

# Exif Metadata Extraction Tool

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In the Archives we use ExifTool by Phil Harvey to extract tagged metadata from file, particularly images.

## Software:

<http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/>

## Documentation:

[http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/exiftool\\_pod.html](http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/exiftool_pod.html)

## Example of syntax:

```
exiftool -csv -r /Users/nwilson/Desktop/20120430_3_publicationsphotos_2001 > /Users/nwilson/Desktop/20120430_3_publicationsphotos_2001/meta/metadata.csv
```

- Writes a csv file of all tagged metadata, recursively going through all of Users/nwilson/Desktop/20120430\_3\_publicationsphotos\_2001 and writing that information to /Users/nwilson/Desktop/20120430\_3\_publicationsphotos\_2001/meta/metadata.csv

```
exiftool -X /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/1-unprocessed/20120605_HonorsCompsTheater2012/THE_TEMPEST_10_27_2011.mp4 > /Users/nwilson/Desktop/metadata.xml
```

- Writes an XML file of all tagged metadata non-recursively for THE\_TEMPEST\_10\_27\_2011.mp4 and writes the results to metadata.xml.

```
exiftool -r -X /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/11-Bagit/20120429_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996 > /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/11-Bagit/20120429_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996/meta/exif.xml
```

- Writes and XML file of all tagged metadata recursively for 20120429\_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996 and writes the result to a new xml file in /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/11-Bagit/20120429\_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996/meta/exif.xml

```
exiftool -r -X /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/11-Bagit/20120429_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996 > /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/11-Bagit/20120429_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996/meta/exif.xml ; exiftool -X /Volumes/ARCHIVES/SIPS/1-unprocessed/20120605_HonorsCompsTheater2012/THE_TEMPEST_10_27_2011.mp4 > /Users/nwilson/Desktop/metadata.xml
```

- Writes an XML file first for all files in the 20120429\_NoonNewsBulletinSamples1996 directory, and then an XML file for THE\_TEMPEST\_10\_27\_2011.mp4. The ";" separator allows you to run a series of commands. For more information on different conditions you can apply see: <http://www.comptechdoc.org/os/linux/manual2/runningcommands.html>

## Batch Processing - Setup and Running

Creates a batch process for extracting metadata on a series of directories and those directory contents. Note: All directories to be processed must be in the same directory.

ExifTool will create 2 output files named "exif.xml" and "exif.csv" and place them in a folder called "meta" in the directory being processed. If no meta directory is present, the script will make one.

## Setup

Open a terminal by going to Applications/Utilities/Terminal

Open `bash_profile` by typing `"nano ~/.bash_profile"`

Paste in the following text:

```
exifbatch()
{
echo "-----"
echo "Extracting tagged metadata for all directories in "$1"."
echo "-----"
for dir in "$1"/*; do

    if test -d "$dir"; then

        if test ! -d "$dir"/meta; then

            echo "-----"

            echo "No 'meta' subdirectory exists in "$dir". Creating a 'meta' directory in "$$

            echo "-----"

            mkdir "$dir"/meta

        fi

        echo "-----"
        echo "Extracting tagged metadata from "$dir" and writing results to "$dir"/meta/exif.xml."
        echo "-----"
        exiftool -r -X "$dir" > "$dir"/meta/exif.xml
        exiftool -csv -r "$dir" > "$dir"/meta/exif.csv
        fi

    done

    echo "-----"
    echo "Tagged metadata extraction complete."
    echo "-----"
}
```

Hit Control O and Return to write your changes.

Hit Control X to exit.

Close and restart the terminal.

## Running

Enter in the terminal `"exifbatch PATHTODIRECTORY"`

Every directory in the `PATHTODIRECTORY` you gave will each be bagged up one after the other.