

Digital Access
to
Textual Cultural Heritage

DATeCH
2014

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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Contents

Foreword by programme chairs	ix
Foreword by organisation chairs	xi
DATECH 2014 organisation	xiii
Programme Committee	xv
1 Document Analysis and OCR	1
<i>Automatic Article Extraction in Old Newspapers Digitized Collections.</i> David Hebert, Thomas Palfray, Pierrick Tranouez, Stéphane Nicolas and Thierry Paquet	3
<i>Document Representation Refinement for Precise Region Description.</i> Christian Clausner, Stefan Pletschacher and Apostolos Antonacopoulos	9
<i>Recognition of Degraded Ancient Characters Based on Dense SIFT.</i> Sajid Saleem, Fabian Hollaus and Robert Sablatnig	15
2 Linguistic processing and encoding	21
<i>Automated Assignment of Topics to OCRed Historical Text.</i> Klaus Schulz, Christoph Ringlstetter and Florian Fink	23
<i>An approach to unsupervised historical text normalisation.</i> Petar Mitankin, Stefan Gerdjikov and Stoyan Mihov	29
<i>Reflections on Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities: Modelling in Practice and Theory.</i> Arianna Ciula and Øyvind Eide	35
3 Postcorrection	43
<i>Correcting Noisy OCR: Context beats Confusion.</i> John Evershed and Kent Fitch	45
<i>User-centered correction of noisy OCR text in large document collections.</i> Günter Mühlberger, Johannes Zelger, David Sagmeister and Albert Greinöcker	53

<i>PoCoTo - An Open Source System for Efficient Interactive Postcorrection of OCRed Historical Texts.</i> Thorsten Vobl, Annette Gotscharek, Ulrich Reffle, Christoph Ringlstetter and Klaus Schulz	57
4 Best practices and experiences	63
<i>Construction of a Text Digitization System for Nôm Historical Documents.</i> Truyen Van Phan and Masaki Nakagawa	65
<i>OCR of Historical Printings of Latin Texts: Problems, Prospects, Progress.</i> Uwe Springmann, Dietmar Najock, Hermann Morgenroth, Helmut Schmid, Annette Gotscharek and Florian Fink	71
<i>Digital Editions and Diplomatic Diagrams.</i> Christine Roughan . . .	77
<i>Cataloging for a billion word library of Greek and Latin.</i> Gregory Crane, Bridget Almas, Alison Babeu, Lisa Cerrato, Anna Krohn, Frederik Baumgardt, Monica Berti, Greta Franzini and Simona Stoyanova	83
5 Enrichment	89
<i>Wittgenstein's Nachlass: WiTTFind and Wittgenstein Advanced Search Tools (WAST).</i> Maximilian Hadersbeck, Alois Pichler, Florian Fink and Øyvind Liland Gjesdal	91
<i>Estimating and Rating the Quality of Optically Character Recognised Text.</i> Beatrice Alex and John Burns	97
<i>A Bimodal Crowdsourcing Platform for Demographic Historical Manuscripts.</i> Alicia Fornés, Josep Lladós, Joan Mas, Joana Maria Pujades and Anna Cabré	103
6 Posters	109
<i>Handwritten text recognition for historical documents in the transcriptorium project.</i> Joan Andreu Sánchez, Vicent Bosch, Verónica Romero, Katrien Depuydt and Jesse de Does	111
<i>OCR correction of documents generated during Argentina's National Reorganization Process.</i> Paula Estrella and Pablo Paliza	119
<i>Computer-assisted Transcription of a Historical Botanical Specimen Book: Organization and Process Overview.</i> Vicent Bosch, Isabel Bordes Cabrera, Paloma Cuenca Muñoz, Celio Hernández Tornero, Luis Leiva, Moisés Pastor Gadea, Verónica Romero, Alejandro Toselli and Enrique Vidal	125
<i>H-DocPro: A Document Image Processing Platform for Historical Documents.</i> Basilis Gatos, Nikolaos Stamatopoulos, Georgios Louloudis and Stavros Perantonis	131
<i>Semantics in Storytelling in Swedish Fiction.</i> Dimitrios Kokkinakis, Mats Malm, Jenny Bergenmar and Ann Ighe	137

<i>Creation of custom recognition profiles for historical documents.</i> Adam Dudczak, Aleksandra Nowak and Tomasz Parkoła	143
<i>An Adaptive Zoning Technique for Efficient Word Retrieval Using Dynamic Time Warping.</i> Alexandros Papandreou, Basilis Gatos and Georgios Louloudis	147
<i>Highly interactive and natural user interfaces: Enabling visual analysis in historical lexicography.</i> Roberto Theron, Carlos Seguí, Laura de La Cruz and María Vaquero	153
<i>On OCR ground truths and OCR post-correction gold standards, tools and formats.</i> Martin Reynaert	159
<i>Automated Page Layout Simplification of Patrologia Graeca.</i> Bruce Robertson, Christoph Dalitz and Fabian Schmitt	167
<i>PIVAJ: displaying and augmenting digitized newspapers on the Web</i> <i>Experimental feedback from the "Journal de Rouen" Collection.</i> David Hebert, Thomas Palfray, Stéphane Nicolas, Pierrick Tranouez and Thierry Paquet	173
<i>An open-source OCR evaluation tool.</i> Rafael C. Carrasco	179
<i>Logical Structure Recognition for Heterogeneous Periodical Collections.</i> Iuliu Konya and Stefan Eickeler	185
<i>Data Processing and Lemmatization in Digitized 19th-Century Czech Texts.</i> Karel Kučera and Martin Stluka	193
<i>Using Ancestral Layout Models for Document Digitization.</i> Hervé Déjean	197
List of authors	203

Foreword by the programme chairs

We are delighted to present the program of the first international conference on Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage (DATECH 2014). The aim of establishing this conference is to bring together researchers in the complementary fields of Document Image Analysis and Recognition, Computational Linguistics and Digital Humanities as well as content holders and practitioners working on the creation, transformation and exploitation of historical documents in digital form. We strongly believe that there are very significant benefits in gathering such a multi-disciplinary group of experts, combining experiences and discussing ways forward for tackling the significant challenges and opportunities presented by historical documents.

For this inaugural edition, we were very pleased to receive 49 submissions from 23 countries from 6 continents (no submissions from Antarctica this time). We gathered 147 reviews with the invaluable help of 44 reviewers (including members of the Program and Organising committees as well as additional reviewers). Based on these reviews, 16 papers were accepted for oral presentation. While not a primary aim for this first edition of DATECH, it is worth noting that the oral paper acceptance rate of 33% is in line with other premier conferences and workshops in related fields. We also accepted 16 papers to be presented as posters based both on reviewers' recommendations as well as on the fact that, due to their nature, some papers lend themselves better to one-to-one discussion.

The program of DATECH2014 is structured into five oral sessions and a poster session within the overall programme of the Digitisation Days event, which also comprises a number of panel sessions and presentations from commercial organisations. The program is broadly divided into the main themes of Document Analysis and OCR, Linguistic Processing and Encoding, Post-Correction, Best Practices and Experiences, and Enrichment. We sincerely hope that you will find interesting papers presented and discussed during the conference and that the proceedings will also serve as reference, well after DATECH2014, for the valuable ideas and the good work produced by our combined communities.

We would like to sincerely thank all the authors who submitted their work to DATECH2014 and especially the program committee members and all additional reviewers for their outstanding and timely work. We are looking forward to meeting all of you at DATECH2014 during the Digitisation Days event in Madrid.

With warmest wishes,

Apostolos Antonacopoulos
University of Salford

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Ludwig-Maximilians-
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Foreword by the organisation chairs

The Impact Centre of Competence in Digitisation (<http://www.digitisation.eu>) is a European initiative that disseminates the best technology for the digitisation of historical text. Currently, the Impact Centre gathers over 35 institutions, including the most important European National Libraries, distinguished research institutions and leading companies delivering services in the digitisation sector.

Succeed is a support action funded by the European Union that promotes the take up and validation of research results in mass digitisation with focus on the textual content. Succeed improves the availability of tools and resources, fosters the transfer of knowledge, the creation of research consortia and explores the role of emerging business models, funding opportunities and public-private partnerships to improve large-scale text digitisation techniques.

The Impact Centre and Succeed organise the Digitisation Days, a major event in text digitisation field. The Digitisation Days are conceived as a meeting point for librarians, researchers and companies, to present an up-to-date vision of the most recent advances in technology for the digitisation of text, to showcase successful experiences in their application, and to explore the challenges for the near future of digitisation. In this framework, the DATeCH international conference has been conceived as a meeting point, where the latest and future technologies for the digitisation of historical text will be presented and discussed.

The DATeCH conference and the Digitisation Days take place at the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid, a location surrounded by the famous art museums and the neighboring historic center. Therefore, the event provides an excellent opportunity not only to learn about the challenges and the state of the art in digitisation but also to enjoy an environment plenty of culture and history.

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Session 1

Document Analysis and OCR

Session 2

Linguistic processing and encoding

Session 3

Postcorrection

Session 4

Best practices and experiences

Session 5

Enrichment

Session 6

Posters