# The Three Pillars of Authenticity

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Digital Object Authenticity Working Group

**October 7, 2026**



*Ansel Adams, The Tetons and the Snake River (1942). National Archives, public domain.*

# DOAWG

*Creating the tools, workflows, and best practices that lead to a world where heritage digitization consumers are informed as to how much and in what ways a digital object can be trusted as an authentic representation of the physical object it represents.*

# DOAWG Founders



**Julie McVey**

National Geographic Society



**Ottar A.B. Anderson**

Intermunicipal archives of Møre og Romsdal (IKAMR)



**Doug Peterson**

Digital Transitions

Loose Paper
Oversized
Bound
Strip Film
Slide Film
Glass Plates
Prints
Objects
Multispectral




Content
Authenticity
Initiative


C2
PA

# Overall Goal

Inform digitization consumers how much and in what ways they can trust that a digital object is an authentic representation of the physical object it represents.



**Directly for 2D. As liaisons for 3D and A/V.**

# Methods

## Meetings



## Surveys




## Liaison



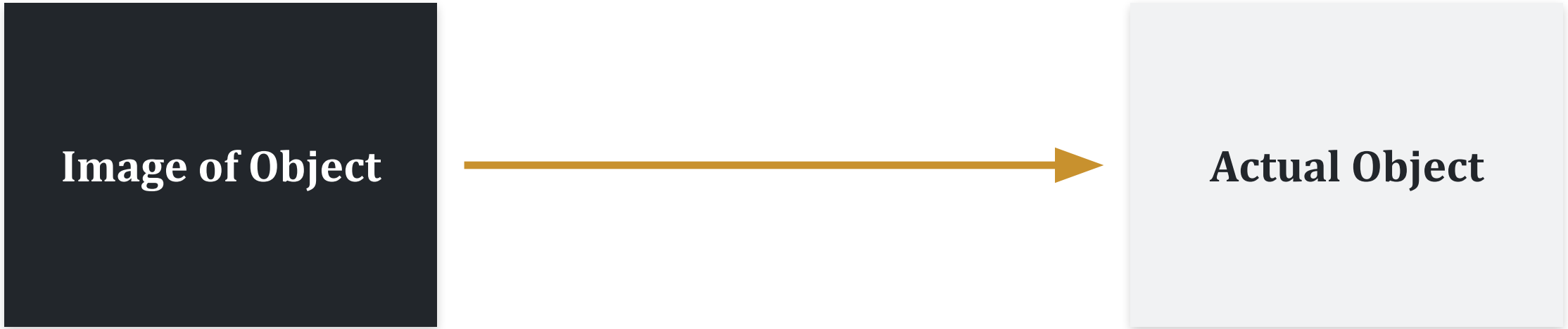
## White Papers



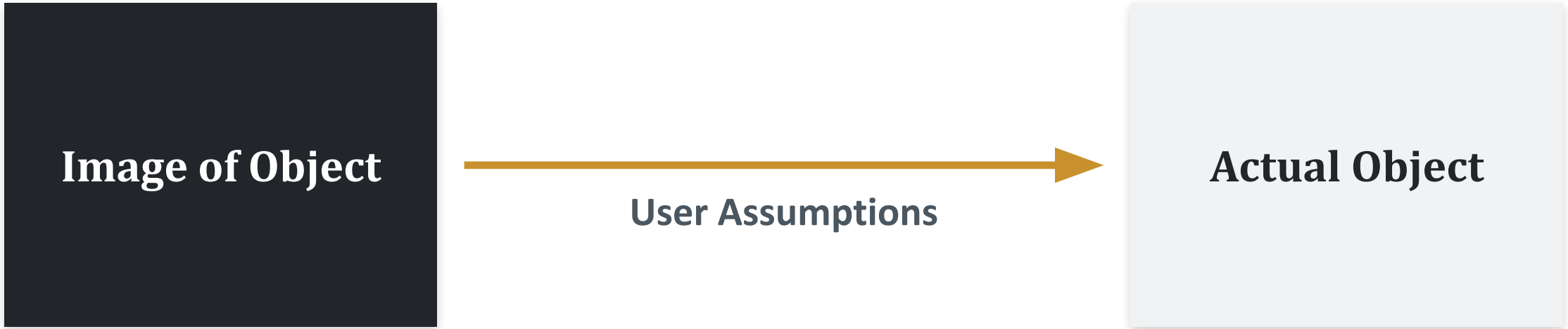
OVERALL GOAL

# How much and in what ways can a digital object be trusted as an authentic representation of the physical object it represents?

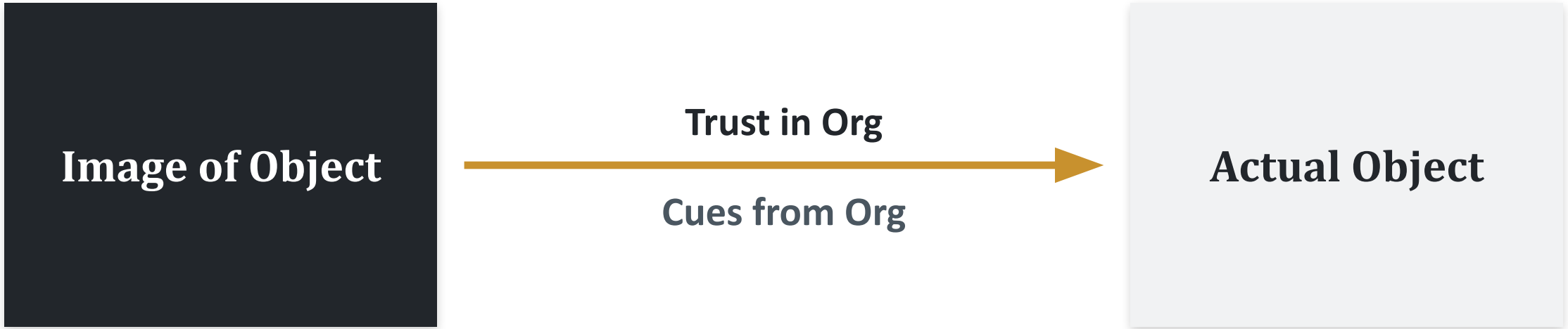
# Overall Goal



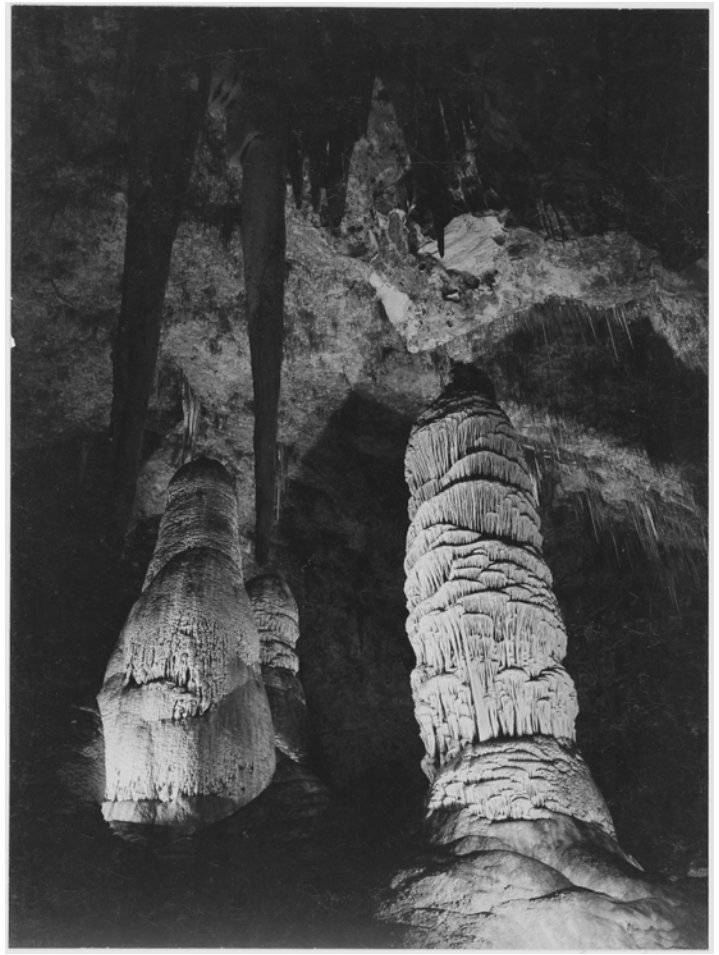
# Overall Goal



# Overall Goal



# Three Pillars of Authenticity



*Ansel Adams, The Giant Dome, Carlsbad Caverns (1941). National Archives, public domain.*

01

**Provenance**

02

**Visual Accuracy**

03

**Context**

# Provenance



## Source

- Who created the image
- Where is its home

## State

- Has it been modified



*Mount Vesuvius erupting, March 1944. U.S. Army Air Forces, 340th Bomb Group; San Diego Air & Space Museum Archive. Public domain.*

# Provenance Tools and Approaches



1. Metadata
2. Links
3. Captions
4. Watermarks
5. Cryptographic signing




*Visible watermark added for illustration. Mount Vesuvius erupting, March 1944.*
*U.S. Army Air Forces, 340th Bomb Group; San Diego Air & Space Museum Archive. Public domain.*

# Visual Accuracy





*Photo: © Ottar A.B. Anderson / IKAMR*

**Tone**

**Noise**

**Color**

**Details**

**Geometry**

# Visual Accuracy Tools and Approaches





*Photo: © Ottar A.B. Anderson / IKAMR*

## In Frame Targets

Metadata

Explainers





# Visual Accuracy Tools and Approaches



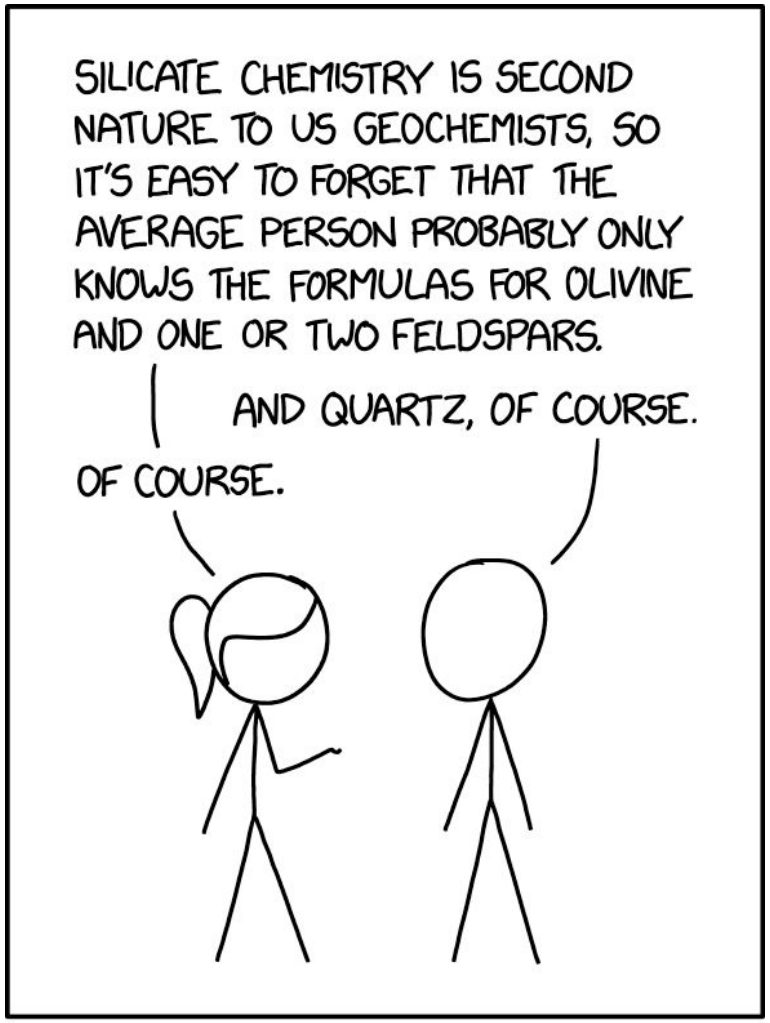


In Frame Targets

**Metadata**

Explainers

*Photo: © Ottar A.B. Anderson / IKAMR*


SILICATE CHEMISTRY IS SECOND NATURE TO US GEOCHEMISTS, SO IT'S EASY TO FORGET THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON PROBABLY ONLY KNOWS THE FORMULAS FOR OLIVINE AND ONE OR TWO FELDSPARS.
AND QUARTZ, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE.
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO COMPENSATE FOR IT, EXPERTS IN ANYTHING WILDLY OVERESTIMATE THE AVERAGE PERSON'S FAMILIARITY WITH THEIR FIELD.

*xkcd.com*

# Visual Accuracy Tools and Approaches





In Frame Targets

**SIMPLE Metadata**

Explainers

*Photo: © Ottar A.B. Anderson / IKAMR*

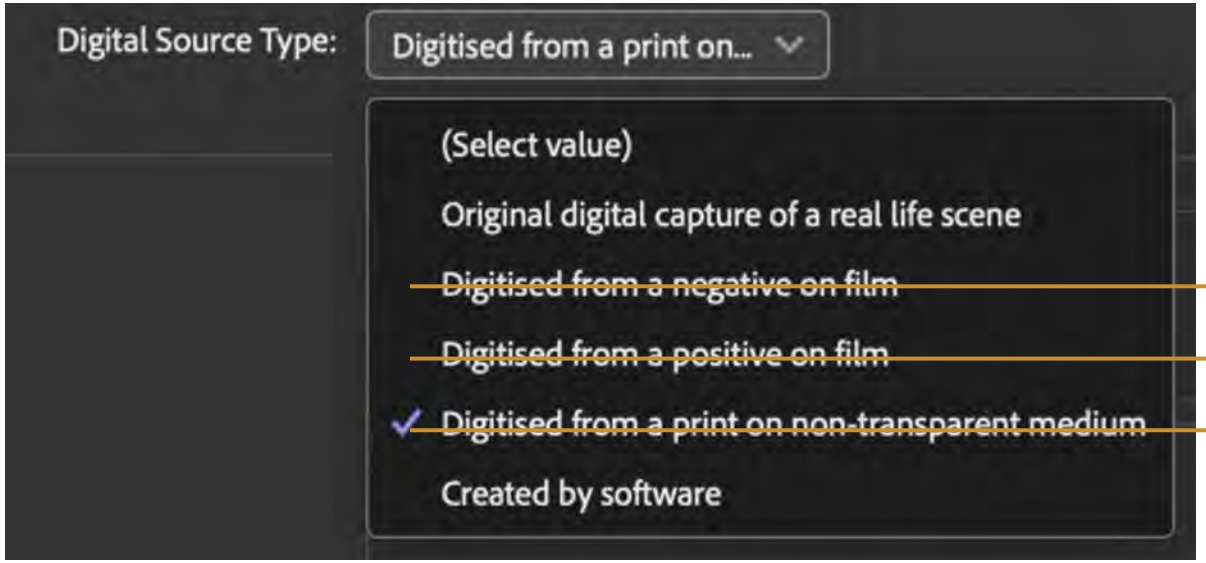
# Context





Info not apparent from the digital image, important to understanding its relationship to the object

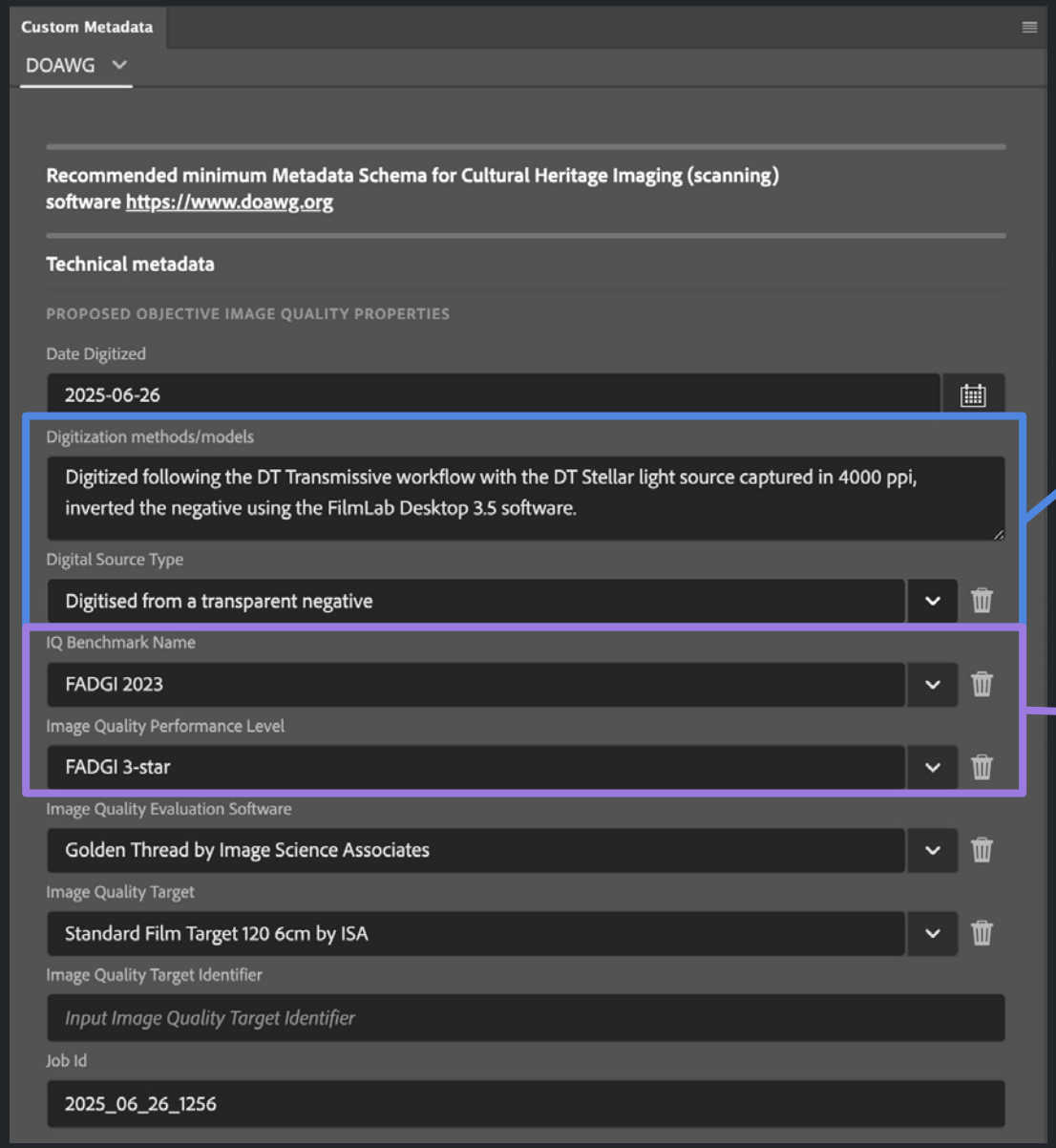
# Where to Put it? How to Display it?

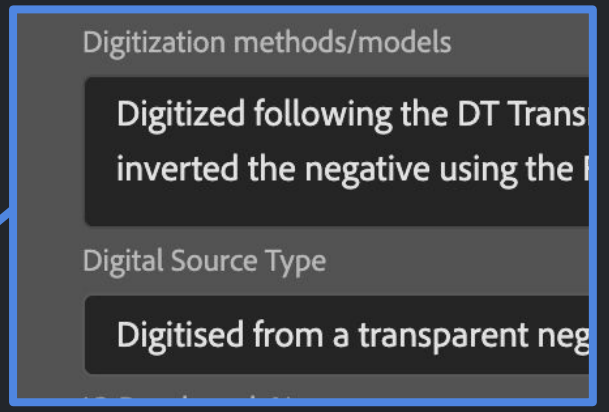



Digitised from a **transmissive negative medium**

Digitised from a **transmissive positive medium**

Digitised from a **reflective medium**



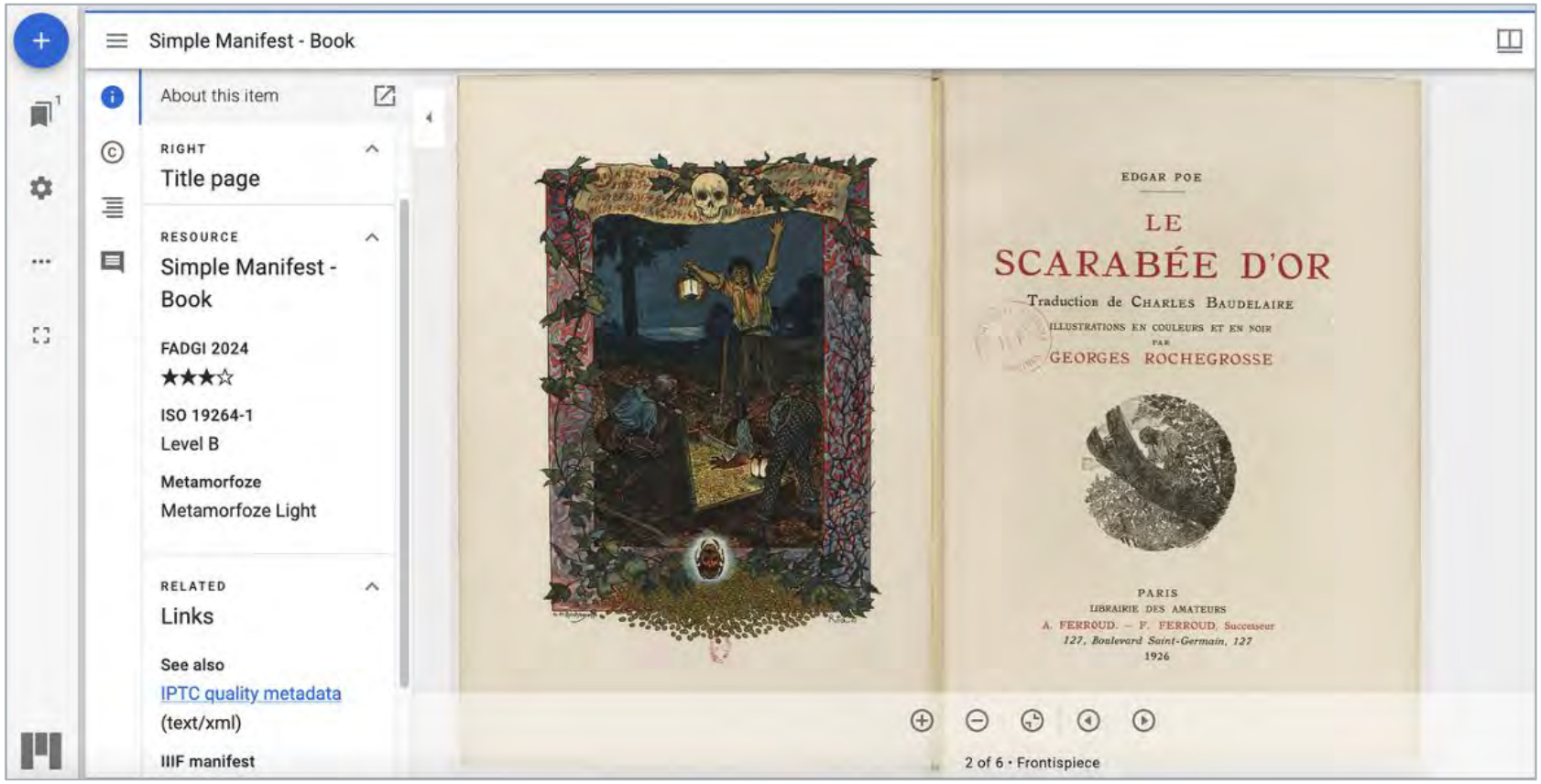




Screenshot of Adobe Custom Metadata Panel in Adobe Photoshop.
Screenshots © Ottar A.B. Anderson at SEDAK

# Standardized Quality Indicator

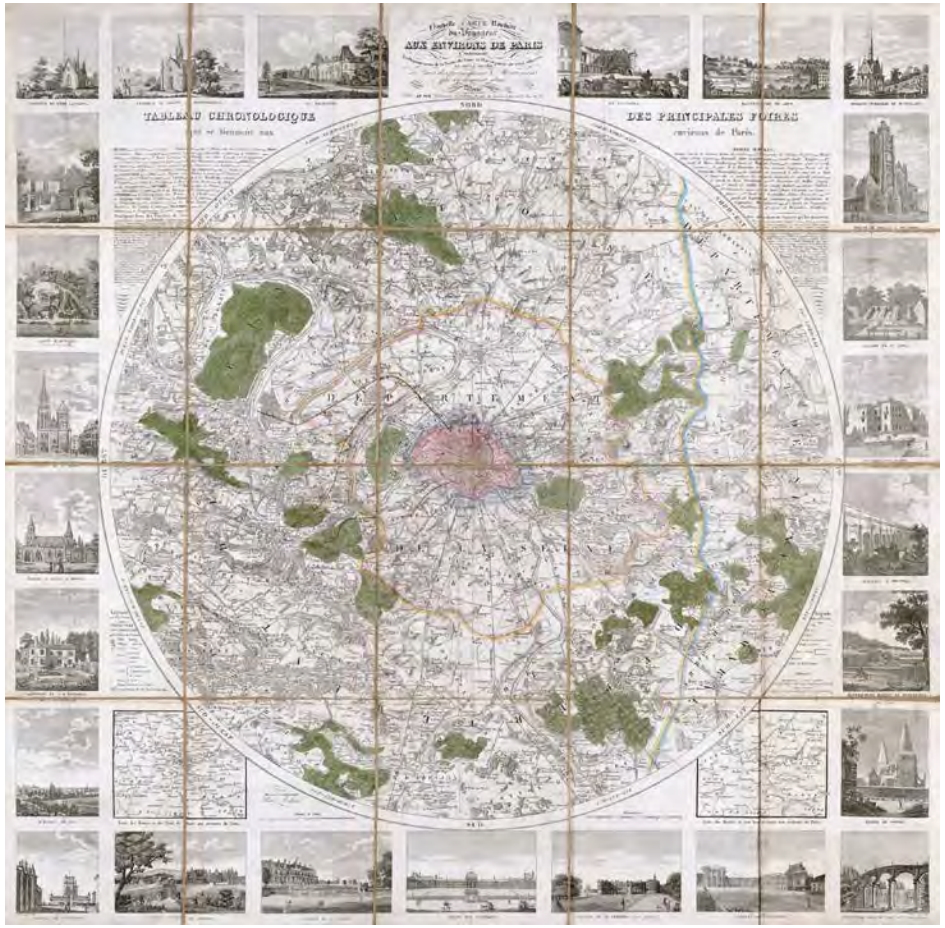
## IIIF Manifest · Mirador




***Future state?***

*Screenshot from University of Verona, Italy modified to reflect potential future state of IIIF display of authenticity metadata*

# C2PA Display Popup?




*Achin, Nouvelle carte routière du voyageur aux environs de Paris (1839). State Library of Victoria, image 282900. Public domain.*

## *Future state?*

**Produced By:**
State Library of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia)

**App or Device Used:**
Phase One P65+ · Adobe Photoshop CS6

**Digital Source Type:**
Digitized from a non-transparent medium

**Physical Description:**
Printed map mounted on linen, 82 x 81 cm

**Image Quality Performance Level:**
FADGI Guidelines **** (Preservation-quality)

# Interested in Authenticity?

## Ways to Participate

- Attend monthly standing meeting
- Comment on white paper
- Fill out the case study survey

Join DOAWG by emailing:
ottar.anderson@ikamr.no

**DOAWG website**

**Case study survey**