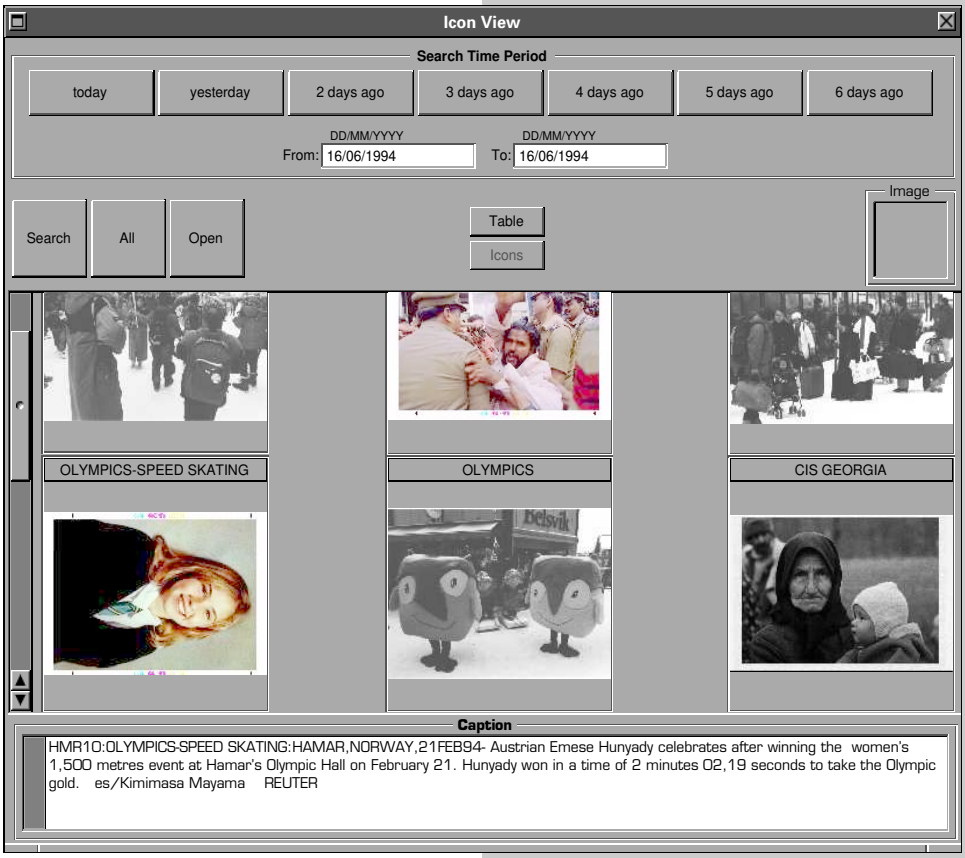
IMAGE SERVER

1. What is Image Server?

Image Server is a multi-user software system for receiving, storing, browsing, and retrieving images. The system is composed of *client* and *server* software. Server software receives, processes and stores images, while client software enables a user to browse and retrieve images.

2. Why Image Server?

Image Server unifies image access for images from different sources. These sources may be agencies, photo reporters, scanners, ... Users can search, browse, view, extract, and refer to images in one universal way independently of the image source.



3. Client software

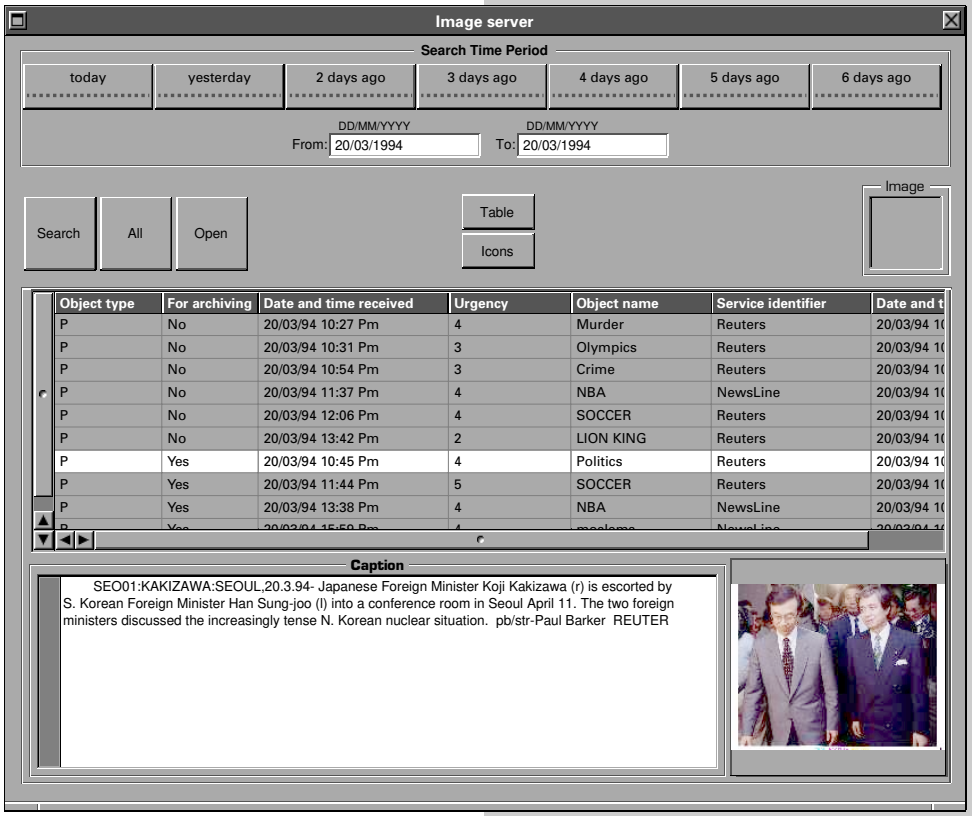
Searching, browsing, viewing and retrieving of images from multiple sources is supported. These images can be of different types – bitmap or graphics. The range of images can be contrained with time and source filters.
There are two views for displaying images and their data – tabular and icon view. Icon view displays images in low resolution – thumbnails. Tabular view displays the data which describes the images. The images are sorted according to the order of attribute columns in the tabular view. The order of columns, their width, and whether a column will be displayed or not, can be rearranged by a user visually with a mouse.
Images can be viewed by opening them in one or more windows. The low and high resolution images can be saved on a local file-system by dragging the icon, that represents the image, from the Image Server window to the file-system window. New images can be inserted manually by dragging the image icon onto the Image Server window. The user must then supply some of the attribute data and the image is saved into the image database.

4. Server Software

The data for browsing and searching is stored in standard SQL database. The data may be partitioned among multiple database servers. There are some fixed attributes – database columns – which must be present in the database. Other user defined attributes can be added to the system as required, with user-specified mapping between source data fields and database attributes.

The system supports unlimited number of users working with client applications, and unlimited number of sources. Applications which receive images from sources and automatically insert them in the database, e.g agency pictures receivers, do not lay any significant processing burden on the system, because the databases and receiving of images can be distributed to multiple computers. For in-house or third party developers, there is OO-API for developing receiver applications.

The image wrapper format IPTC/NAA is supported. Native image formats supported include EPS and TIFF. Other formats are supported via filter services, which are activated automatically when an image of particular type is accessed. These filter services can be purchased as commercial applications or developed in-house for some unusual image format.



The time period for keeping the images can be configured by system administrator, so the appropriate amount of images can be kept in the system. The system can automatically delete or archive the news, that reach the time limit. The Image Server allows selective archiving, so only the selected images are archived.

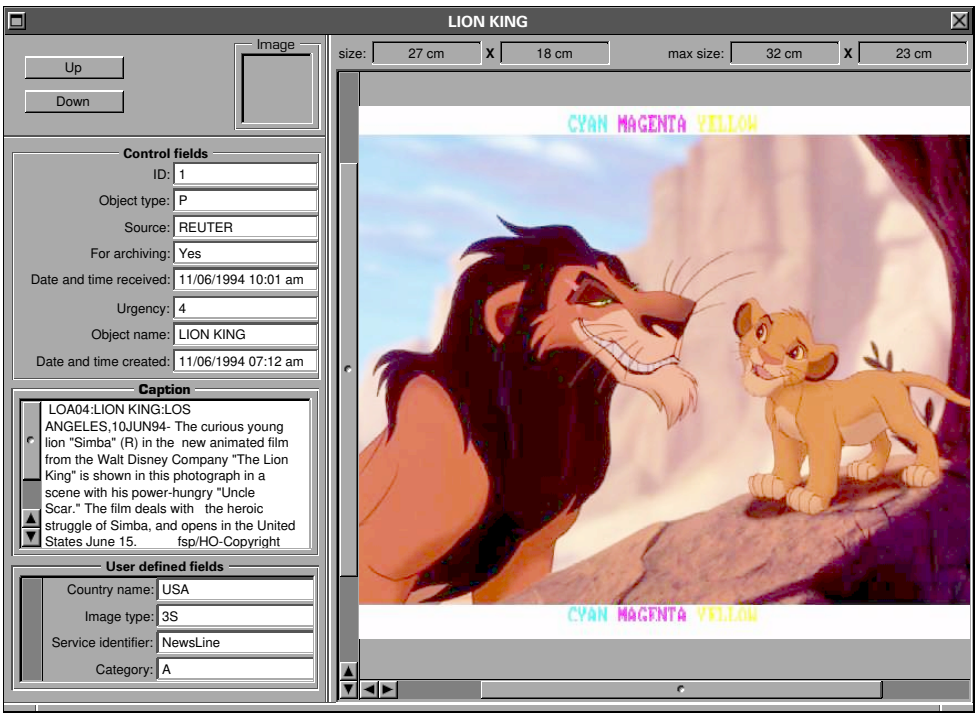


Image Server summary

- **fast browsing**
  tabular view for data, icon view for images
- **unlimited number of users**
  standard SQL database for storage
- **scalability**
  data stored on multiple database servers
- **multiple image sources**
- **IPTC/NAA support**
- **multiple image formats**
  filter services
- **minimised network traffic**
  thumbnails, viewfiles

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