

Find photos with PicApport

The full text search

The aim of the development of PicApport is to find photos without too much effort. As an introduction we would like to briefly explain the possibilities of the full text search in PicApport.

Of course PicApport can do much more. See also the links at the end of this page.

What information can be searched for?

PicApport distinguishes between four types of information (metadata) that are stored in a photo (see the example image below):

- **File name and path to photo file (yellow in picture)**
As the example below shows, a lot can be achieved by a clever choice of directory names.
- **Shooting date (red in picture)**
This information is present in every photo (if the actual shooting date is not present in the photo metadata, the creation date of the .jpg file will be used).
- **Metadata in the photo file (blue in the picture)**
Via additional programs (e.g. RAW converter or also with PicApport) it is possible to assign further information (metadata) to a photo.
- **Additional metadata obtained from synonym dictionaries (thesaurus) (green in picture)**
This is a very powerful tool to increase the hit rate when searching for photos.

Once the PicApport Server has been configured, it searches regularly for new images in the predefined directories.

For each new found photo PicApport tries to extract as many "words" as possible from the existing metadata and offer them for search. Special characters or words with less than 3 letters etc. are eliminated. The following picture should show this process by means of a vacation photo.

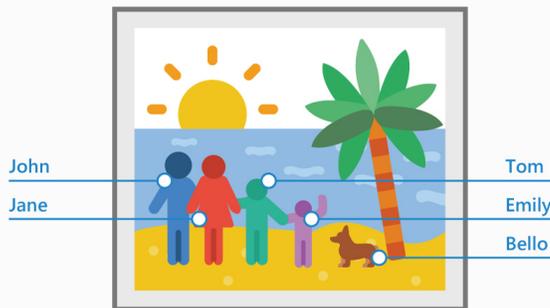
(Just click on the picture to enlarge it)

Full-text search in PicApport



Our example photo can be found by entering one of the following keywords:

🔍 photos Holiday pictures Italy IMG4711 \$jpg 2019 May May28 John Mayer Jane Tom Emily Holidays with Bello **** dad father mom mother vacation travel dog spring Search 🌐



C:/photos/2019/05_Holiday_pictures_Italy/IMG4711.jpg

Path and filename

Filename: IMG4711.jpg
Path: /photos
/2019
/05_Holiday_pictures_Italy

Metadata

Title: Holidays in Italy with Bello
Date: 28.05.2019
Persons: John Mayer
Jane Mayer
Tom Mayer
Emily Mayer
Rating: ****

Thesaurus

Herbert dad father
Nadja mom mother
Holiday vacation travel
Bello dog
May spring

Why do I need a thesaurus? (Synonym dictionary)

Definition (Source: [Wikipedia](#)) A **synonym** is a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another lexeme (word or phrase) in the same language.....

Often the photos of the own photo collection come from different sources. The pictures were then often already provided with metadata.

A typical example would be pictures you get from friends or relatives. E.g. you may use the word *journey* for vacation journeys of but you son uses the word *vacation*. A search for *journey* will not find then the pictures made by the son which have been tagged with *vacation*.

Other typical use cases for synonym dictionaries are:

- Summary of similar / synonymous words such as
 - Mother, mom, mommy, mum
 - Shrovetide, carnival
- Different spellings of names:
 - Eric, Erik, Erick
- Simple singular / plural adjustments
 - Photo, Photos
 - Journey, journeys, holiday, holidays
- Simple subsequent correction of spelling mistakes.
Sometimes it takes years to find out that you have misspelled a name or a word in the metadata of the photos.
With a thesaurus entry the problem can be solved quickly without having to change the metadata of the affected photos.
Example: *Jugoslavia*(wrong) *Yugoslavia*(right)

How to create a synonym dictionary is described in [The directory structure of the PicApport Server](#) (under the entry *picapport/thesaurus*) including a well documented example file.

Phonetic Search

Definition (Source: [Wikipedia](#)) A phonetic algorithm is an algorithm for indexing of words by their pronunciation. Most phonetic algorithms were developed for use with the English language consequently, applying the rules to words in other languages might not give a meaningful result.

Since version 7.5 PicApport supports phonetic search ([Double Metaphone](#) is default on English servers) with the *--Operator* (double tilde operator).

Example: Input *--Salvador* should find Salvador, Salvadore, Salvadori, Salvati, Salvatore

And what is Fuzzy-Search?

Under Fuzzy-Search we summarize in the documentation the use and configuration of the phonetic search, the synonym dictionary and the tilde(~) operators.

In connection with the phonetic search, the thesaurus and the Tilde(~) operators, PicApport offers several configuration options. For example, it can be defined whether each search query should be automatically searched in the thesaurus and/or via the phonetic search or not.

See also: *fuzzysearch. * Thesaurus configuration (synonym dictionary) and phonetic search* in [PicApport-Server Guide](#)

Find photos with the map

Modern cameras and mobile phones make it possible to add a [geo-tag](#) to photos as soon as they are taken. It is also possible to create geo-tags for photos afterwards, e.g. with PicApport.

If photos are provided with a geo-tag, these can be queried very easily via the integrated map module of PicApport.

A short video tutorial can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_LiR77IffQ

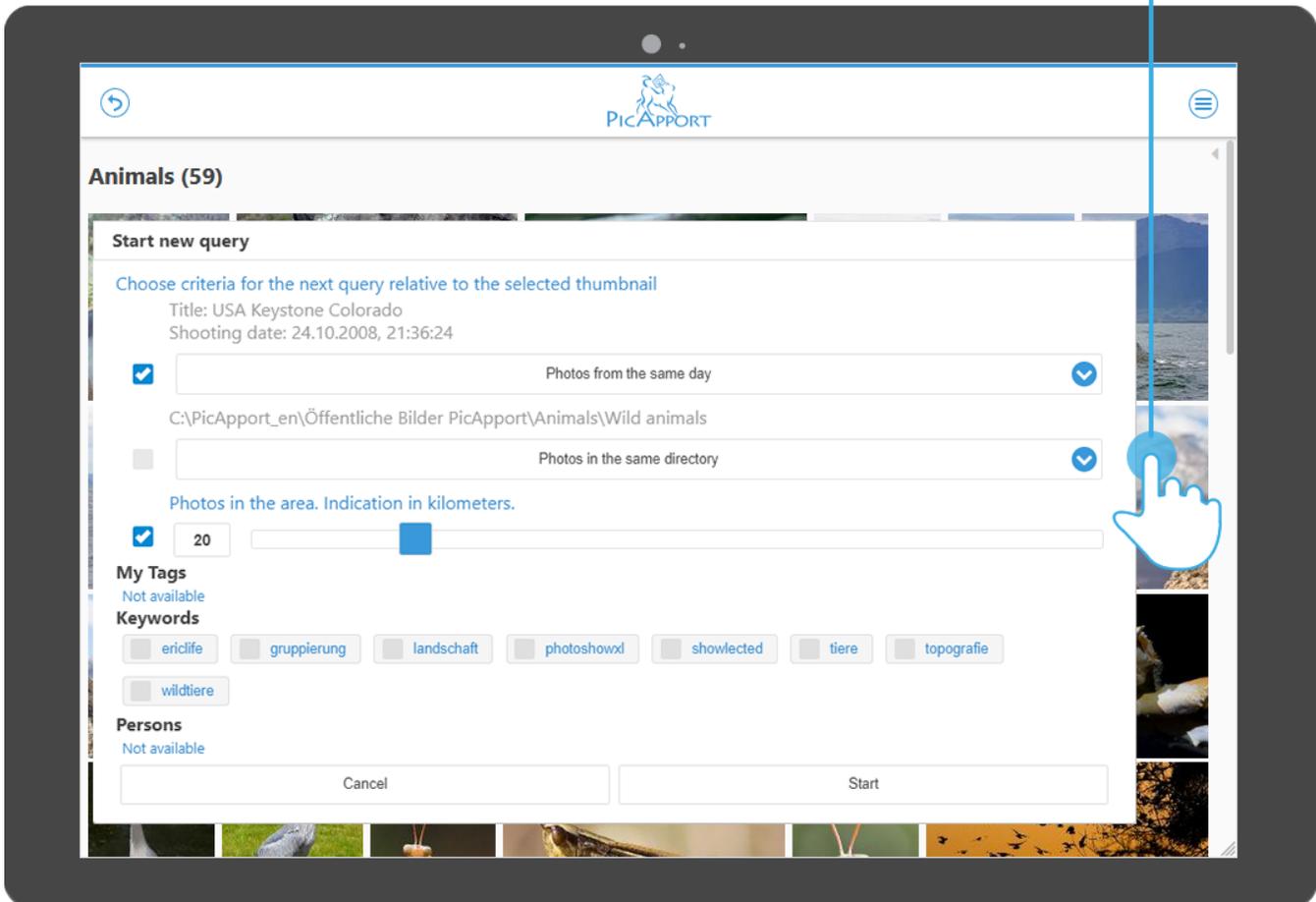
Browse the photo collection with relative search

If one has found photos over the full text search, these are often thematically not coherent. Using the relative search, a new query can now be started from a certain photo (thumbnail):

- Photos from the same day
- Photos from the same month
- Photos from the same year
- Photos within the same hour
- Photos in the same directory
- Photos nearby (if GPS information is available)
- Photos with the same tags (selectable)

The following screenshot shows how it works:

Click and hold on a thumbnail with the left mouse button - or tap and hold with a finger - to open the "Relative Search" dialog



Further topics

- A reference of all possible search operators can be found here: [Full text search of photos - Supported metadata](#)