READ

Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents

D2.13
Workshops

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Executive Summary

Workshops, presentations and other events have continued to play a vital role in disseminating the findings of the READ project and encouraging researchers, archivists and members of the public to work with the Transkribus platform. The Transkribus User Conference has now been established as a popular annual event, after its second incarnation in November 2018.

1. Workshops

1.1. Format

Transkribus workshops are interactive, practical sessions where participants learn how to work with the Transkribus expert client. Humanities researchers and archivists comprise the main audience for these events. Workshops are typically led by the Dissemination Working Group, which contains representatives from ABP, NAF, StAZH, UCL and UIBK.

For a more detailed summary of Transkribus workshops see *D2.11 Workshops*.

1.2. Transkribus workshops delivered by READ project members

During 2018 and the first half of 2019, READ project members delivered more than 30 workshops, which again exceeds the target set out in KPI-I11.

Transkribus workshops were delivered at some of the following major academic and archival conferences:

- *Dhd2018,* University of Cologne, Germany, February 2018.
- *Bibliotheca Baltica,* University of Rostock, Germany, October 2018.
- *ICARUS #23 convention,* Pula, Croatia, March 2019.
- *Dhd2019,* Frankfurt, Germany, March 2019.
- *International Congress on Medieval Studies,* Western Michigan University, USA, May 2019.
- *E-Books on Demand conference,* Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 2019.

Transkribus workshops also took place at some of the following institutions:
- École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, January 2018.
- University of Bamberg and Bamberg State Library, Germany, January 2018.
- University of Le Mans, France, February 2018.
- University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, February 2018.
- University of Berne, Switzerland, March 2018.
- University of Valencia, Spain, March 2018.
- University of Tampere, Finland, March 2018.
- University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, March 2018.
- Institute of Historical Research, United Kingdom, March 2018.

- University of Basle, Switzerland, April 2018.
- Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, May 2018.
- University of Stuttgart, Germany, July 2018.
- Helsinki City Museum, Finland, July 2018.
- State Archives of Bern, Switzerland, August 2018.
- University of Fribourg, Switzerland, August 2018.
- Central library of Zurich, Switzerland, September 2018.
- Ghent University, Belgium, September 2018.
- University of Antwerp, Belgium, September 2018.
- German Historical Institute, Paris, France, October 2018.
- University of Zagreb, Croatia, October 2018.
- University of Zurich, Switzerland, November 2018.
- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Switzerland, December 2018.
- University of Manchester, January 2019.
- University of Antwerp, Belgium, February 2019.

1.3. Transkribus presentations delivered by READ project members

We have complemented this series of workshops with more than 35 presentations about Transkribus and the READ project across 2018 and the first half of 2019.

As with the practical workshops, these presentations take place as both stand-alone events and as part of conferences.

Presentations were delivered at some of the following major academic and archival conferences:

- *Dhd2018,* University of Cologne, Germany, February 2018.
- *Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries Conference,* Helsinki, Finland, March 2018.
- *DARIAH-CZ workshop,* Prague, Czech Republic, April 2018.
- *Digikult,* Gothenburg, Sweden, April 2018.
- *Innovative Library in Digital Era (ILIDE)*, Jasná, Slovakia, April 2018.
- *Nordic Archives Days,* Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2018.
- *Europeanatech,* Rotterdam, The Netherlands, May 2018.
- *German Libraries Day,* Berlin, Germany, June 2018.
- *ICARUS #21,* Helsinki, Finland, June 2018.
- *Bibliotheca Baltica,* University of Rostock, Germany, October 2018.
- *CLARIN Annual Conference,* Pisa, Italy, October 2018.
- *Digital Humanities Forum*, Leipzig, Germany, December 2018.
- *ICARUS #23,* Pula, Croatia, March 2019.
- *E-Books on Demand conference,* Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 2019.

Presentations also took place at some of the following institutions:
- University of Helsinki, Finland, February 2018.
- University of Valencia, Spain, March 2018.
- University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, March 2018.
- Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, April 2018.

- Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, April 2018.
- National Archives of Finland, Helsinki, Finland, June 2018.
- Fundación UNED, Madrid, Spain, July 2018.
- University of Antwerp, Belgium, September 2018.
- The National Archives UK, London, United Kingdom, September 2018,
- University of Zurich, Switzerland, September 2018.
- Central library of Zurich, Switzerland, September 2018.
- Society of Swedish Literature, Helsinki, Finland, October 2018.
- Bavarian State Archives, Germany, October 2018.
- University of Zagreb, Croatia, October 2018.
- National Archives of Finland, Helsinki, Finland, October 2018.
- University of Exeter, United Kingdom, November 2018.
- Institute of Historical Research, London, United Kingdom, November 2018.
- Kings College London, United Kingdom, November 2018.
- Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland, November 2018.
- University of Helsinki, Finland, December 2018.
- University of Passau, Germany, December 2018.

1.4. Webinars

UIBK have started to deliver regular live webinars so that a wider audience can receive guidance on using the Transkribus expert client. The first webinars were delivered to restricted audiences from specific projects. In December 2018, all registered Transkribus users were invited to attend webinars and these tutorials regularly attract an audience of around 60 people. This first series of Transkribus webinars was delivered in German, reflecting the platform's largest user base. We have also uploaded a recording of a German-language webinar to the Transkribus YouTube channel and this video has been watched over 650 times.

1.5. Transkribus User Conference 2018

The second Transkribus User Conference took place on 8-9 November 2018 at the Technical University of Vienna. Places at the event were in high demand and registration reached full capacity in a matter of days. The conference was attended by around 100 Transkribus users, plus staff from the READ project. Slides and videos of the conference presentations are available on the conference website and the Transkribus YouTube channel.

The conference began with a presentation on the formation of READ-COOP and included a session where attendees had the opportunity to give feedback on and ask questions about the proposal. User stories were central to the event and representatives from ten project teams explained how they are using Transkribus to recognise various types of text from early modern wills to twentieth-century philosophy. Representatives from ABP, NAF and StAZH spoke about their role as Large Scale Demonstrators, shedding light on some of the challenges of applying Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) to large data sets. We heard about technological advances relating to HTR+, Table Processing, Keyword Spotting and the DocScan app. We also learnt about one of the first projects using Transkribus for crowdsourcing. *Crowd leert computer lezen* (or Crowd teaches the computer how to read) at Amsterdam City Archives has connected Transkribus to the VeleHanden crowdsourcing platform, allowing volunteers to produce transcriptions that can then be automatically used

as training data for recognising notarial documents. The event included a Transkribus workshop to help new users explore the platform and a parallel session for advanced users where they could speak directly to READ computer scientists and developers about their work.

We also used the conference as an opportunity to ask attendees to complete a survey about their experience of Transkribus. The survey received 72 responses, which are summarised in *D4.9 User Satisfaction*.

Once again the conference was an interdisciplinary collaboration between developers, computer scientists, humanities scholars and archivists. Many of the attendees reported that this unique event was valuable for their work with Transkribus. The Transkribus User Conference will become an annual occasion, with the next event planned for the autumn of 2019.

1.6.   Scanathons

We delivered several innovative 'Scanathon' events this year to promote and gather feedback on the ScanTent and DocScan mobile app.

Our first Scanathon was held on 8 June 2018, with parallel events taking place at NAF, StAZH and the National Archives of the UK in celebration of International Archives Day. There was a live Skype link between the different archives and the Finnish event was broadcast on Facebook Live. Several ScanTents were set up at each location and participants from the archival and research domains were invited to try digitising documents using their smartphone, the DocScan app and a ScanTent. We also collected feedback from attendees about the usability of the tools. This feedback was passed onto CVL who are developing both products (see *D8.3 Open Innovation Forum*).

We have since organised similar Scanathons at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in November 2018 and the University of Belgrade in December 2018. READ project staff often give additional demonstrations of the ScanTent when delivering presentations or workshops.

1.7.   Dutch workshop

On 4 April 2019, we organised a regional workshop in The Netherlands to facilitate cooperation on the automated recognition of Dutch-language documents. This event was designed to mobilise an active community of Transkribus users to create a generic 'Dutch model' that could recognise different types of script. About 45 archivists and researchers met at the Dutch National Archives where they discussed their experience with Transkribus and shared information about their existing transcripts and images. The idea of a Dutch language Transkribus network was enthusiastically received. The event concluded with agreement to investigate funding opportunities and set up regular network meetings at different venues.

1.8.   Promotion and Dissemination

We promote upcoming events via the READ website, the Transkribus Twitter account and scholarly mailing lists. Institutions who have invited us to give presentations or workshops also assist us with promotion.

After events have taken place, we disseminate summaries of their content by writing blog posts, uploading slides to the READ website and displaying videos in our [YouTube playlist](.).

2. Conclusion

Our popular workshops, presentations and events have ensured that Transkribus and its related tools have been publicised to a wide audience. Participants in our events gain a practical understanding of the technology and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, which ultimately influences future development work. Events and webinars will remain an important means of maintaining interest in Transkribus and promoting membership of READ-COOP.