

## **ICDAR 2011 Robust Reading Competition**

Challenge 1: "Reading Text in Born-Digital Images (Web and Email)"

http://www.cvc.uab.es/icdar2011competition/

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# ICDAR 2011 Robust Reading Competition

### Two Challenges:

- Challenge 1: "Reading Text in Born-Digital Images (Web and Email)"
- Challenge 2: "Reading Text in Scene Images"



### Born Digital Images

- Low-Resolution
- Digitally Created Text
- Compression
- Anti-Aliasing











### Real Scene Images

- High-Resolution
- Captured Text
- Illumination Artefacts
- Perspective







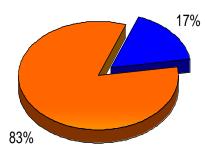


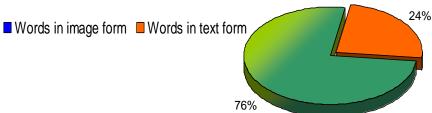


# The Challenge

Images are important **information carriers**. In electronic documents (e-mails, Web pages) images are used to carry **semantically important text**: Headers,

Logos, Titles, Captions, ...





■ Words in image form that appear in main text

■ Words in image form that do not appear in main text

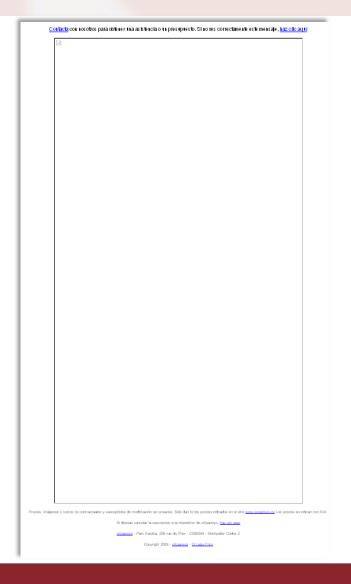
A great part of this information is **nowhere else** other than in the images!





# The Challenge





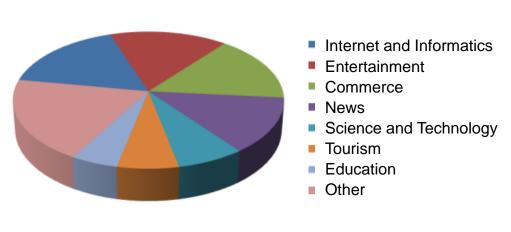


# Objectives (I)

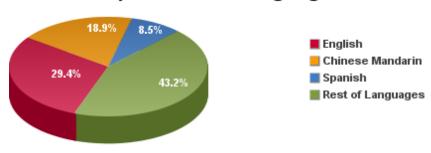
### Create a **representative** dataset of born-digital images

- Easy to collect, but what is representative?
- Two main types of born-digital documents: Web and Email
- Only English language for the time being

HTML Documents Analysed	412
Web Pages	315
Email (spam)	22
Email (ham)	75



#### **Top 3 Internet Languages**



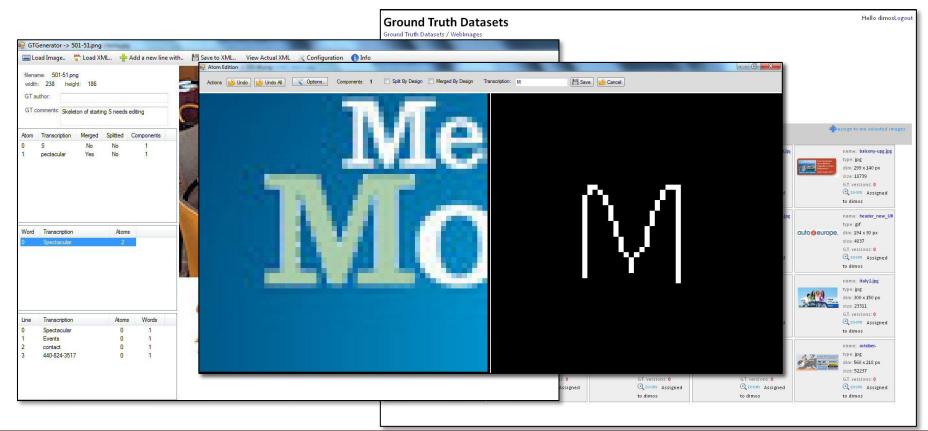
Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/languages.htm Based on 1,463,632,361 estimated Internet users for 2Q 2008 Copyright © 2008, Miniwatts Marketing Group



# Objectives (II)

### Create new tools for ground truthing

- From born-digital document management to GT management
- From text localisation and transcription to pixel level segmentation





# Objectives (III)

Offer a qualitative performance evaluation framework

- Final OCR results are not informative
- But the pipeline is not strictly defined
- A number of independent tasks were therefore planned
- Qualitative performance evaluation for each task

Series of steps and intermediate goals towards text extraction ...





Colour Segmentation



Text Extraction
Characters



Text Extraction Words / Lines



**Text Localisation** 



## Structure

The challenge was organised over 3 tasks:

#### Task 1 – **Text Localization**

Objective: To obtain a rough estimation of text areas in the image, in terms of bounding boxes corresponding to parts of text (words or text lines)



Objective: Pixel-level separation of text from the background

### Task 3 – Word Recognition

Objective: Assuming known word bounding boxes, to obtain the correct text transcriptions







## **Datasets and Ground Truth**

#### **New Datasets** created for this challenge

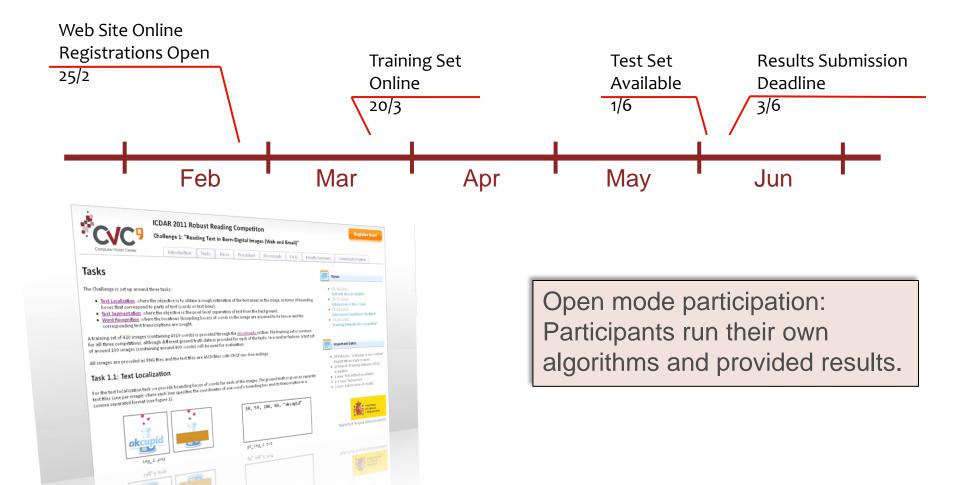
- Images extracted from different types of HTML documents (Web pages, spam and ham emails)
  - Minimum image size: 100 x 100
- Word images (cut-out) provided separately
  - Minimum word size: 3 characters
- Different ground truth provided for the three tasks
  - Task 1: Bounding box positions of individual words
  - Task 2: Pixel-level classification to text / non-text
  - Task 3: Word images with transcription

#### **Datasets in Numbers**

HTML Documents Analysed	412
Training Dataset (Full Images)	420
Test Dataset (Full Images)	102
Training Dataset (Word Images)	3583
Test Dataset (Word Images)	918



## **Timeline**





# Participating Methods

### Participation in Numbers

Visits of the Web Site	692
Registered Users	37
Submissions (Task 1)	6
Submissions (Task 2)	3
Submissions (Task 3)	1

#### Submissions Received

Submitted Method	ds	Task 1: Text Localization	Task 2: Text Segmentation	Task 3: Word Recognition
TH-TextLoc / TH-OCR	(China)	X		X
TDM_IACAS	(China)	X		
OTCYMIST	(India)	X	X	
SASA	(USA)	X	X	
TextHunter	(Pakistan/France)	X		
Textorter	(Pakistan)	X	X	



#### Performance Evaluation Methodology

- Methodology proposed by Wolf and Jolion [1]
- Takes into account both
  - Bounding Box area overlapping and
  - Precision at the level of detection counts
- Possible to create meaningful cumulative results over many images
- Ways to deal with one-to-many and many-to-one cases
- Set up to penalise over-segmentation (words split to parts), but no undersegmentation (group of words detected as text line)

1. C. Wolf and J.M. Jolion, "Object Count / Area Graphs for the Evaluation of Object Detection and Segmentation Algorithms", IJDAR 8(4), pp. 280-296, 2006



#### **Baseline Method**

- We used a commercial OCR package (ABBYY OCR SDK v.10) to obtain text localization and word recognition (see task 3) results
- Factory default parameters used, enabling the option for low-resolution images

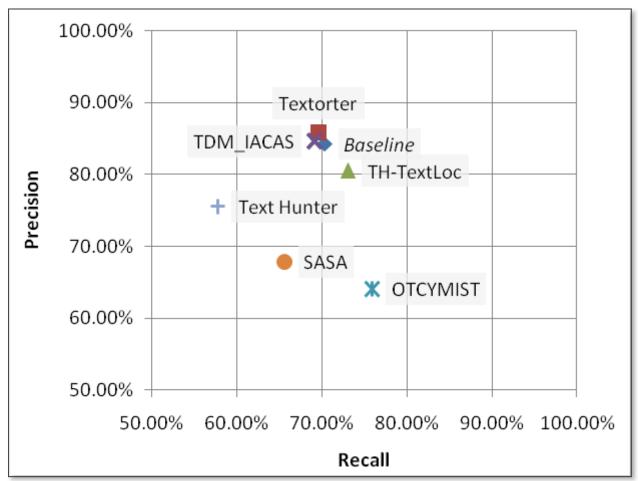


Text Localization Results (%)

Rank	Submitted Methods – Task 1	Recall	Precision	Harmonic Mean
1	Textorter	69.62	85.83	76.88
2	TH-TextLoc	73.08	80.51	76.62
3	TDM_IACAS	69.16	84.64	76.12
4	OTCYMIST	75.91	64.05	69.48
5	SASA	65.62	67.82	66.70
6	Text Hunter	57.76	75.52	65.46
N/A	Baseline Method	70.32	84.25	76.66



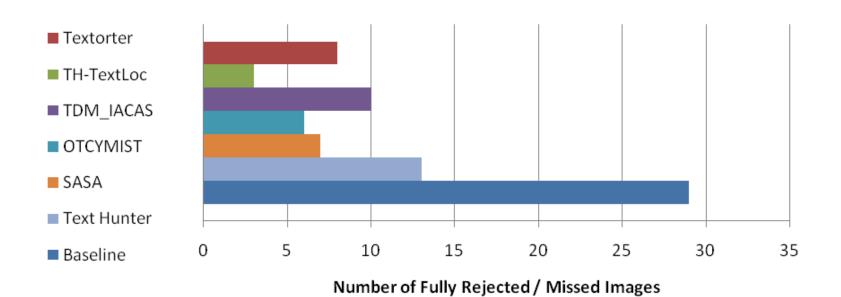
Text Localization Results (Precision / Recall)





#### **Observations**

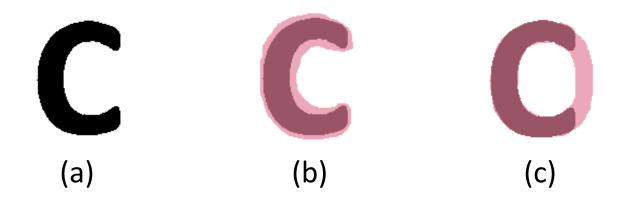
- Commercial system works at par with submitted methods
- Detailed analysis shows qualitative difference: baseline system more efficient in rejecting images it could not treat



# Results: Task 2 – Text Segmentation

Performance Evaluation Methodology

- Primary scheme used is the framework proposed by Clavelli et al [2]
- If measures the degree to which morphological properties of the text are preserved, not simply the number of misclassified pixels
- As a secondary evaluation scheme we implemented standard pixel level precision and recall (compatibility with other results)



2. A. Clavelli, D. Karatzas and J. Lladós "A Framework for the Assessment of Text Extraction Algorithms on Complex Colour Images", DAS 2010, pp. 19-28, 2010



# Results: Task 2 – Text Segmentation

Text Segmentation Results (%) – Primary Evaluation Scheme

Rank	Submitted Methods – Task 2	Well Segmented	Merged	Lost
1	OTCYMIST	65.96	15.44	18.59
2	Textorter	58.73	32.53	08.73
3	SASA	42.71	10.70	46.57

### Text Segmentation Results (%) – Secondary Evaluation Scheme

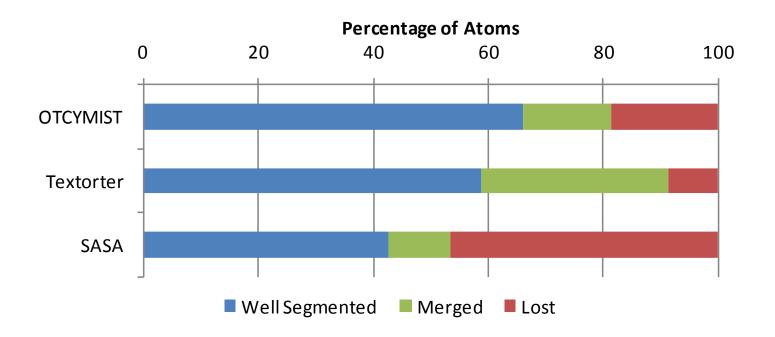
Rank	Submitted Methods – Task 2	Precision	Recall	Harmonic Mean
1	OTCYMIST	80.99	71.13	75.74
2	Textorter	65.20	62.50	63.82
3	SASA	71.93	54.78	62.19



# Results: Task 2 – Text Segmentation

#### **Observations**

- Both metrics used agree in the ranking, nevertheless there is qualitative differences pointed out by the primary metric
- The main problem of "Textorter" seems to be that of under-segmentation





# Results: Task 3 – Word Recognition

#### Performance Evaluation Methodology

- Edit distance (normalised to the length of the ground truth transcription)
- Equal weights for deletions, additions, substitutions
- Also report statistics on correctly recognised words

#### Baseline method

- Used ABBYY OCR (v.10) on word images
- No pre-processing, option for "low resolution" images turned on



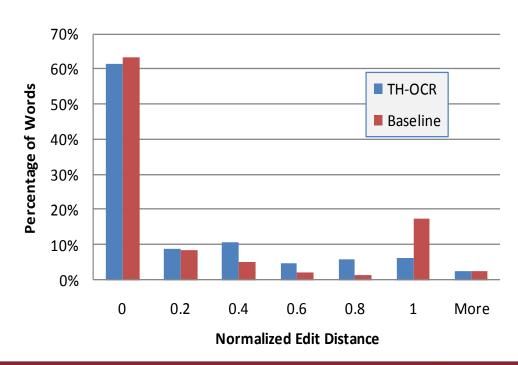
# Results: Task 3 – Word Recognition

### Word Recognition Results

Rank	Submitted Methods – Task 3	Total Edit Distance	Correctly Recognized Words (%)
N/A	TH_OCR	189.9	61.54
N/A	Baseline Method	232.8	63.40

#### **Observations**

- Edit distance peak of baseline at 1 (all characters changed, indicative of an empty response)
- Baseline seems to have a good rejection criterion
- 48.8% words recognized by both





The competition site is open!
Register to download the
datasets and upload new results



http://www.cvc.uab.es/icdar2011competition/

The competition is going on – entering a **continuous mode** 

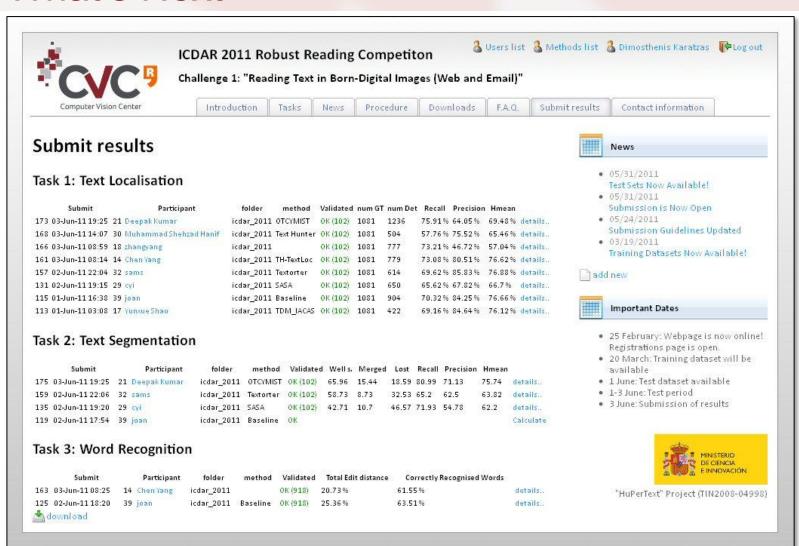
**Datasets** are freely available (on Competition Web site and soon on TC11)

Performance evaluation available online – automatic and real-time!

Watch this space – **more resources coming**:

- Full Ground Truth (XML)
- New datasets (including real scenes and colour documents)
- Online GT management framework
- Ground truthing tools





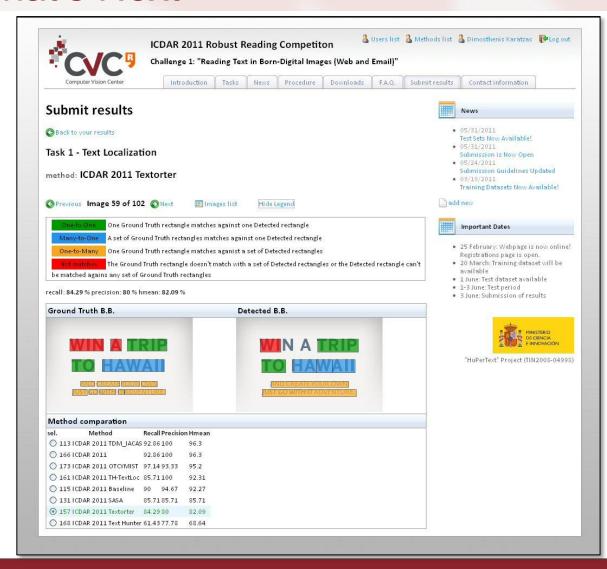






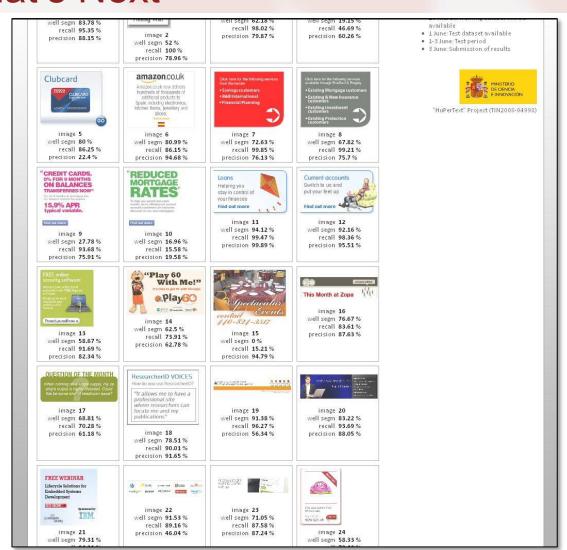






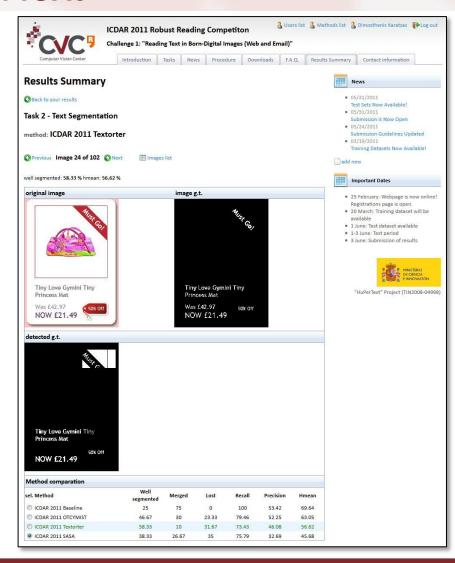






















# Thanks for participating!

**Task 1 – Text Localization Winner**: "**Textorter**", *S. Tehsin and A. Masood*, Military College of Signals, National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan

Task 2 – Text Segmentation Winner: "OTCYMIST", D. Kumar and A.G. Ramakrishnan, Medical Intelligence and Language Engineering Laboratory, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Task 3 – Word Recognition Mention: "TH\_OCR", C. Yang, C. Liu and X. Ding, Department of Electronic Engineering, Tsinghua University Beijing, China

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