



Using Static IIIF for Digital Scholarship: the Paul Thomas Annotated Project

Cameron Boucher | Educational & Scholarly Technology Assistant

Alice McGrath | Senior Digital Scholarship Specialist

Bryn Mawr College LITS

March 3, 2026

Outline

- The Paul Thomas Annotated Project
 - About the project
 - Front-end demo
- Why IIIF?
 - Project requirements
 - IIIF overview
- Project workflow and tools
 - IIIF Image & Presentation API tools
 - Annotation encoding
 - IIIF viewer
- Reflections on small-scale IIIF collections

Paul Thomas Annotated Project Team



Cameron Boucher

**Educational and Scholarly
Technology Assistant**



Alice McGrath

**Senior Digital Scholarship
Specialist**

Jennifer Alpert (Stanford Faculty)

Naveah Díaz (BMC '26)

Olivia Flores (BMC '26)

Pat Ganley

Judie Johnson (BMC '25)

Hilde Nelson (BMC GSAS)

José Vergara (BMC Faculty)

Arleen Zimmerle (BMC Librarian)

Acknowledgements: [Project Team](#)

About the project: **Paul Thomas Anderson**: Annotated In the Margins

- Led by José Vergara and Jennifer Alpert
- WIP
- A digital collection and research project devoted to the filmography of Paul Thomas Anderson
- Will feature annotated screenshots from each of PTA's ten narrative films to date as well as original essays
- Images have technical and thematic metadata that can be used to search and filter the collection



So far, 6 films are available to browse, but only *Punch-Drunk Love* has been annotated.

Website

- Built with [CollectionBuilder](#) ([CSV template](#))
- Notable customizations:
 - Added filter functionality and new interface to browse page
 - Visualization on film pages that lets users see and “scrub” through the whole film and select individual images
 - Added a IIF viewer that displays annotations
- Design inspired by dark movie theaters and handwritten marginalia
- Color palette inspired by the films

<https://ptannotated.com/>

Homepage

Paul Thomas Annotated

Home Films ▾ Browse Tags About



Annotated Paul Thomas Anderson: In the Margins

Welcome to the beta version of *Paul Thomas Annotated: In the Margins*, an open access resource devoted to the filmography of Paul Thomas Anderson. Our project involves annotating, scene by scene, screenshots from each of his ten narrative films to date. This website is under development, and we welcome user feedback. [Learn More →](#)

Technical and thematic filters

Browse Items

[Advanced Search](#)

All Fields ▾

Search

Reset

Composition: "single shot" ×

Distance: "long shot" ×

OR Distance: "extreme long shot" ×

⊕ Add Field

Filters ⓘ

Film ▾

Camera Angle ▾

Camera Distance ▾

Shot Location ▾

Camera Movement ▾

Sort by Film ▾

Lighting ▾

Shot Composition ▾

Shot Duration ▾

Themes ▾

22 of 3245 items

**LICO-11918**

Licorice Pizza

1:19:18

Image

IIIF

Screenshot

**LICO-12548**

Licorice Pizza

1:25:48

Image

IIIF

Screenshot

**PUNC-00645**

Punch-Drunk Love

0:06:45

Image

IIIF

Screenshot

**PUNC-00653**

Punch-Drunk Love

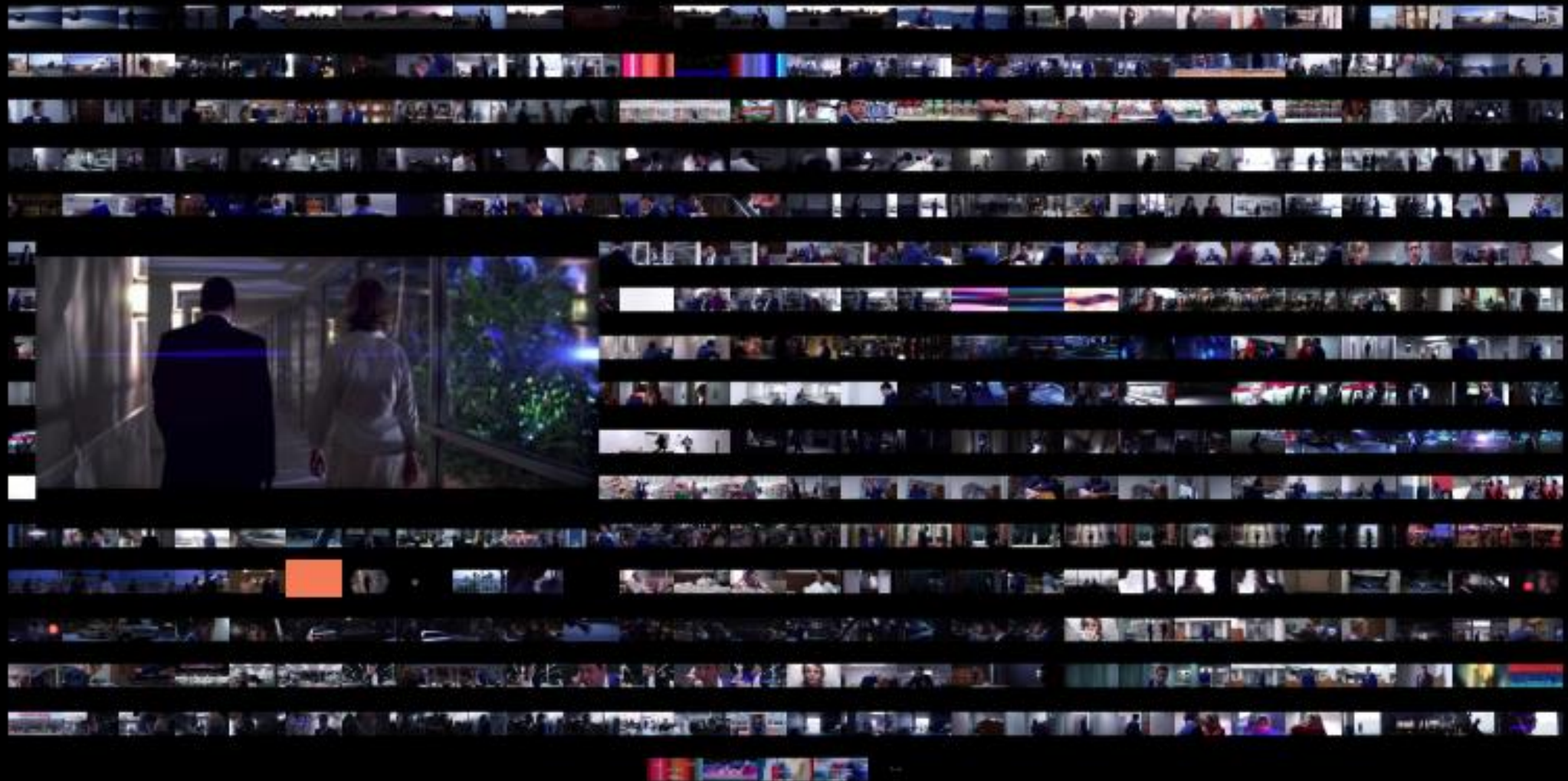
0:06:53

Image

IIIF

Screenshot

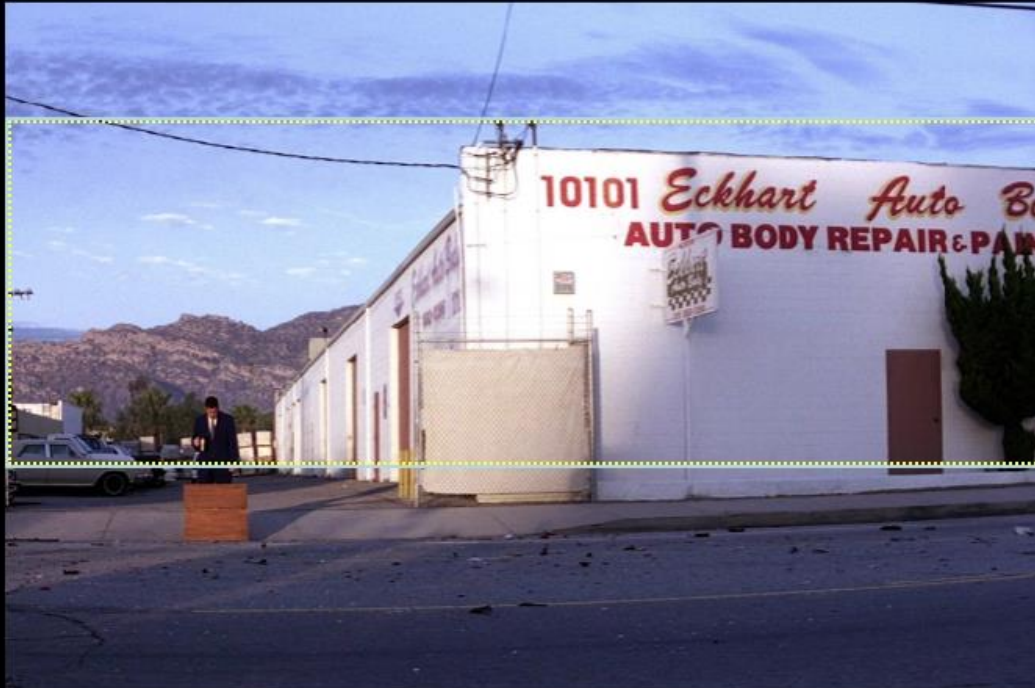
Film page visualization



IIIF Viewer with annotations

PUNC-00645

Item Info ↓



× ← →

Like most of PTA's films, *Punch-Drunk Love* takes place in Los Angeles. The scene was shot at Eckhart Auto Body at 10101 Canoga Avenue in the northwest side of the city. The urban sprawl of LA grants the film some of the sense of desolation and despair that plagues Barry. Here, the forested mountains loom in the background as a natural escape from the concrete and fences. Barry and Lena's love will only come into full bloom—and be consummated—amid the natural splendor of Hawaii. As we were beginning this project, a series of wildfires devastated the Los Angeles landscape and displaced many families who lived near the foci of this natural disaster. When paired with the sadness and desolation that the film portrays, this eerie coincidence only deepened the effect that the location has on the story central to *Punch-Drunk Love*.

PTA is cautious about assigning too much meaning to his films, however, as in this fragment from an audience Q&A: "To me, it's first and foremost from the character. From Barry's stomach and from who he is and the situation that he's in. Someone I can relate to. Anything that comes out of that, those are the discoveries that I make after writing the movie. I never have a real big social picture in my mind. I just feel like it would be an Oliver Stone movie. Y'know. Like, I really gotta say

Project Priorities

- **Interoperability**

- IIIF - International Image Interoperability Framework 3.0-compliant images
- W3C Open Annotation data

- **Minimal computing**

- **Static** web hosting (maintaining files, not software)

- **Collaboration**

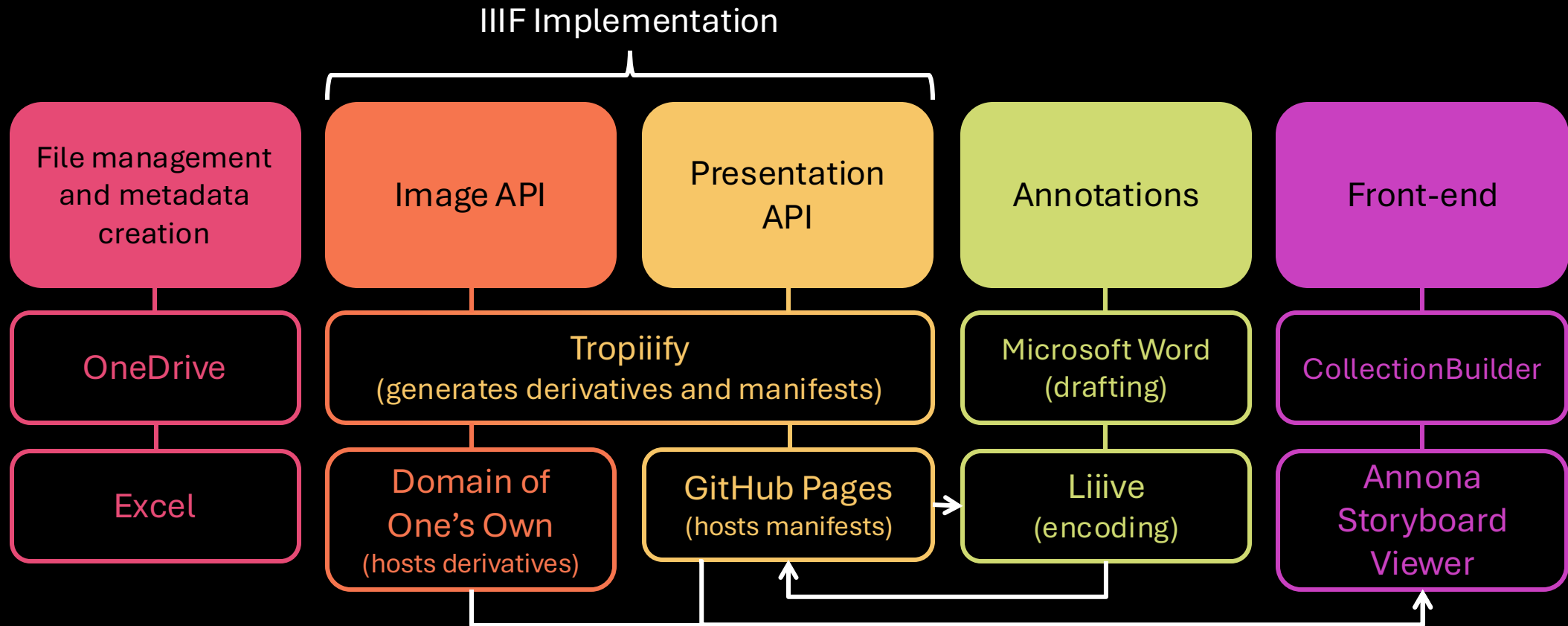
- Project workflows and tools should be accessible to all team members (not just technologists)
- Real-time and asynchronous collaboration on annotations



What is IIIF?

- International Image Interoperability Framework: open APIs for accessing data and image derivatives in digital collections
- Presentation API (3.0):
 - JSON manifest with metadata, links to images, annotation coordinates and content.
- Image API (3.0):
 - Tiled image derivatives via URL formula that enables zooming and transformations (e.g. color filters, rotations)
- Digital collection platforms
 - Digital scholarship tools: Exhibit.so, Scalar, Juncture, Allmaps, eScriptorium...

Overview of Project Stack



IIIF Image & Presentation API tools

Tool	Description	Image API	Presentation API	Static?	Fast?
Digirati & Bodleian Editors	Manual manifest editors	n/a	2.0	n/a	No
Cantaloupe	Open-source dynamic image server	3.0	n/a	No	Yes
Wax	A Jekyll template for minimal digital collections	2.0	2.0	Yes	Yes
Tropiiiify	A Tropy plugin for generating IIIF manifests and image derivatives	3.0	3.0	Yes	Yes

Annotation Encoding

- Requirements
 - Export IIIF Presentation 3.0 manifest + annotations
 - GUI with real-time and asynchronous collaboration options
 - Adding links and media to annotations
- Tool options
 - [Recogito](#), [Simple Annotation Server](#), Liiive – [liiive.now](#)
- Our workflow
 - Microsoft Word for drafting (all annotators)
 - [Liiive](#) for annotation encoding (interns and project team members)
 - GitHub for collaboration and manifest versioning

IIIF Viewer

IIIF Viewer needs to:

- Be IIIF Presentation API v3-compliant
- Work well with serverless IIIF
- Display annotations in a user-friendly and accessible interface

We tried many options, including:

- [Mirador](#) - not ideal for annotations with a lot of text
- [Clover IIIF](#) - stopped working with our manifests after an update
- [Glycerine Viewer](#) - great UI for annotations, but hard to customize in the ways we needed
- [Annona Storyboard Viewer](#) - functional annotation UI and easier to customize

Reflections on Small-Scale IIF

- Challenges

- Skills & knowledge – it's complicated!
- Hosting – cloud/container-based options require maintenance
- Available tools – open-source ecosystem full of un-maintained technologies, compatibility issues etc.
- Overhead – costs associated with hosting and annotation servers

- Opportunities

- Easy, pretty publishing tools that are great for pedagogy
- Responsive & helpful community of developers
- New resources & features emerging all the time

Thank you!

Paul Thomas Annotated: In The Margins - [@Bryn Mawr College](https://ptannotated.com/Digital_Scholarship)

Questions? Reach out to digitalscholarship@brynmawr.edu

Resources:

- IIIF awesome list! <https://github.com/IIIF/awesome-iiif>
- IIIF Online Training: <https://iiif.io/get-started/training/>

Thanks to Glen Robson, the PTA Project Team, Bryn Mawr LITS

