CLAIMS

Claim 1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a metadata retaining unit that acquires metadata that includes location information that is related to a location of an image that has been captured by a moving vehicle and time information that is related to time at which the image has been captured, and that retains the acquired metadata in a first storage unit;

a reception unit that receives an assignment of a predetermined area on a map;

a specifying unit that specifies the image that satisfies a predetermined condition from among the images captured at the location that is included in the area received by the reception unit by using the metadata stored in the first storage unit; and

an image retaining unit that acquires the image specified by the specifying unit from the moving vehicle, and that retains the acquired image in a second storage unit.

Claim 2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display control unit that acquires the image corresponding to the area selected by the reception unit from the second storage unit, and that displays the acquired image.

Claim 3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specifying unit specifies the image, in which the area selected by the reception unit has been captured, from at least one of weather information that is indicated when the image has been captured and date and time information that is related to date and time on which the image has been captured as the predetermined condition.

Claim 4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image retaining unit acquires the image that has been captured at the location included in the area selected by the reception unit in the past and that satisfies the predetermined condition from the moving vehicle, and retains the acquired image in the second storage unit.

Claim 5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the specifying unit specifies the image, in which the area selected by the reception unit when the moving vehicle is stopped in a predetermined period of time or is travelling at a speed equal to or less than a predetermined speed has been captured, from at least one of the location information on the moving vehicle and sensor information on an acceleration sensor as the predetermined condition, and

the image retaining unit acquires the image that has been captured when the moving vehicle is stopped in the predetermined period of time or is travelling at the speed equal to or less than the predetermined speed from the moving vehicle, and retains the acquired image in the second storage unit.

Claim 6. An information processing method performed by an information processing apparatus, the information processing method comprising:

metadata retaining step of acquiring metadata that includes location information that is related to a location of an image that has been captured by a moving vehicle and time information that is related to time at which the image has been captured, and retaining the acquired metadata in a

first storage unit;

a receiving step of receiving an assignment of a predetermined area on a map;

a specifying step of specifying the image that satisfies a predetermined condition from among the images captured at the location that is included in the area received at the receiving step by using the metadata stored in the first storage unit; and

an image retaining step of acquiring the image specified at the specifying step from the moving vehicle, and retaining the acquired image in a second storage unit.

Claim 7. A computer-readable recording medium storing therein an information processing program that causes a computer to execute a process comprising:

metadata retaining step of acquiring metadata that includes location information that is related to a location of an image that has been captured by a moving vehicle and time information that is related to time at which the image has been captured, and retaining the acquired metadata in a first storage unit;

a receiving step of receiving an assignment of a predetermined area on a map;

a specifying step of specifying the image that satisfies a predetermined condition from among the images captured at the location that is included in the area received at the receiving step by using the metadata stored in the first storage unit; and

an image retaining step of acquiring the image specified at the specifying step from the moving vehicle, and retaining the acquired image in a second storage unit.