Transkribus,

a research platform for the mass digitisation, transcription, recognition and searching of historical documents

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Agenda

- Why this meeting?
- Transkribus Future
- Some updates on technology

Why this meeting?

There is a great chance...

- Excellent prerequisites
- Digitisation by archives and libraries
- Digital Humanities projects
- Long term tradition in (digital) editing
- New technology, but already mature enough for broad usage

...for a Dutch Model

- A large dataset of transcripts available to everyone who wants to train machines to read historical Dutch documents
 - Archives, libraries
 - Scholars
 - Computer scientists
- One or more neural networks ("models") capable to read any kind of Dutch handwriting of the last 300-400 years with reasonable results
 - Reasonable results would be something around 10% Character Error Rate without further training or adaption
 - Based on Keyword Spotting this will already allow searching with high accuracy
- Data curation as the main task
 - Its not so much an IT task but the task to build and maintain a national dataset of transcriptions

Purpose of the meeting..

- Someone needs to take the lead...
- Spotting and collecting existing digital (and printed) editions
- Negotiating with data providers
- Transforming editions into machine readable data
 - Partly with automated Text2Image matching
 - Partly with support of service providers or crowd
- Transkribus is the logical place for this dataset, but the dataset can of course be used independently from Transkribus

Future of Transkribus



Transkribus future

- Projects ends on 30th June 2019
- However, there is a strong demand for Transkribus services so that maintenance of the platform is already safeguarded until 2021
 - EU Project NewsEye (2018-2021)
 - German Science Funds project (2019-2020)
 - Project with National Archive Finland (2019)
 - Project with National Archive Netherlands (2019-2020)
 - National project with cadastre documents from Tyrol (2019-2020)
 - Project with Trinity College Dublin (2019-2021)
 - Project with State Archive Zurich (2019-2020)
 - More to come and under negotiation!

READ-COOP

- European Cooperative Society (SCE) as the legal framework
- Run and further develop the Transkribus platform
- Collaboration of independent entities
- Democratic constitution members have the final say in the general meeting
- Customers become owners, owners become customers
- Direct benefit of members is the main goal
- No shareholder value
- Open to natural persons as well

Current state of affairs

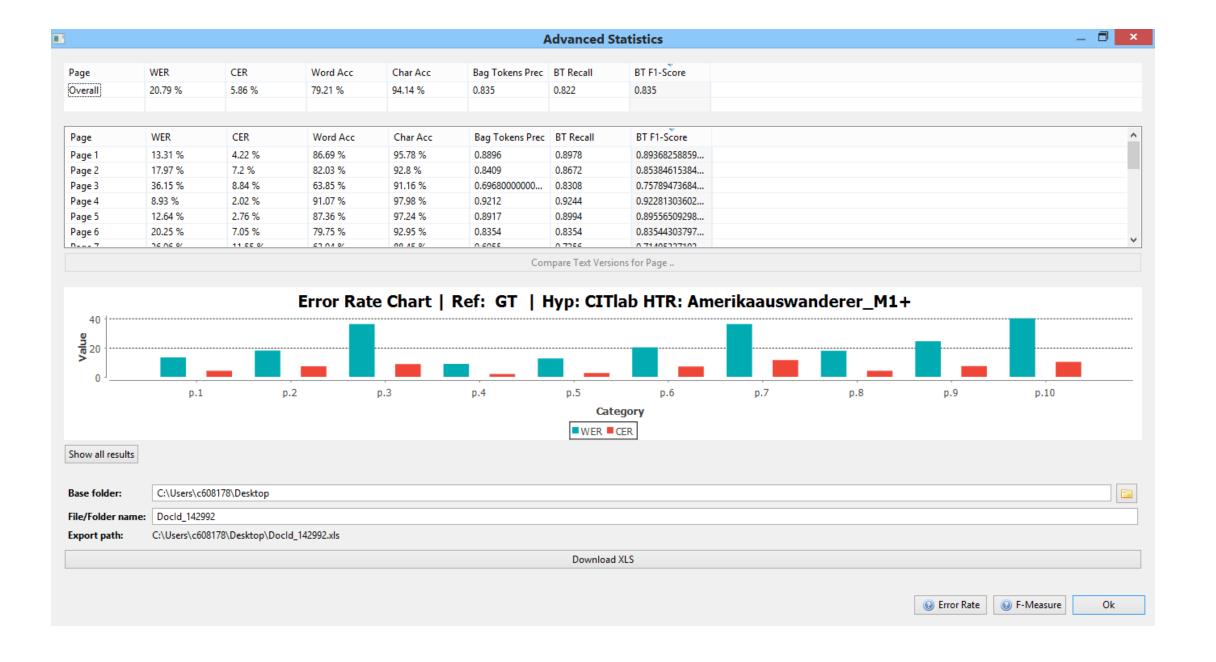
- Statutes in pre-final version
 - Monistic system: Board of directors general meeting
- Founding members
 - University Innsbruck, University Greifswald, Technical University Valencia, National Archive Finland, British Library, University Library Belgrade, Diocesan Archive Passau, University Rostock, ZAMG Vienna, Picturae, Geneanet France, etc..
 - Everyone invited to join!
- Membership shares
 - From 1000 (minimum) to 5000 EUR, 250 EUR for natural persons
- First board of directors will be formed in the next weeks
- Founding act shall take place before summer holidays
- Official start of business on 1st of July (keep fingers crossed!)

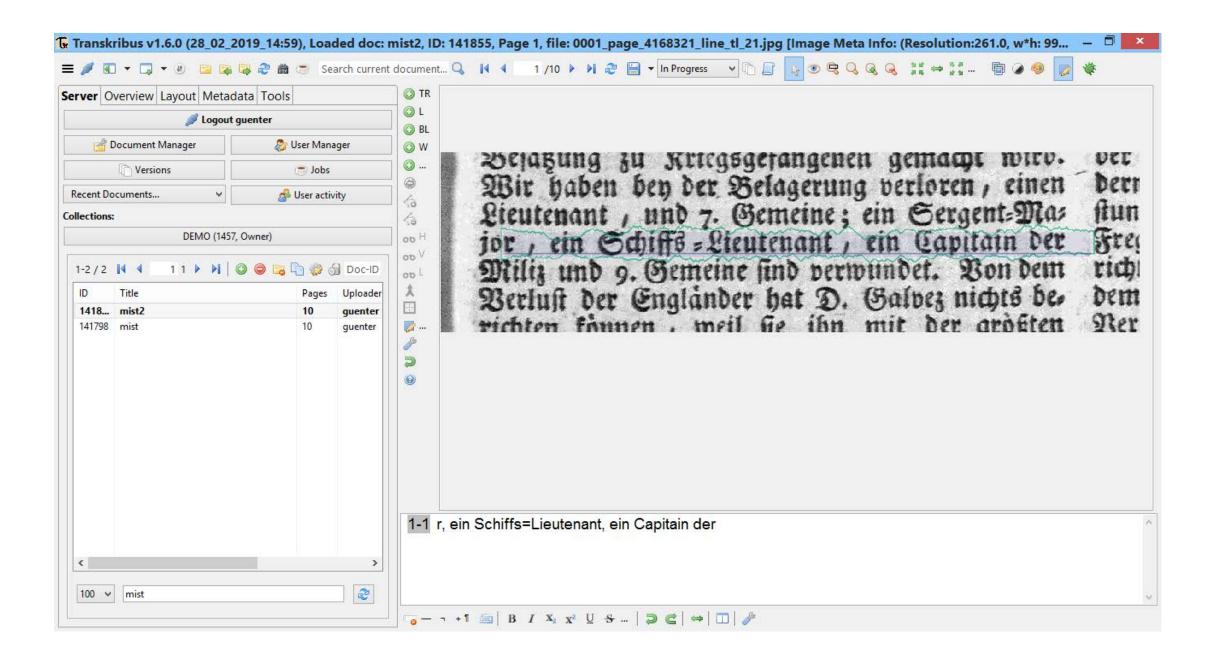
Business

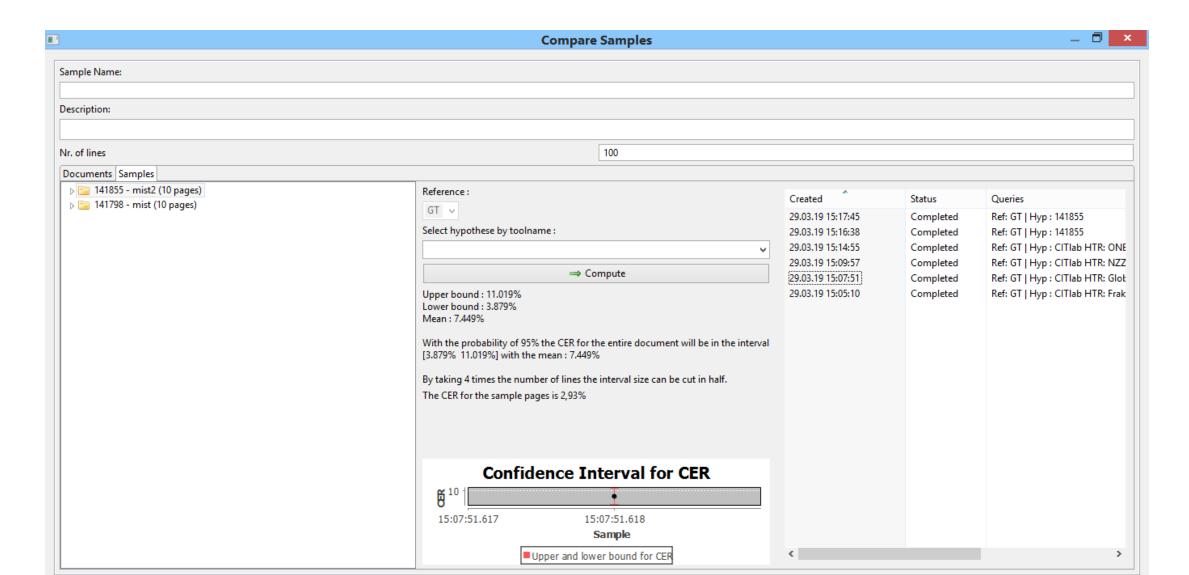
- Transkribus platform
 - Software as a service: We expect that users will work with the platform and connected services in a rather independent way (as it is already the case)
 - However, specific support and development tasks can also be offered for special projects
- Subscription fee for the platform itself
 - Around 3000-4000 EUR per year
- Page based prices for services
 - Between 10 and 16 Cent per page for HTR processing
 - Large quantities can be negotiated
- Discounts for coop members

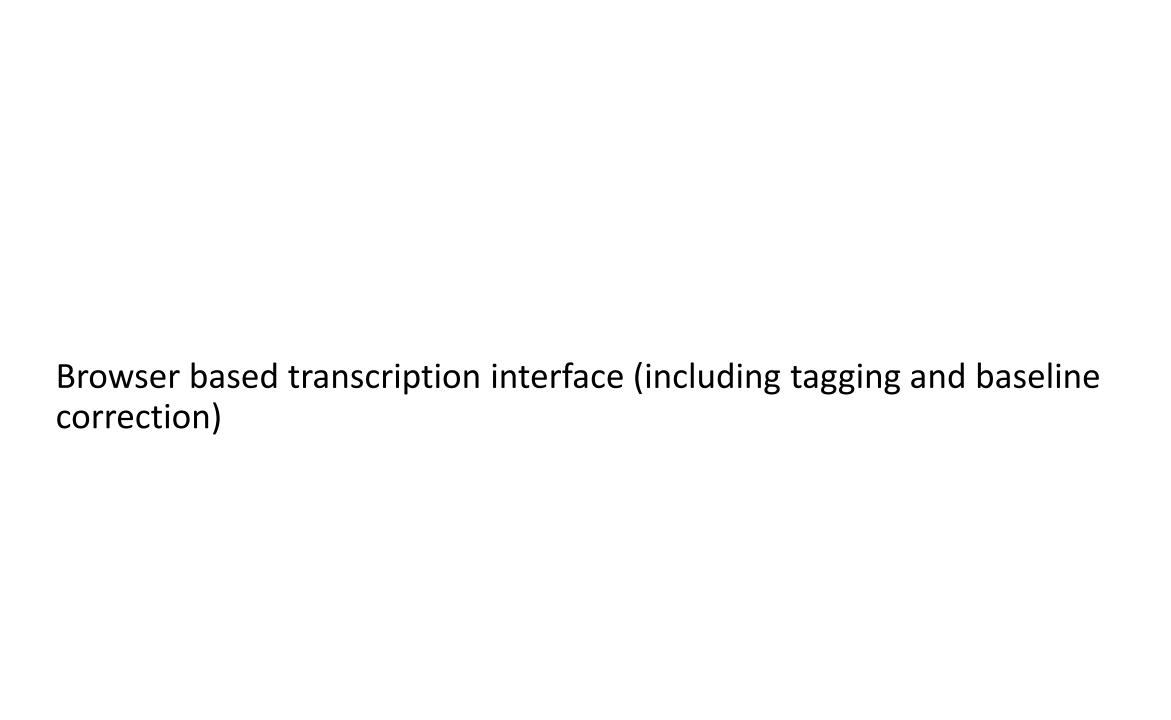
Recent work and updates

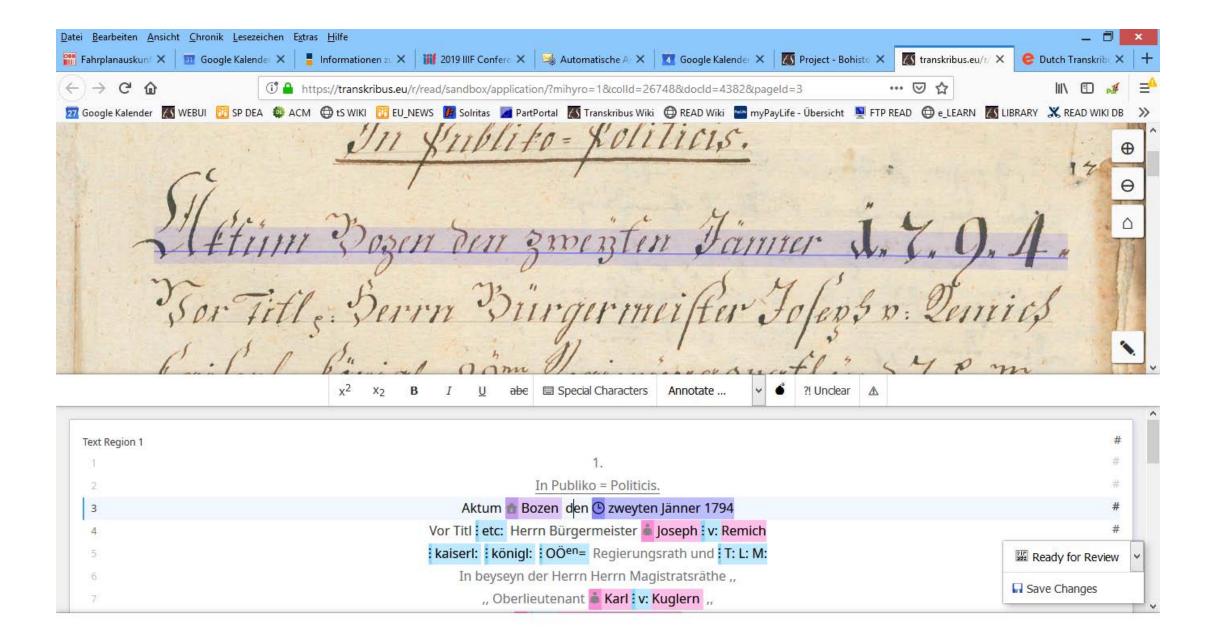
Error rate tool – Advanced mode and sample mode







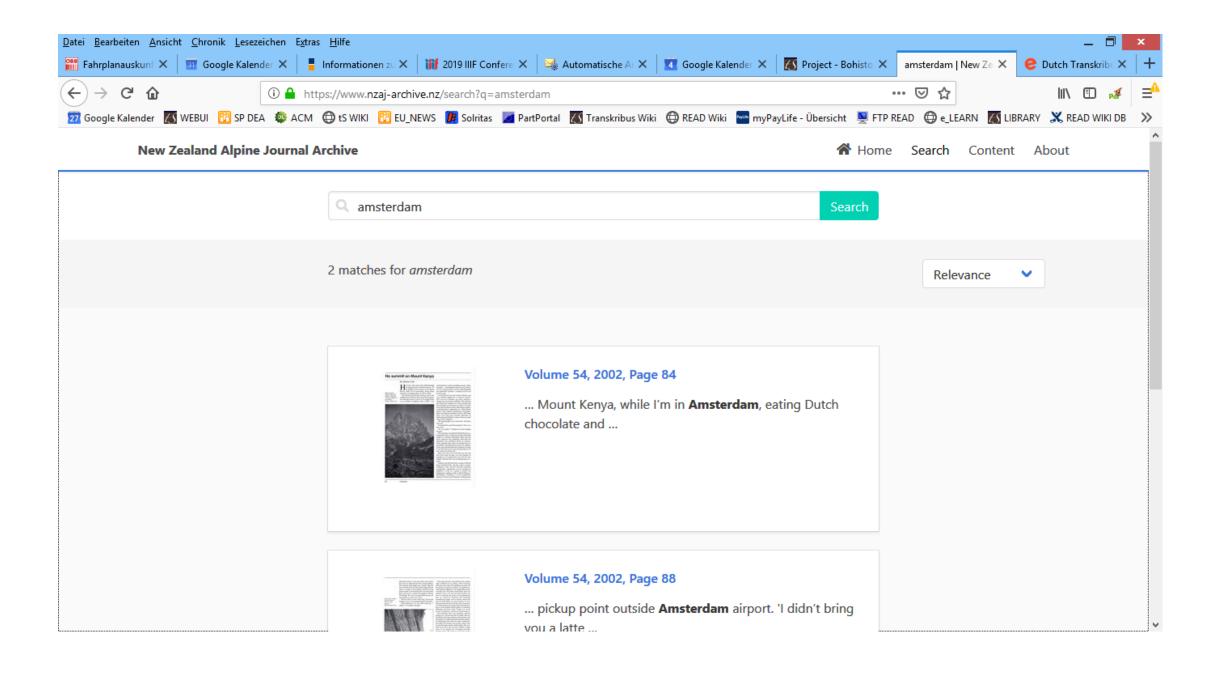


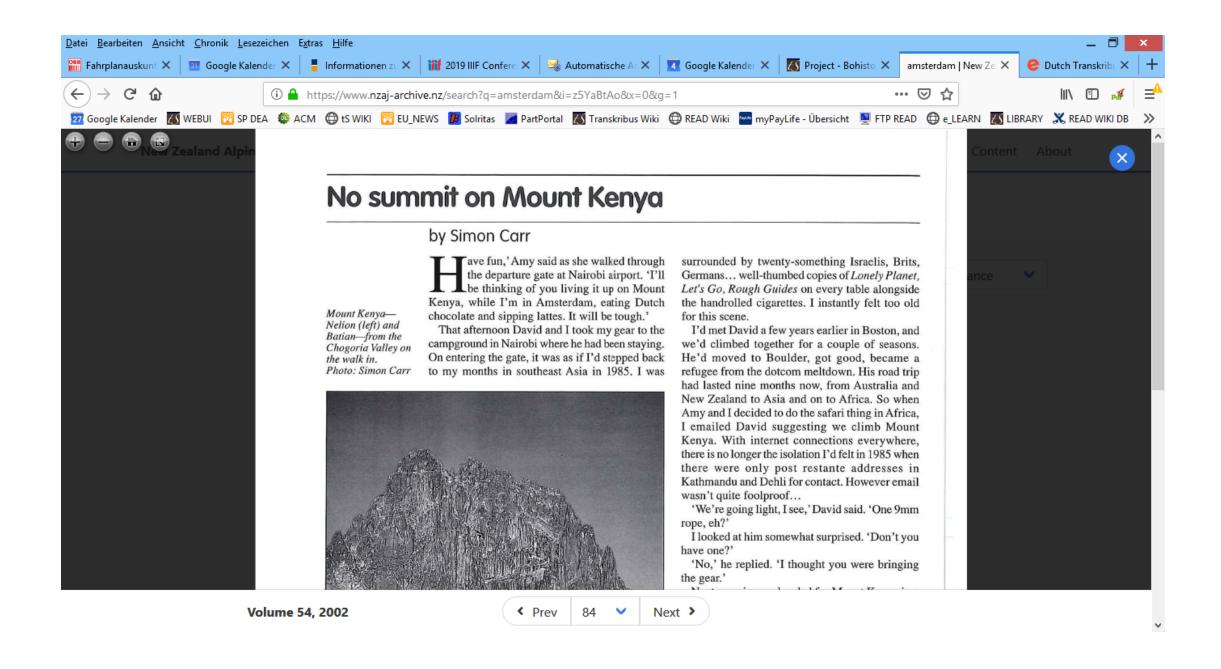


Technical updates

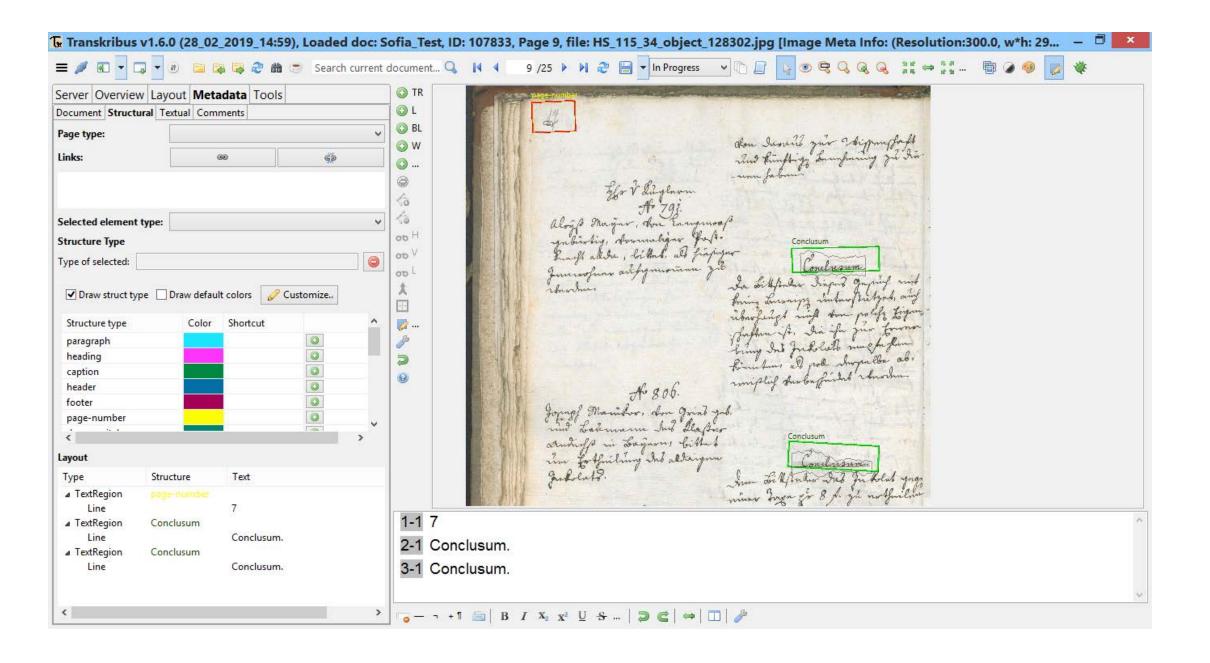
Simple search interface for New Zealand Alpine Journal http://nzaj-archive.nz/



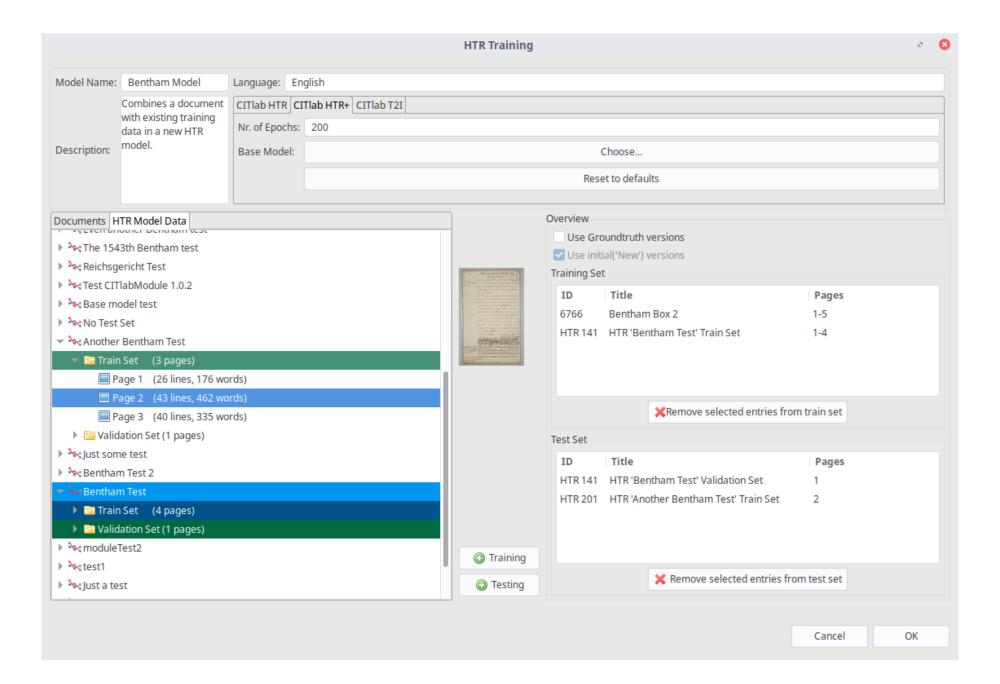


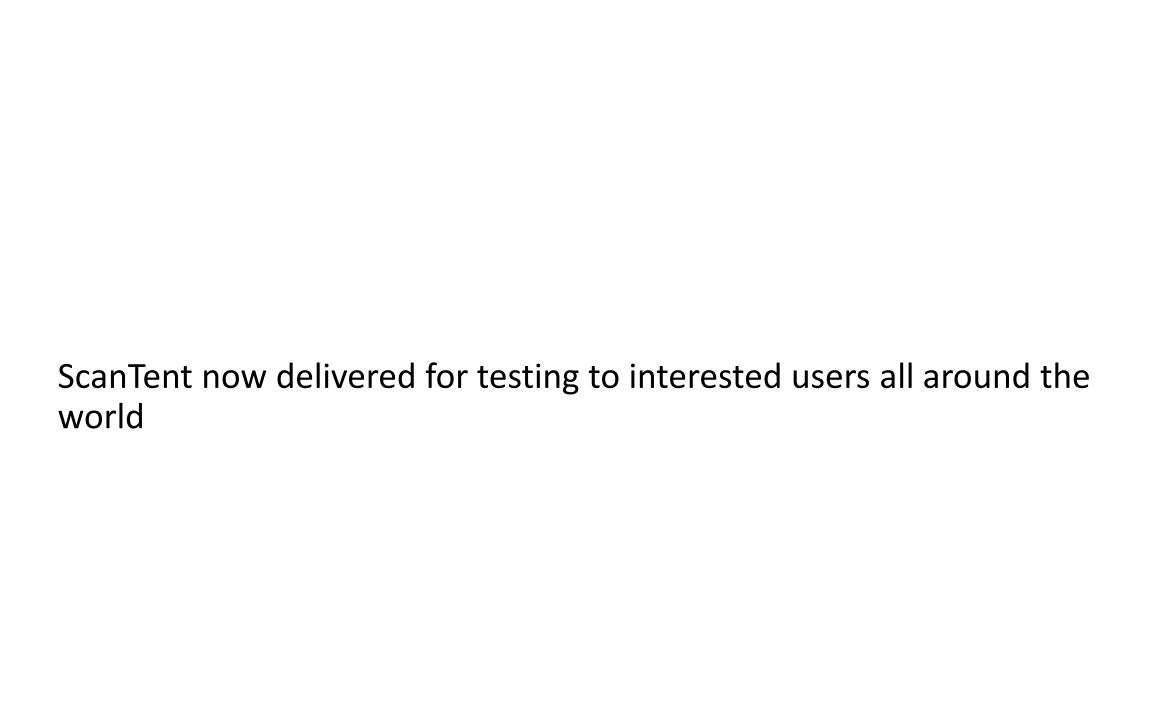


Trainable layout analysis tool



New training interface for HTR models







Yesterday...

- 19.258 images uploaded by single users
- 82 new users
- 322 unique logins to Transkribus expert client
- 1246 jobs processed
- 5 new HTR models trained by users

Thank you for your attention!

Further information

https://read.transkribus.eu/

https://transkribus.eu/

https://read.transkribus.eu/coop/

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