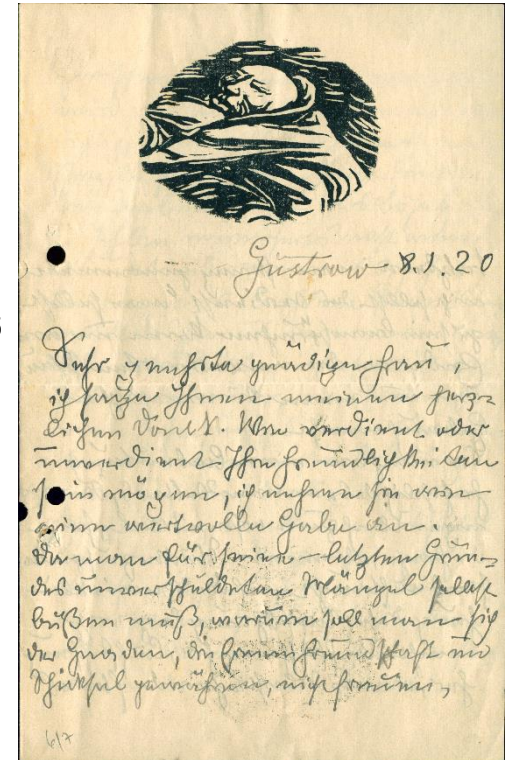


»I do not find hot punch as nice as
writing letters.«

Ernst Barlach to Lucy Moeller van den Bruck, 31 December 1915

**Transcribing Ernst Barlach's letters (1870-1938)
with *Transkribus***



The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

Who was Ernst Barlach?

- born on 2 January 1870 in Wedel near Hamburg, died on 24 October 1938 in Rostock
- sculptor, printmaker and writer
- famous for his sculptures of ›simple people‹, like beggars, farmers or old people, and memorials against war
- classified by the Nazis as degenerate art (entartete Kunst)
- every war memorial by Barlach was dismantled by the Nazis between 1934 (Magdeburg) and 1938 (Hamburg)



Freezing old woman, 1937



War memorial of Magdeburg, 1928/29

The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

The Edition

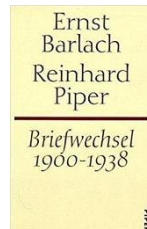
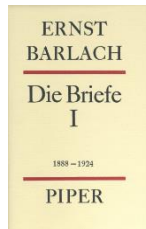
nearly 2.100 letters by Ernst Barlach between 1888 and 1938

transcription of letters by two editors

published letters (approx. 1.700 letters)

unpublished letters (approx. 400 letters)

one editor +



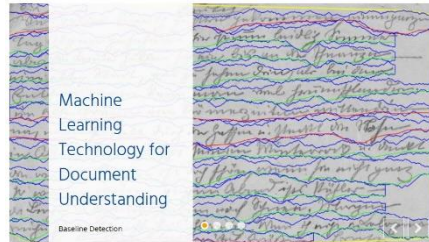
one editor +



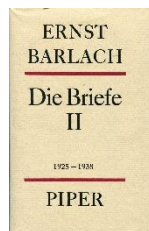
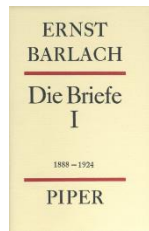
The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

Application of *Transkribus*

Computational Intelligence Technology Lab

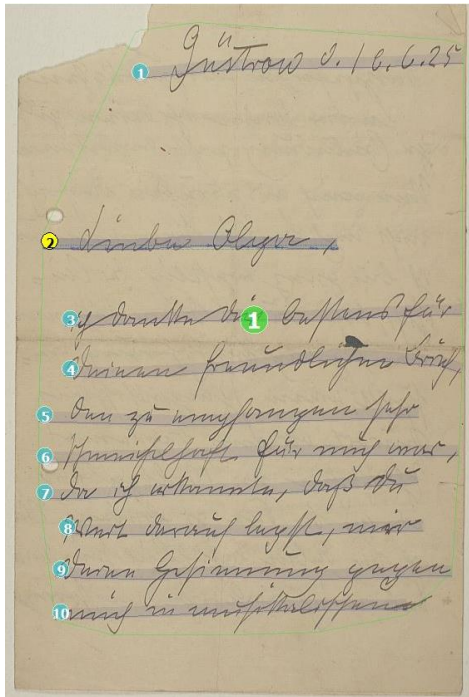


algorithm-based handwriting recognition by CITlab (University of Rostock)



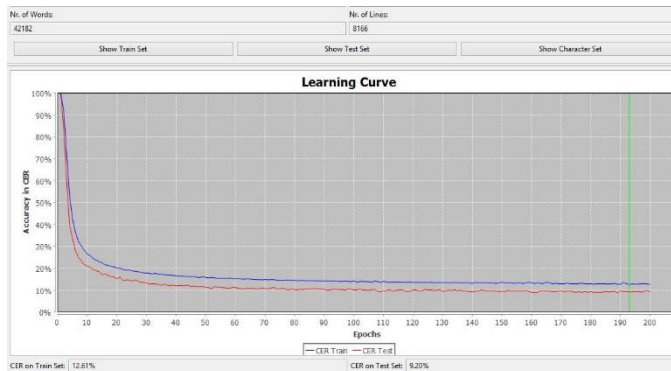
dictionary: edition of letters from 1968 by Friedrich Droß (1.500 letters)

The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters



1 Güstrow d. 16. 62
 2 Lieber Olga,
 3 ich danke Dir bestens für
 4 Deinen freundlichen Brief,
 5 den zu empfangen sehr
 6 schmeichelhafte für mich war,
 7 da ich erkannte, daß Du
 8 Wert darauf legst mir

Line based Region: 1 / 1 HTR suggestions CATTI

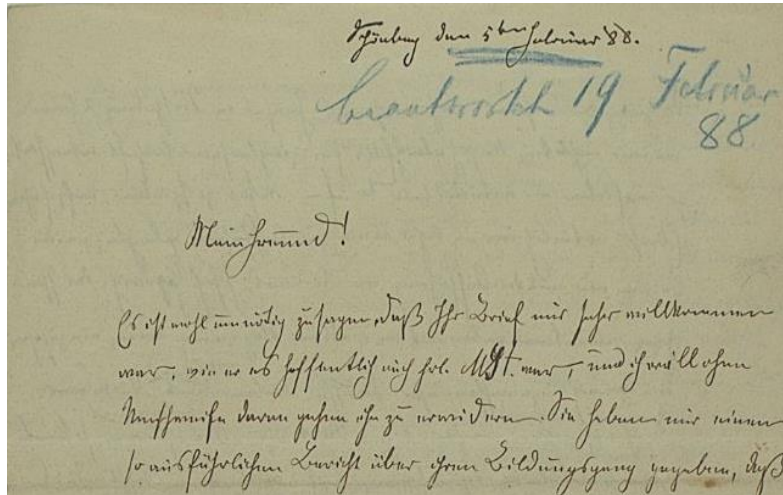


CER on Train Set: 12,61%

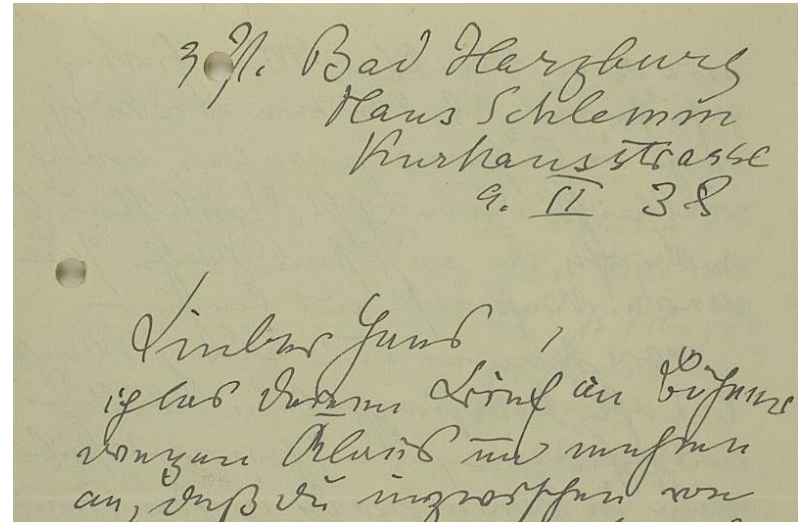
CER on Test Set: 9,20%

The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

Difficulties



›young‹ Barlach (5 February 1888)

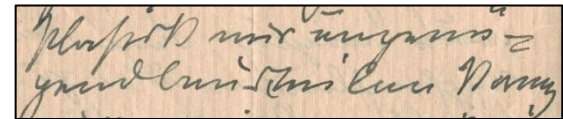
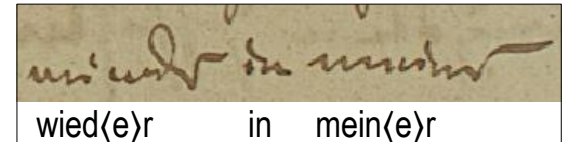
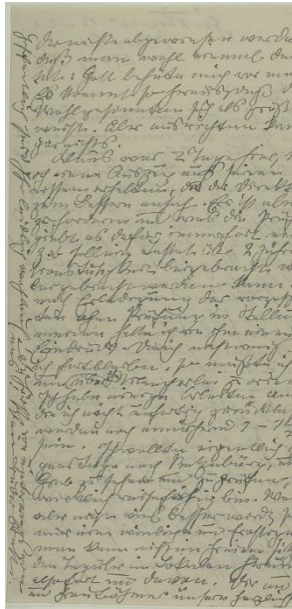


›old‹ Barlach (9 February 1938)

The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

Difficulties

- graphically incomplete representation of letters
- line folding
- text with different text directions
- regions- and baseline-recognition for purely computer-generated acquisition of larger text corpora





The Edition of Ernst Barlach's letters

Advantages

- only one editor has to transcribe a letter
- large corpus with valid transcription (up to 2.100 letters)
- independent definition of Ground Truth → programme is designed to train itself
- preparation for digital edition



Germania
OLINA POSTALE ITALIANA
(CARTE POSTALE D'ITALIE)



Thank you very much!

Herrn Nikol. Barlach

Güstrow (Melldehlg.)
Villa Maria