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Photos View in a Relative Timeline Based on Subject Age

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Photos View in a Relative Timeline Based on Subject Age

ABSTRACT

Many users have photo libraries that include photos taken over a long period of time, e.g., over several years. Photo library applications can index such photos and enable viewing a timeline of photos of particular persons or pets. However, there is no easy way to see a comparison, e.g., a side-by-side view of two different entities at the same age. This disclosure describes techniques to provide such a view. With user permission, age information for various individuals in their photo library is obtained, e.g., by seeking user input via a user interface. When a user requests a comparison view, such information for each individual is utilized to identify photos of the individuals taken at a similar age. The identified photos are displayed on a relative timeline such that photos taken near a similar age are shown close to each other.

KEYWORDS

- Photo library
- Photo timeline
- Photo viewing
- Relative timeline
- Sibling photos
- Parent child photos
- Pet photos
- Comparative timeline

BACKGROUND

Photo library applications and websites are popular for users to store their photos. A user can store their entire photo library on their device such as a smartphone, tablet, etc. and/or in cloud-hosted storage. The photo library may include photos taken over a long period of time, e.g., over several years. Photo library applications include indexing features that can support searches for individual persons and/or pets and for photos taken at particular times and/or at particular locations.

Some applications include features that enable users to review the timeline of a particular subject e.g., a person or a pet. For example, users may view such features to see a timeline of a child growing up. However, there is no easy way to see a comparison, e.g., a side-by-side view, of two different entities. If the user wishes to view two of their pets at a similar age, she needs to perform a search for photos in the library and manually view them together. Also, since the photo library does not include information about the age of a particular pet, it cannot support searches based on age.

DESCRIPTION

This disclosure supports queries for side-by-side (or other) comparison views of photos of different individuals (e.g., people or pets) in a photo library application. To support such queries, the application provides a user interface to enable the owner of the photo library to add age (e.g., date of birth or other age-related information) for a particular individual. The user is provided options to provide such information for specific individuals. The information is stored securely and is utilized specifically with user permission for the comparison feature.

The application enables the user to select multiple individuals, e.g., by browsing or searching the photo library, and provides an option to view a comparison of the individuals over

time in a single timeline. For example, if the user selects two individuals - one born in 1990 and another born in 1970, the timeline can include photos of the first individual from 1990 onwards, shown next to those of the second individual from 1970 onwards, such that the individuals are of similar age in the photos that appear near each other in the timeline view. The timeline view enables an at-a-glance comparison of the two individuals (persons or pets) at a similar age.

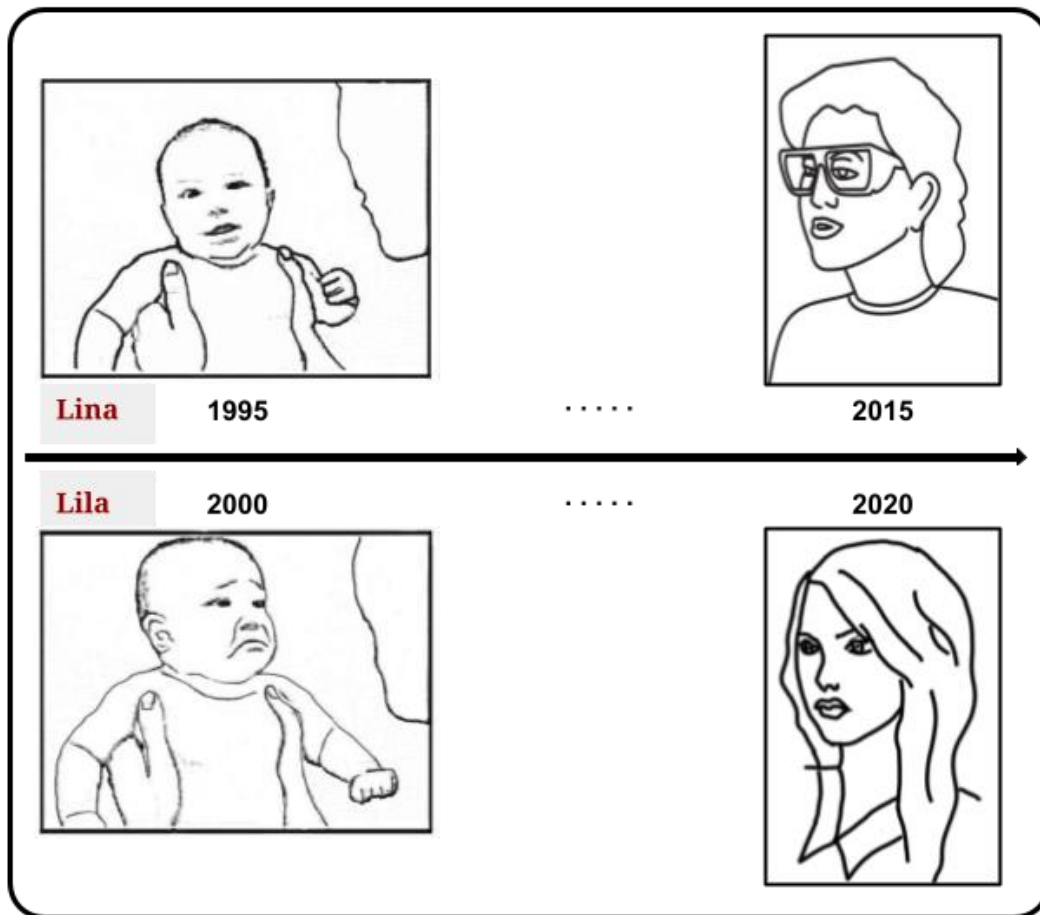


Fig. 1: Relative timeline of photos

Fig. 1 illustrates an example of a relative timeline depicting two individuals Lina and Lila. As seen in Fig. 1, photos of Lila and Lina at a similar age are shown near each other to provide a comparison. The photos on the left are from when they were babies (Lina in 1995 and Lila in 2000), while the photos on the right are when each is about 20 years old. The timeline

can include any number of photos, based on the user's photo library. Further, the timeline may include photos that are not exactly aligned, e.g., several months apart, if the library does not include photos for a certain period. With user permission, other attributes of a photo, such as the subject pose, expression, location, image quality, etc. can be determined automatically using suitable algorithms and be used to select photos to show on the timeline.

Further to the descriptions above, a user may be provided with controls allowing the user to make an election as to both if and when systems, programs or features described herein may enable collection of user information (e.g., information about a user's photos, a user's preferences, or a user's current location), and if the user is sent content or communications from a server. In addition, certain data may be treated in one or more ways before it is stored or used, so that personally identifiable information is removed. For example, a user's identity may be treated so that no personally identifiable information can be determined for the user, or a user's geographic location may be generalized where location information is obtained (such as to a city, ZIP code, or state level), so that a particular location of a user cannot be determined. Thus, the user may have control over what information is collected about the user, how that information is used, and what information is provided to the user.

CONCLUSION

This disclosure describes techniques to provide such a view. With user permission, age information for various individuals in their photo library is obtained, e.g., by seeking user input via a user interface. When a user requests a comparison view, such information for each individual is utilized to identify photos of the individuals taken at a similar age. The identified photos are displayed on a relative timeline such that photos taken near a similar age are shown close to each other.