab, Michel Claude, Rex Keating, M. Serrailier, Paul Almasy; Vauthey, and Gerda Bohm are at second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh eighth, and the ninth position with their respective frequencies 336(13.31%), 261(10.34%), 141(5.59%), 107(4.24%), 87(3.45%), 79(3.13%), 70(2.77%) and 65(2.58%). It is also observed that among these top 10 photographers there is more than one photographer i.e. Paul Almasy; Vauthey.

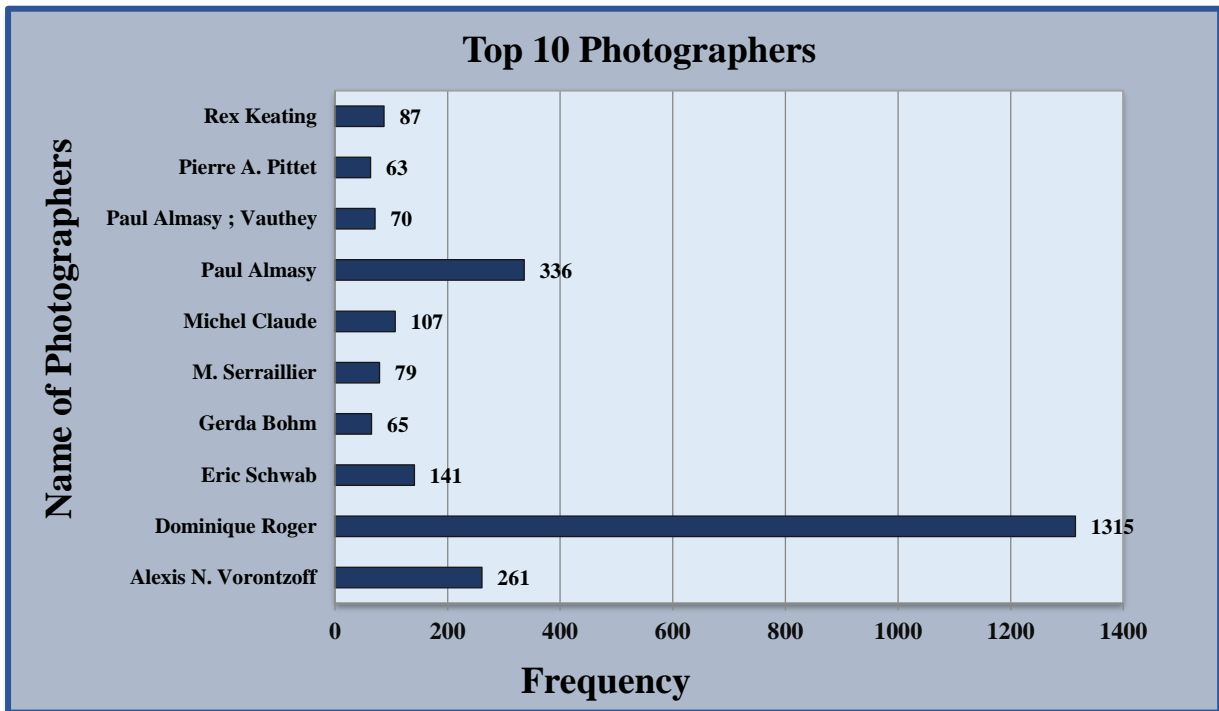


Figure 5.4.1

6. Findings

- The decade 1960-1969 has the highest number of photographs whereas the decade 1940 - 1949 has the lowest number of photographs captured.
- The topic/theme of Education is covered the maximum number of times i.e. 708(14.18%) and Technology is covered the lowest number of times i.e. 33(0.66%).
- There are 42 countries in the African continent in which a total of 1546(32.82%) photographs have been captured whereas 9 countries of Australasia, Pacific Ocean Islands, Atlantic Ocean Islands, Arctic Islands, Antarctica, extraterrestrial world continent have 26(0.55%) photographs.
- Dominique Roger has taken the highest number of photographs i.e. 1315(52.10%) whereas Pierre A. Pittet has taken the lowest number of photographs i.e. 63(2.50%).

7. Suggestions

Nowadays, every resource can be easily accessed on the internet so as digital archives through which anyone who wants to know about the history of any kind can fetch these digital archives. Based on the findings and conclusion following are the suggestions:

- For analysis, every detail of the photograph should be given such as topic/theme, country, year, and name of the photographer; it would be very easy to interpret the collected data.
- For enhancement of the findings of this study, it would be also very convenient to provide the gender of photographers by which gender-wise distribution of photographers can be calculated.
- The data on photographs is available from 1940 to 1999. To increase the rate of this study in the future, the data of photographs from 1999 to date should also be digitized.
- Time-to-time updates must be made on the website through conducting various projects to digitize the collection of current events.
- Bibliographic details of the database can also be prepared to achieve specific results like Alphabetical Author-wise details, specific year-wise details, etc.

8. Conclusion

Hence, digital archives are playing an important role to know about one's culture, past events, and initiatives. Digital archives are advantageous over traditional archives as they can be preserved for a longer period whereas traditional archives have many drawbacks such as getting damaged by rain, moisture, fire, and natural disasters. Every event that is useful from a future point of view should be digitized. That's why in this digital age where new knowledge is developing every day there is a need that the digital archives should be updated from time to time for the use of the people for a longer duration and in the future.

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