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#### **OCR for Digital Collections**

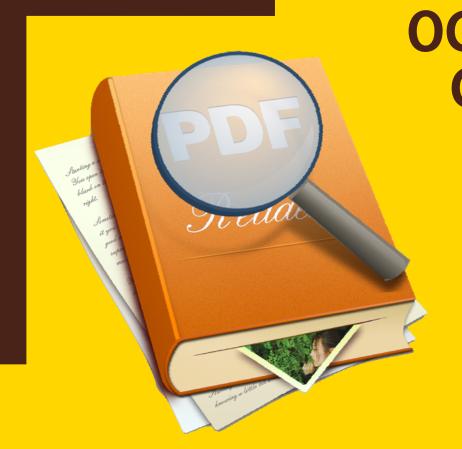
Rebecca Bakker Florida International University, rbakker@fiu.edu

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# OCR FOR DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Rebecca Bakker
Digital Collections Center
Florida International University
rbakker@fiu.edu

## OCR - What does it mean and why is it important?



- Optical Character Recognition
- a/k/a "Text Recognition"
- OCR accuracy affects information retrieval
- Important step in Digitization

## Purpose of this Presentation

- Best practices
- Common problems and considerations
- Software available for your project

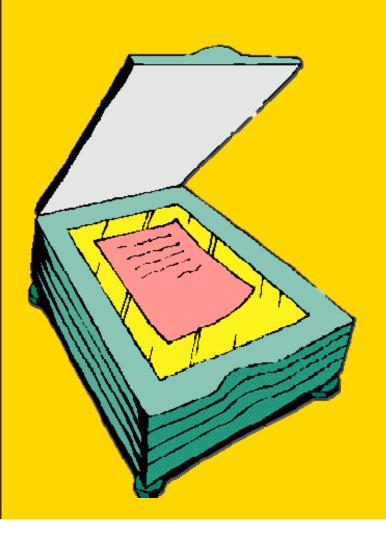


## Things to consider for your project:

- Quality of original
- Volume of files
- Preservation Intentions



## **Best Practices for OCR**



- Text:
- High contrast
- Font size over 6 points
- Published after 1950
- Scanned:
- RGB Mode
- 300 dpi
- Relatively straight!
- Image format TIFF (Tagged Image File Format)
- OCR done as part of the image to PDF conversion
- Text-under-image in PDF

## Common difficulties

- Similar symbols (O's and 0's, 1's and I's, etc.)
- Punctuation and special symbols ©
- Typography *italics*, spacing, underlining
- Complex character scripts (non-Latin languages)
- Proper names
- Columns
- Bleed-through

REED

Construction CORP.

Engineers Contractors

Docks Wood Pile Steel Sheeting Bridges

Miami Beach

Phones 5-5397 and

P. O. Box

HERMAN J. ARRANT, Inc.

"NOTHING BUT INSURANCE"

POLK'S

MIAMI

Directory of Householders, Occupants of Office Buildings and Other Business Places, Including a Complete Street and Avenue Guide

1939

Including Coral Gables and Miami Beach

Copyright, 1939, by R. L. Polk & Co.

WASHINGTON STORAGE CO.,

001 Washington Av. (M. B.)

#### Original scanned document:

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports

  Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports

  Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

(2,4A-1)

#### PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_\_

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print ailist of stransactions; idisplays (2, y4A=2),4A=2) after which it will return to display (2, 4A=1).

REST	AURANT TRI RNATIONAL	(2,4A-2) ANSACTIONS INN TAMIAMI		1.97	6
224	Ø BARRY		15. 00	69. 08	1. 39
303	Ø JAMES		7. 50	47. 02	1 41
303	0 JAMES		29. 00	84. 78	1 43
201	@ DUCK		36. 31.	42. 35	3 43
201	e DOCK		27 27	37 27	3 45

#### Image processed document:

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

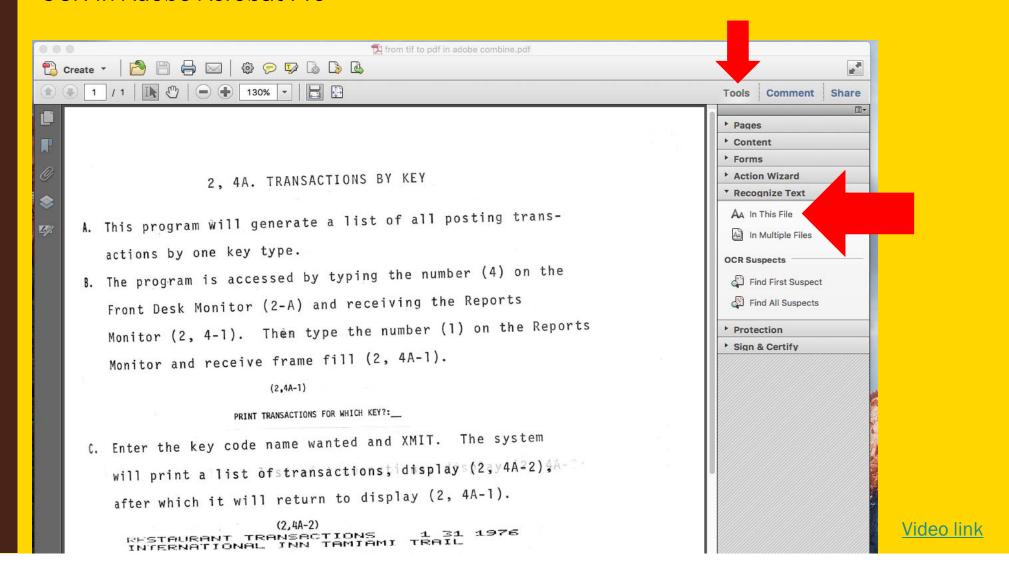
(2,4A-1)

#### PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_\_

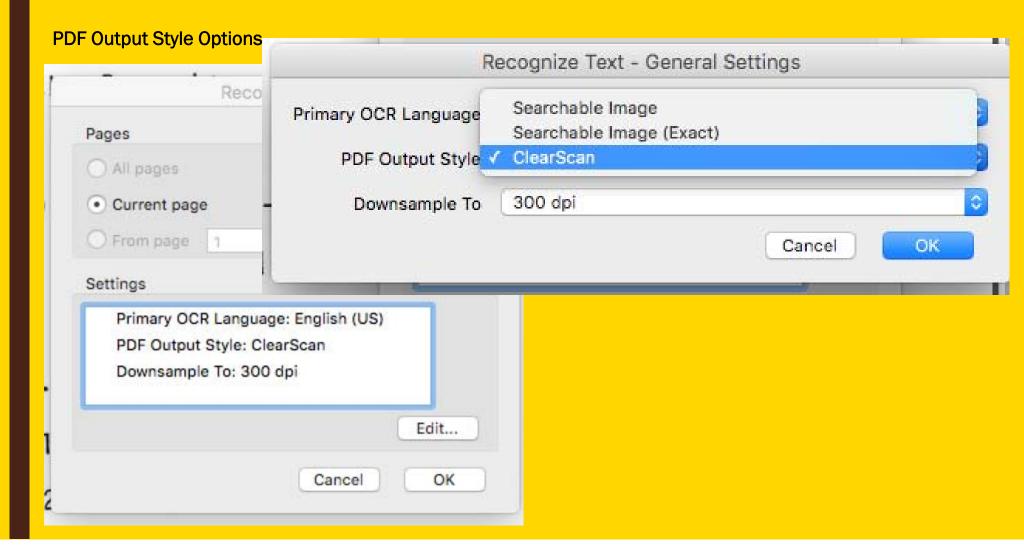
C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of stransactions, displays (2, y4A-2), after which it will return to display (2, 4A-1).

REST	AURANT RNATION	(2,4A-2) TRANSACTIONS VAL INN TAMIAMI	1 31 TRAIL	197	6	
	a por.pu	10	15. 00	69. 08	1.	39
224	8 BARRY		7. 50	47. 02	1	4:
303	a JAMES			04 70	- 4	4

#### OCR in Adobe Acrobat Pro



#### OCR in Adobe Acrobat -



#### Searchable Exact

# This program will

Searchable

This program will

Clearscan

This program will

## Differences in Acrobat OCR Output Styles

	Deskews	File Size	Hidden Text Layer	Allows corrections	PDF/A Compliant
Searchable Image (Exact)	NO	Largest	YES	YES	YES
Searchable Image	YES	Middle	YES	YES	YES
Clearscan	YES	Smallest	NO	NO	NO

Name	Size ~
adobe searchable image exact ocr.pdf	287 KB
🔁 adobe searchable image ocr.pdf	254 KB
adobe clearscan ocr.pdf	135 KB

## Adobe Acrobat OCR Accuracy

```
2, 4A. TRANSACT! ONS BY KEY T
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A. Thi s p r og ra m Wil I generate a list of all posting transac to ns by one key type. The state of all posting transac to ns by one key type.

B. The prog-ram is a c cessed by typing the number (4) on the Tr on t De s k Mo nit o r (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monito r (2, 4-1). The A type the number (1) on the Reports Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (3) on the The The A type the number (4) on the The The A type the number (1) on the Reports The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) The A type the number (1) on the Reports The North Reports The Nor

PRI NT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?: \_\_ ¶

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system ¶ Will p r int a list of s tra nsac t ions, d ~s~la y 0 2, v 4A- 2) ~ n ¶ aft er which i t will return to display (2, 4A-l). ¶

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

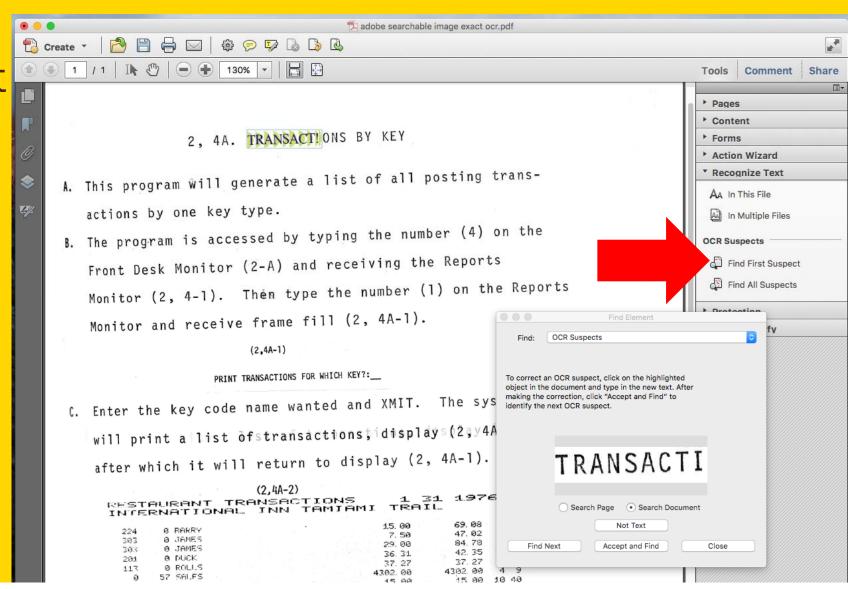
- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

(2,4A-1)

#### PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_\_

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of stransactions, displays (2, y4Å=2), A=2 after which it will return to display (2, 4A=1).

## Adobe Acrobat OCR

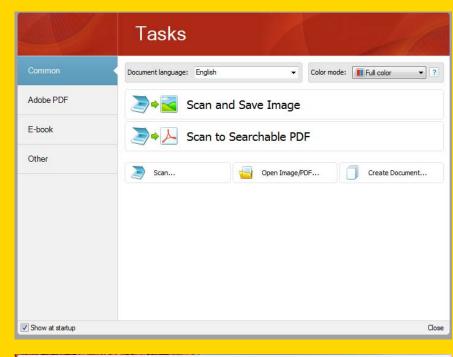


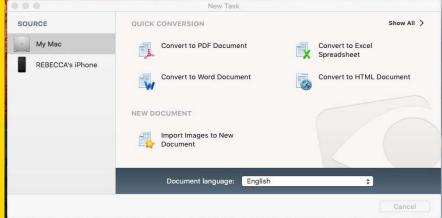
Video link

### **ABBYY FineReader**

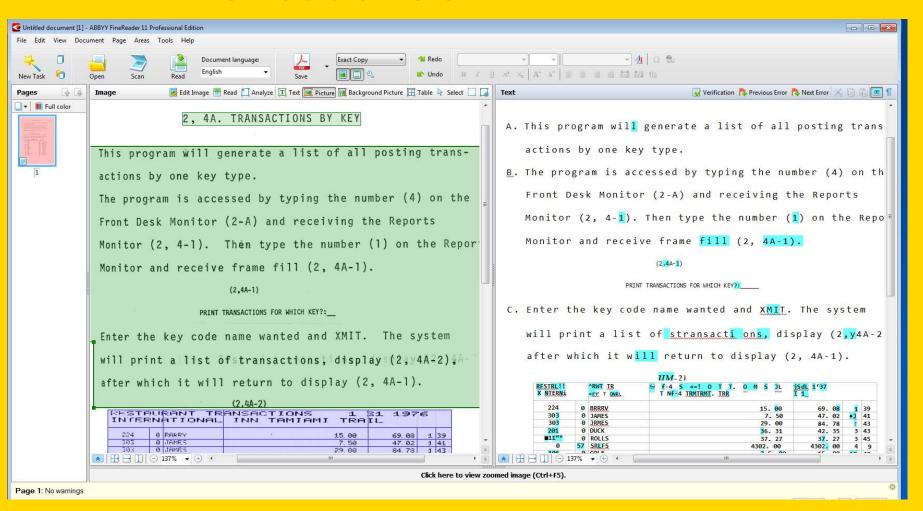
#### Recognizes 190 languages, in all combinations:

Abkhaz, Adyghe, Afrikaans, Agul, Albanian, Altaic, Arabic (Saudi Arabia) +, Armenian (Eastern) +, Armenian (Grabar) +, Armenian (Western) +, Avar, Aymara, Azeri (Cyrillic), Azeri (Latin) +, Bashkir +, Basic, Basque, Belarusian, Bemba, Blackfoot, Breton, Bugotu, Bulgarian +, Buryat, C/C++, Catalan +, Cebuano, Chamorro, Chechen, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Chukchee, Chuvash, COBOL, Corsican, Crimean Tatar, Croatian +, Crow, Czech +, Dakota, Danish +, Dargwa, Dungan, Dutch (Belgian) +, Dutch +, English +, Eskimo (Cyrillic), Eskimo (Latin), Esperanto, Estonian +, Even, Evenki, Faroese, Fijian, Finnish +, Fortran, French +, Frisian, Friulian, Gagauz, Galician, Ganda, German (Luxembourg), German (new spelling), German +, Greek +, Guarani, Hani, Hausa, Hawaiian, Hebrew +, Hungarian +, Icelandic, Ido, Indonesian +, Ingush, Interlingua, Irish, Italian +, Japanese +, Java, Jingpo, Kabardian, Kalmyk, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kasub, Kawa, Kazakh, Khakass, Khanty, Kikuyu, Kirghiz, Kongo, Korean (Hangul) +, Korean +, Koryak, Kpelle, Kumyk, Kurdish, Lak, Latin +, Latvian +, Lezgi, Lithuanian +, Luba, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malay, Malinke, Maltese, Mansi, Maori, Mari, Maya, Miao, Minangkabau, Mohawk, Moldavian, Mongol, Mordvin, Nahuatl, Nenets, Nivkh, Nogay, Norwegian (Bokmal) +, Norwegian (Nynorsk) +, Nyanja, Occidental, Occitan, Ojibway, Ossetian, Papiamento, Pascal, Polish +, Portuguese (Brazil) +, Portuguese +, Quechua, Rhaeto-Romance, Romanian +, Romany, Rundi, Russian (old spelling) +, Russian +, Russian with accents new +, Rwanda, Sami (Lappish), Samoan, Scottish Gaelic, Selkup, Serbian (Cyrillic, Latin), Shona, Simple chemical formulas, Slovak +, Slovenian +, Somali, Sorbian, Sotho, Spanish +, Sunda, Swahili, Swazi, Swedish +, Tabasaran, Tagalog, Tahitian, Tajik, Tatar +, Thai +, Tok Pisin, Tongan, Tswana, Tun, Turkish +, Turkmen (Cyrillic), Turkmen (Latin), Tuvinian, Udmurt, Uighur (Cyrillic, Latin), Ukrainian +, Uzbek (Cyrillic, Latin), Vietnamese +, Welsh, Wolof, Xhosa, Yakut, Yiddish, Zapotec, Zulu

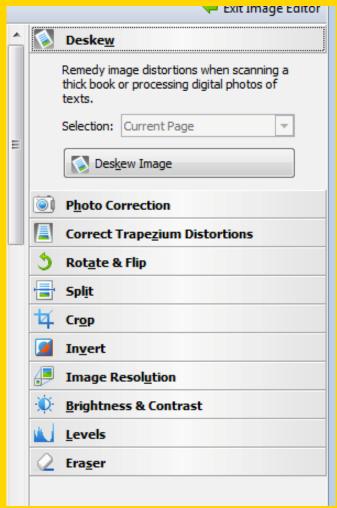




## **ABBYY FineReader OCR**



## ABBYY FineReader OCR



Options
Document Scan/Open Read Save View Advanced
DOCX/ODT/RTF XLSX PDF PDF/A HTML PPTX TXT CSV FB2/EPUB DjVu
Default paper size
Automatic
Save mode ————————————————————————————————————
Text under the page image
✓ Keep text and background colors    ☐ Create outline
☐ Keep headers and footers  ☐ Use Mixed Raster Content ☐ South Toward PDS (convertible with Add to Associate South Add to Associate Sou
Enable Tagged PDF (compatible with Adobe Acrobat 5.0 and above)
Image settings  ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Font settings  Use Windows fonts     Windows fonts   Windows f
Security No security
OK Cancel Help

## **ABBYY FineReader OCR**

#### 2, 4 A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.

B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A - 1). (2.4A-1)

PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?: 1

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of stransacti on s, display (2,y4A-2)r after which it will return to display (2, 4A-1).

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

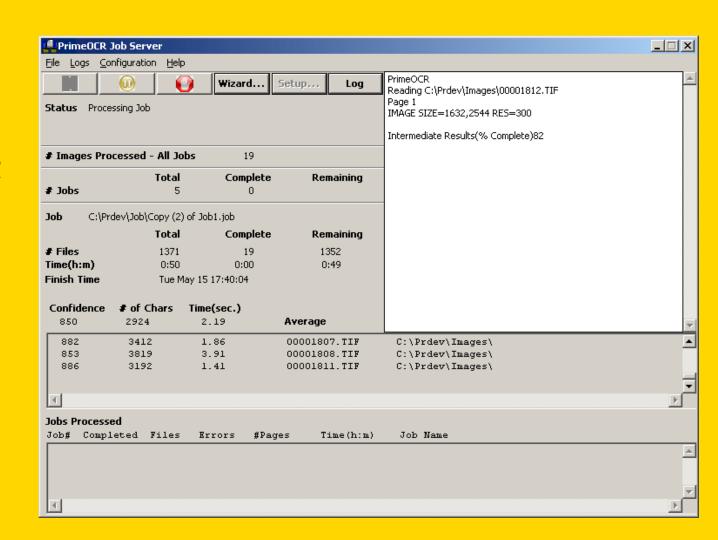
(2,4A-1)

#### PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_\_

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of stransactions, displays (2, y4A-2).

## Prime OCR

- 11 languages
- Uses up to 6 OCR Engines at a time
- Allows for high volume batch processing
- Vastly improved accuracy



## Prime OCR

Template File: OCR engine configuration data, i.e. image enhancement steps,

automatic zoning settings, output format.

Image File: Any TIFF/JPEG/PDF/ etc file that can be accessed by the PC via a

file path (can be on a remote server).

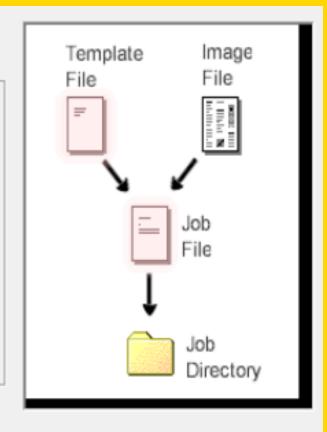
Job File: Describes a path to the images to be processed and a path to the

template file to be used for processing.

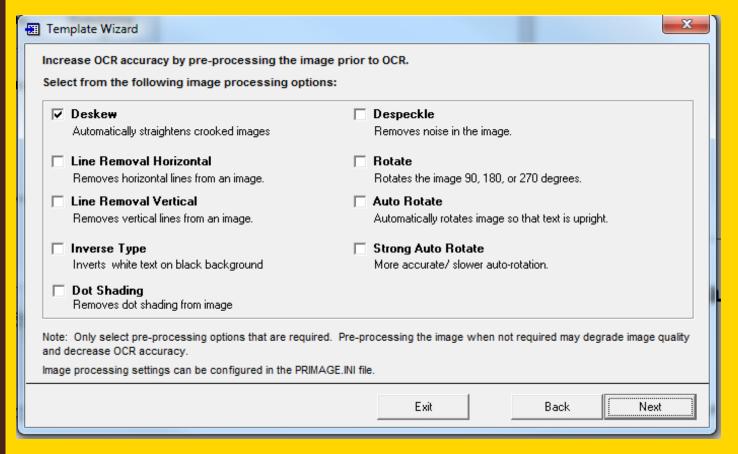
Job Directory: The PrimeOCR Job Server will search this directory for job files

and will process them. Location of the job directory can be

changed in Setup/Input.



## Prime OCR



PDF Defaults					
PDF Output					
Desample images in PDF output	Ш				
200 Desample DPI					
☐ Optimize (byte serve) PDF file	Ш				
Force PDF file version to	Ш				
1.4 Version number	П				
☐ Zip compress color/gray files	Н				
Make Accessible (Section 508)	Ш				
☐ PDF/A-1b format	Ш				
☐ PDF/A-1a format	Ш				
✓ JBIG2 compression	Ш				
Retain input PDF information					
☐ Initial view					
(Creating bookmarks? edit bookmark.ini)	Ш				
' - '	Ш				
	Н				
	I				
) Add thumbhalls					
OK OK					
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	Ш				
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_					
(PageUp/PageDown to Scroll)					
	PDF Output  Desample images in PDF output  200 Desample DPI  Optimize (byte serve) PDF file Force PDF file version to  1.4 Version number  Zip compress color/gray files Make Accessible (Section 508) PDF/A-1b format PDF/A-1a format  V JBIG2 compression Retain input PDF information Bookmarks Hyperlinks Document descriptions Initial view (Creating bookmarks? edit bookmark.ini) (Adding description? edit docprop_pdf.ini) Include snippets in PDF normal output  Suspect confidence level Add thumbnails				

## Prime OCR Accuracy

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (10)n the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?: 1

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of transactions, display (2, 4A-2), after which it will return to display (2, 4A-1).

#### 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

(2,4A-1)

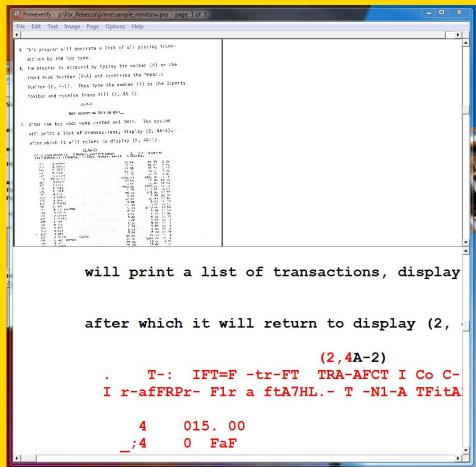
#### PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_\_

C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system will print a list of stransactions, displays (2, y4Å=2).

## **PrimeView**



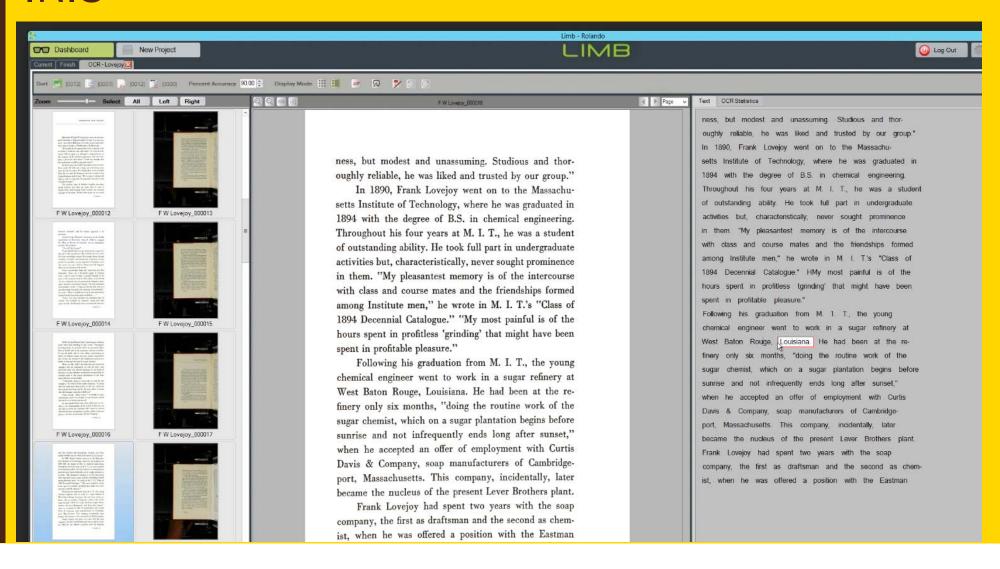
## **PrimeVerify**



## File size comparison

Name	Size ^	Kind
abbyy_finereader11.pdf	30 KB	Adobecument
primeOCR-compressed.pdf	68 KB	Adobecument
adobe clearscan ocr.pdf	135 KB	Adobecument
abbyy mac finereader.pdf	230 KB	Adobecument
adobe searchable image ocr.pdf	254 KB	Adobecument
adobe searchable image exact ocr.pdf	287 KB	Adobecument
primeOCR.pdf	316 KB	Adobecument

## **IRIS**



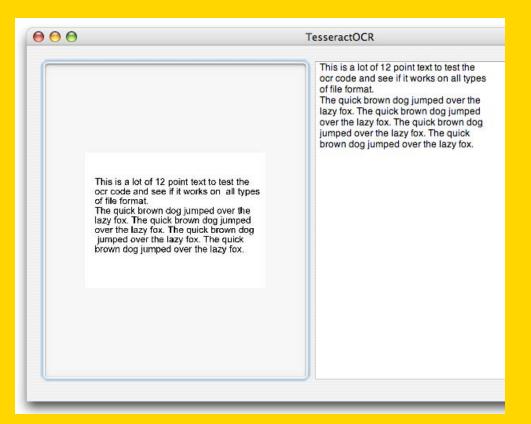
## **OCR Freebies**

- Tesseract
- Google Docs
- Evernote
- Web based

# 2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY¶ L This program wiTT generate a Tist of a1] posting trans-¶ actions by one key type.¶ B. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the¶ Front Desk Monitor (Z-A) and receiving the Reports¶ Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (T) on the Reports¶ Monitor and receive frame fiTT (2, 4A-T).¶ ummn¶ PRINT TRANSACTIONS FOR WHICH KEY?:\_\_¶ C. Enter the key code name wanted and XMIT. The system¶ wiTT print a Tist of transactions, dispTay (2, 4A-2),¶

after which it wiTT return to dispTay (2, 4A-1).

(2,4A-2)¶



## Accuracy - calculated at character level

2, 4A. TRANSACTIONS BY KEY

- A. This program will generate a list of all posting transactions by one key type.
- 8. The program is accessed by typing the number (4) on the Front Desk Monitor (2-A) and receiving the Reports Monitor (2, 4-1). Then type the number (1) on the Reports Monitor and receive frame fill (2, 4A-1).

2, 4A. TRANSACT! ONS BY KEY T

A. Thi s p r og ra m Wil I generate a list of all posting transac to ns by one key type.

B. The prog-ram is a c cessed by typing the number (4) on the Fr on t De s k Mo nit o r (2-A) and receiving the Reports ¶

Monito r (2, 4-1). TheA type the number (1) on the Reports ¶

Monito r a nd re c eive frame f i | (2, 4 A-1) • ¶

- Accuracy varies depending on image and text quality
- 99% accuracy = 1 out of 100 characters are recognized as uncertain
- Industry standard for OCR: 98% post-1950's, 95% 1900-1950, 85% pre-1900
- Character accuracy does not tell word accuracy or the usefulness of the text output

## Accuracy

#### 90% Accuracy

- An average newspaper page has 1,000 words and 5,000 characters
- 90% accuracy = 500 incorrect characters
- Word accuracy would likely be between 500 - 900 correct words
- Depending on the number of "significant words" rendered correctly, the search results could vary widely

#### Free Golf, City Cars Draw Commission Fire

Betsy Sees The Monkees

Need Fireworks

#### A Resort Tax For Gables?

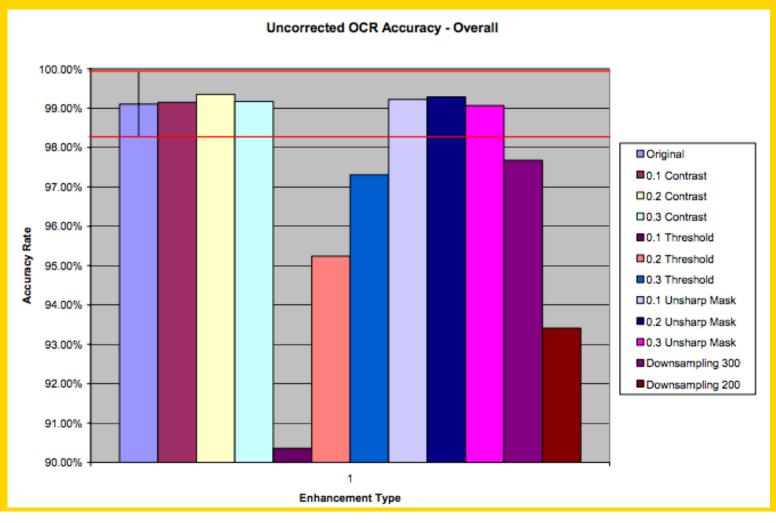
City Values Kirk's Presence

These Two Are Looking For

People Who Like To Draw

Capital Improvements Metro-City Co-Op Law Hearing Set For July 25th

## Image processing and OCR Accuracy

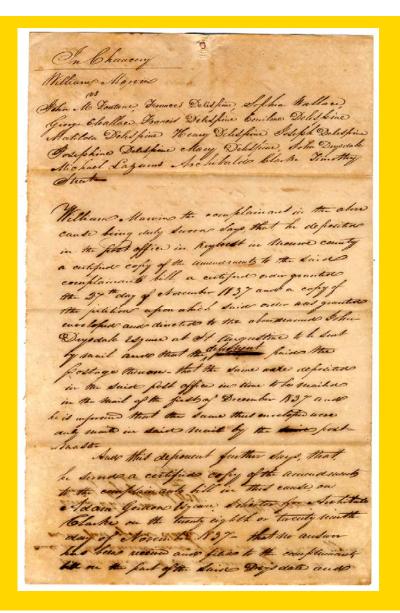


"No single type of file enhancement, applied individually, improves character recognition rates for OCR."

U.S. Government Printing Office,
Washington, DC

## Handwriting recognition

- Very low accuracy especially with cursive, foreign languages
- Works best with forms or templates
- Intelligent Character Recognition



Congratulations!



## Resources

- Acrobatusers.com,. "Better PDF OCR: Clearscan Is Smaller, Looks Better". N.p., 2016.
   Web. 12 Jan. 2016.
- Borovikov, Eugene. "A Survey Of Modern Optical Character Recognition Techniques". Arxiv.org. N.p., 2014. Web. 11 Jan. 2016.
- Dlib.org,. "Measuring Mass Text Digitization Quality And Usefulness: Lessons Learned From Assessing The OCR Accuracy Of The British Library's 19Th Century Online Newspaper Archive". N.p., 2016. Web. 11 Jan. 2016.
- Lib.umich.edu,. "Digital Conversion OCR & Text Encoding | U-M Library". N.p., 2016. Web. 12 Jan. 2016.
- Library.illinois.edu,. "5.0 Best Practices For Optical Character Recognition". N.p., 2016. Web. 11 Jan. 2016.
- Tanner, Simon. "When The Data Hits The Fan!: Text Capture And Optical Character Recognition 101". Simon-tanner. blogspot.com. N.p., 2015. Web. 11 Jan. 2016.
- U.S. Government Publishing Office,. "Optimizing OCR Accuracy On Older Documents: A Study Of Scan Mode, File Enhancement, And Software Products". N.p., 2016. Web. 11 Jan. 2016.