



Coptic OCR: Even better models and improvements on user-friendliness

Eliese-Sophia Lincke (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
eslincke@staff.hu-berlin.de

Digital Coptic 3, July 12-13, 2020 (online)

Overview

- more fonts
- *Calamari*: new and better OCR software (as compared to OCropus)
- *OCR4all*: a graphical user interface (GUI)

Coptic OCR: Chronological overview since 2016

2016: presentation of OCropus results at the Coptic Congress, Claremont

2018: *Coptic OCR* becomes an official project

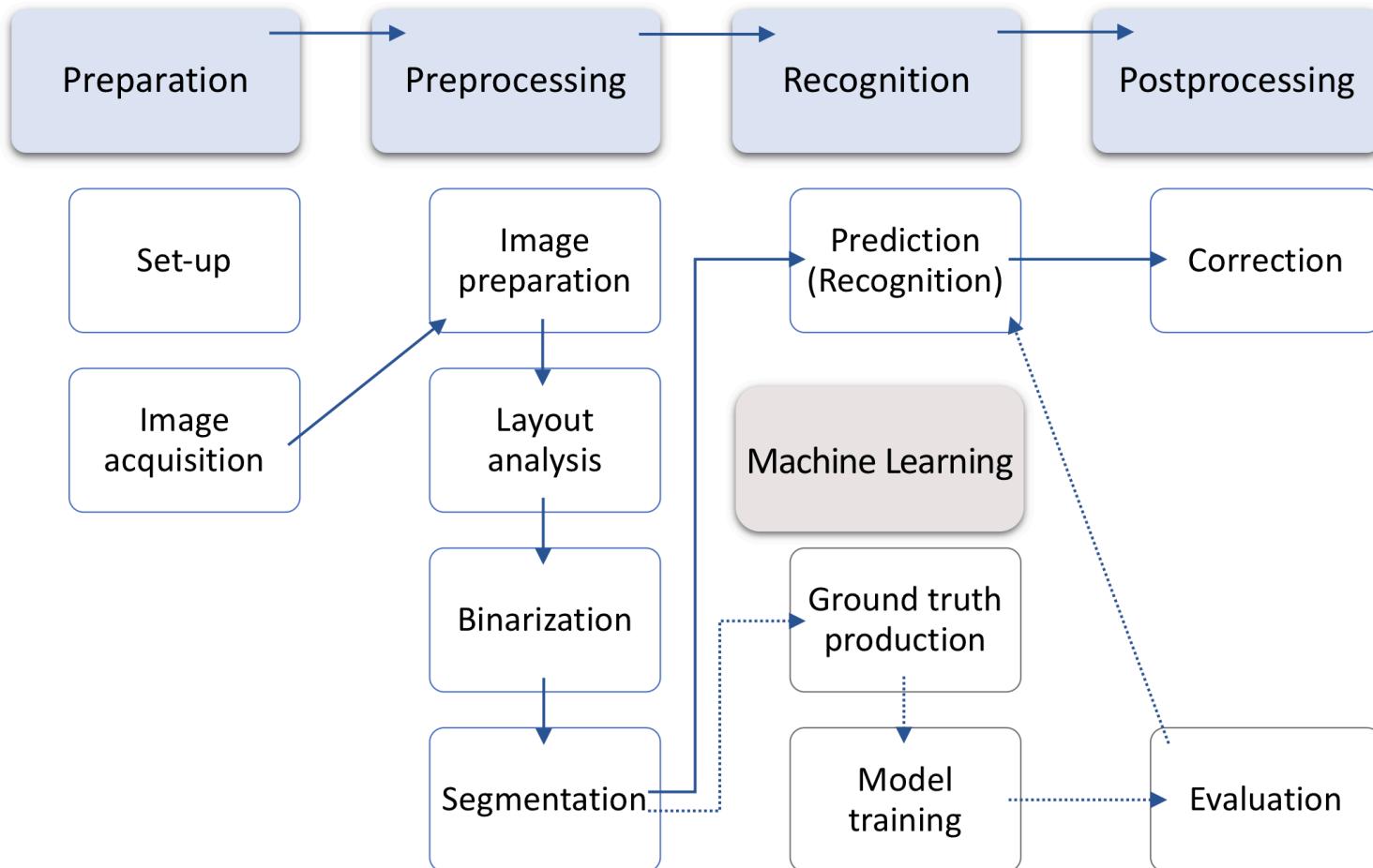
- 6 months PostDoc fellowship at the Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities, CampusLab *Digitization and Computational Analytics* (DCA)
PIs: Heike Behlmer, Marco Büchler, Camilla Di Biase-Dyson

2019: publication of the results of the fellowship and new tools

- presentation at the 3rd international conference on *Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage* (DATECH) in Brussels (May)
- publication (open access) in the conference proceedings: Lincke, Bulert & Büchler (2019)
- testing new tool – Calamari
- training data of more fonts, model training (OCropus, Calamari)
- presentation of new results in the *Berlin Digital Classicist Seminar* (November)

2020: testing new tool – OCR4all

OCR workflow



Font overview

ΑΠΕΝΤΔΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ ζωοց εαριάωκ εβολ εχωρ
ζνουγδεπη.

CCSSC 1

ῶντὸς ἔβολ μῆπταίο ήνετέργητε· εφώ μοις: χεναιάτου
ήνετέργητε· χεντρού νετούγνασεπιψηπού¹:- 3. ΝΕΤΕΡ-

ΣΗΓΕ· ΦΑΥΕΙΝ ΝΑΥ ΝΟΥΜ
ΜΝΟΥΜΗΤΡΕΦΤΚΑΡΠΟΣ 25
ΝΕΤΕΡΗΝΙΒΕ ΦΑΥΓΓΙ ΕΣΡΑΪ
ΝΤΗΝΤΧΑΣΙΩΝ : - ΝΕΤΕΡ
ΝΝΑΥ ΝΙΜ· ΧΣΚΑΣ ΕΥΕΣΟ
ΖΗΝΦΩΜΑ ΝΕΒΩΦ ΦΑΠΧΟ
ΜΑΪΡΦΩΜΕ ΜΠΕΝΧΟΕΙΣ· ΛΥΦ
ΠΑΪ ΈΒΟΛ ΣΙΤΟΟΤ· ΕΡΕΕ
ΝΑΓΑ·ΘΟΣ· ΜΝΠΕΠΗΛΑ ΉΤΟ
ΝΗΖΟΜΟΟΥΓΣΙΟΝ· ΤΕΝΟΥ· ΑΥ
ΝΝΑΙΦΩΝ· ΓΑΜΗΝ : -

ΜΠΟΥΜΟΥ^η ΑΓΨΩΒΔΕ ΕΝΕΥΜ
ΝΤΒΑΣΑΝΟΣ ΝΤΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΦΒΩΚ Ε

VI. 1 ΤΚΟΙΒΩΤΟΣ ΔΕ ΝΕ
ΝΣΑΨ ΝΕΒΟΤ · ΑΓΨ ΠΕΨΚ
2 ΝΑΛΛΟΦΓΛΟΣ ΔΕ ΑΓΜΟΥΤΕ
ΑΓΨ ΝΕΨΡΕΨΜΟΥΤΕ · ΕΨΧΑ
ΠΝΤΚΟΙΒΩΤΟΣ ΜΠΧΟΕΙΣ· ΤΟ
ΕΣΡΑΙ ΕΠΕΣΜΑ ΖΗ ΟΥ · 3 ΠΕΧΔ

φ πιωτ μνημηρε μνι
β[ιπ]ραγψ επικυφαλιον
επαρχανγελος μιχαλ
γαμην εσηψωπι³ -

CSSC 2

ΜΠΟΥΜΟΥ ^{π.} αγψωωβε ενεύμα ΝΕΡΜΗ ^{π.} αγώ περοογ
ΝΤΒΑΣΑΝΟΣ ΝΤΠΟΛΙΣ αφωκ εχραι εττιε .

VI. 1 τκοίωθος δε ον
νιασφ νεβοτ· αγω πεγκ
2 ναλλοφγλος δε αγμογτε·
αγω νεγρεγμογτε· εγχα
πντκοίωθος μπχοεις· το
εγραι επεсма 2н оу· 3 πεχ
ντωтн нткоивштос мпхоеи
евол есфоугеит· алла 2н оу
αγω тетннаемтон нтε пх
ммон нтбіх мпхоеиц нало
жε ου πε πтωж нтвасан
нрепшине нау· жε κата
фγлос· τη нас нтou мма
ωшпe нгнttнуtn· mn net
2нкепин нноув· нтетн *
наi εттакo мпетнкаz· нt

CSSC 3

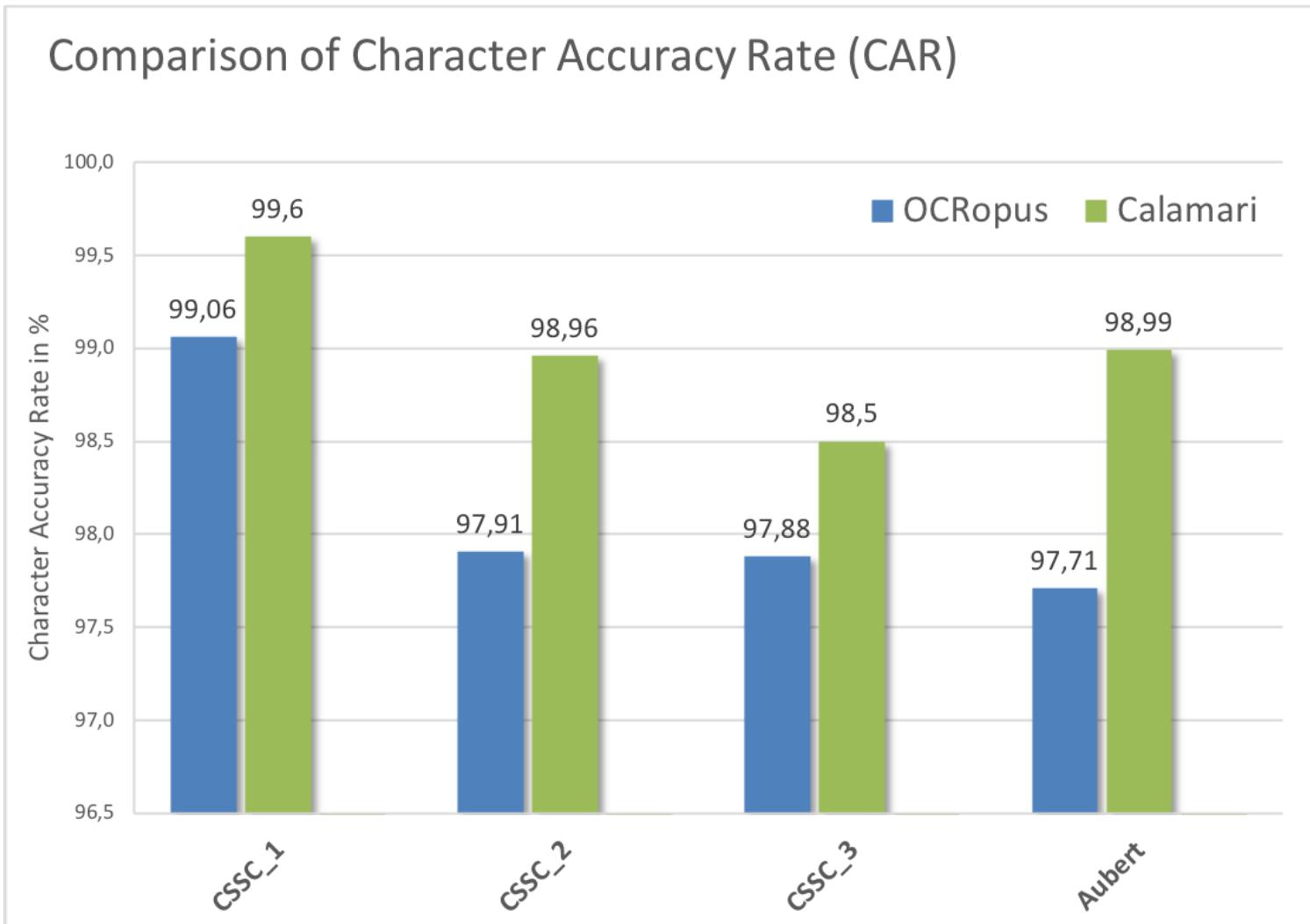
εβολ αγει ετεκκλησια ητκυριακη αγυμοος μπ
ουρωμ ηογωτ νερε πελλο δε γη τεγμητε · α
εταιρογην αγω ητερογκω εραι μπο (σλζ p. 237 a)
ετογαλας αγογωνας εβολ μπωμητ μαγαλη ηθε
ητερε πεπρεσβυτερος σοογτη εβολ ητεσιχ
εις ουαγγελος αχει εβολη ημπηγε εογη ουρε
αγωφωτ μπκογι ηψηρε αγπωστ μπεσκονε επ
πεπρεσβυτερος δε ερ ποσικ ηγλαсма κλαсма νο
πωφ μπωηρεκογι φημωνη · αγω ητερογη μπ
νετογαλας αχι ηει πελλο ηογκλαсма ναч εηпη
ρεчнay αγρεтe αχиωкак εβολ χe тистеуe
πe πeкcвmа αγω πpотиrion πe πeкcноc · αγ
εtгi tесeиx ̄oсiк kата πeoоy μpmγstnriоn x
(p. 237 b) αγω αχи εeεγxарistι μpжoeis · πe
χe πnoутe σooγη ηteфyсic ηnрwme χe мnб
αb εeоyωt εtвe пai фaчtpe πeчcвmа фaпe μ
ηhрp ηnетxι μmoч gη oypicstic αγω αγwfрmot
пeтaчfωphp e χe μpeчka πeлlo ηrwmе eтoсe μ

Aubert

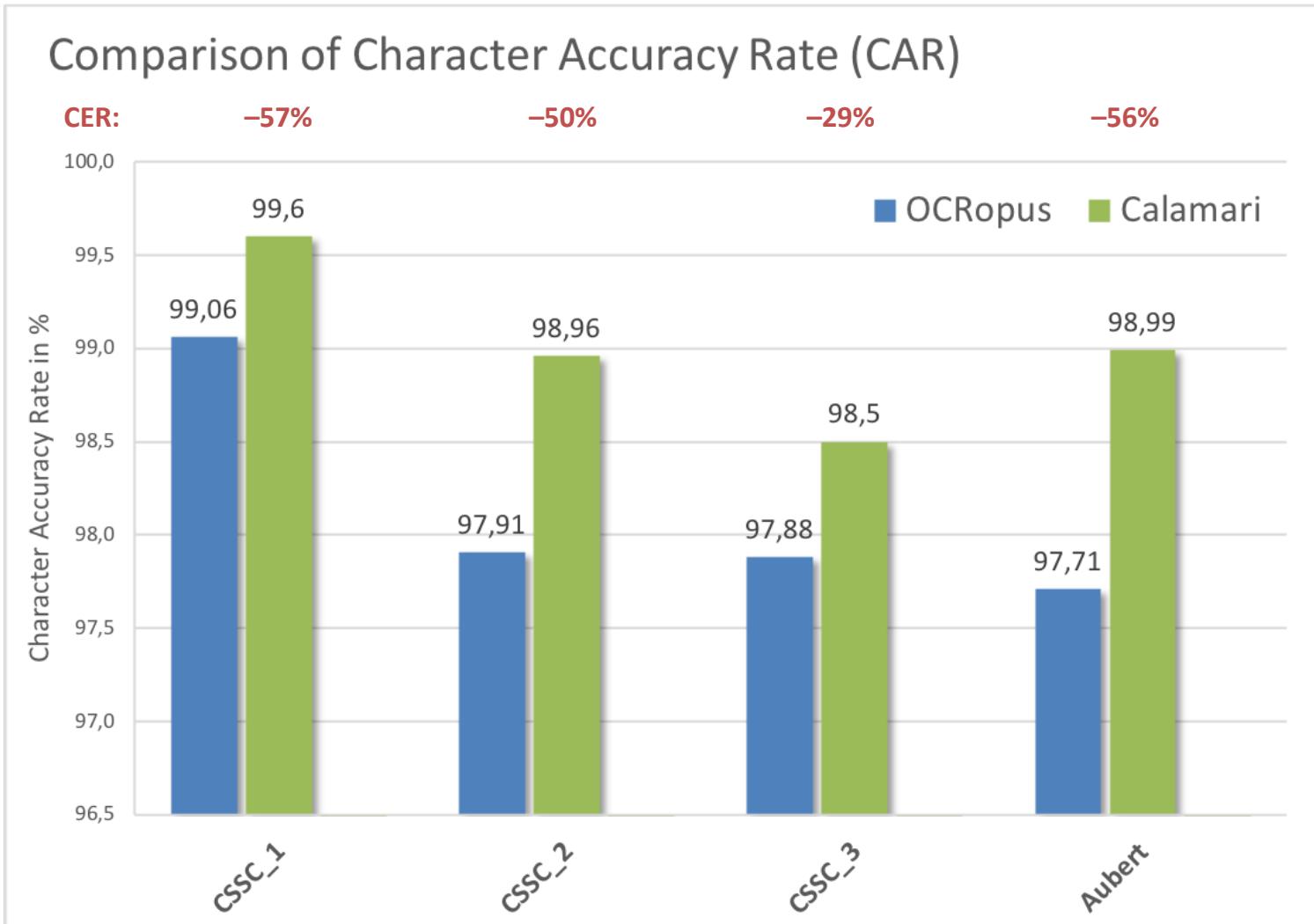
Criteria for training (and test) data selection

- several printed text editions per font
- inhomogeneous scans
- Sahidic and Bohairic dialects (if available)
- several layouts (one column vs. two columns)
- no normalization, simplification or cleaning
- comprehensive character set for each font
(lower case, upper case, supralinear strokes, various punctuation marks, footnote signs and other philological markup etc.)

Best Models



Best Models



Best Models

Calamari uses *Cross Fold Training* and *Confidence Voting* to improve its predictions
cf. Reul, Springmann, Wick & Puppe (2018: Fig. 1; Table II)



	c	e
M1	<u>66.83%</u>	38.40%
M2	<u>93.27%</u>	19.77%
M3	-	<u>99.91%</u>
M4	7.56%	<u>98.02%</u>
M5	<u>90.31%</u>	50.07%
Σ Rec	250.41%	197.93%
+ Σ Alt	257.97%	306.17%

OCR4all: Workflow overview

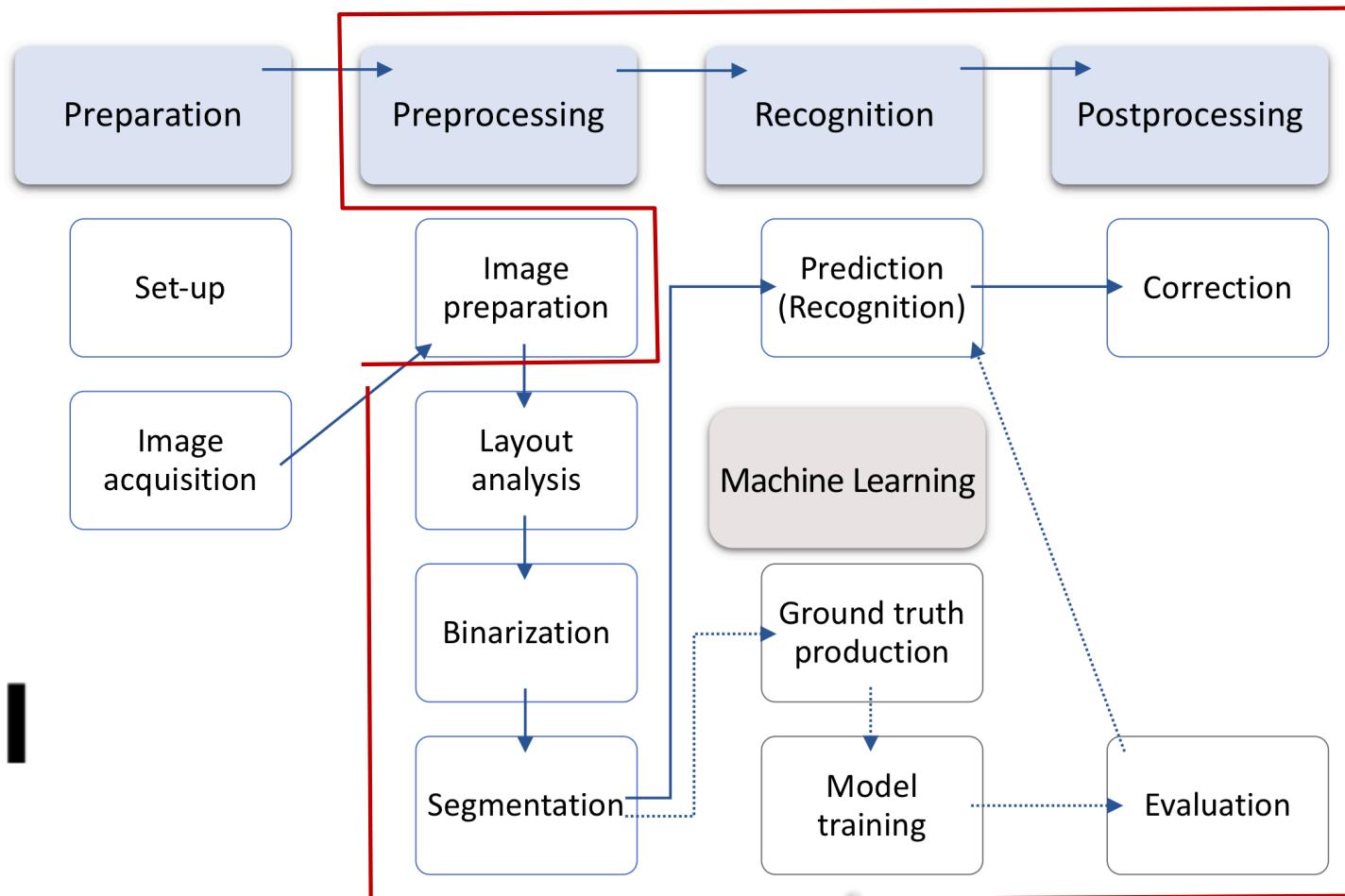
cf. Reul et al. (2019)

- Project at the University of Würzburg
- originally designed for historical (German) prints from the Early Modern Period
- can be used for Coptic printed texts too



<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/zpd/ocr4all/>

OCR4all: Workflow overview



<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/zpd/ocr4all/>

OCR4all: Workflow overview

cf. Reul et al. (2019)

- Project at the University of Würzburg
- originally designed for historical (German) prints from the Early Modern Period
- can be used for Coptic printed texts too
- **Interface** that runs in a browser (using Docker) or in a virtual machine (VirtualBox)



<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/zpd/ocr4all/>

OCR4all: Workflow overview

≡ Centralized Process Flow testbuch | OCR 4 All

EXECUTE > FINALIZE CURRENT PROCESS AND EXIT X CANCEL X

Process selection

Preprocessing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise Removal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Segmentation (Dummy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Line Segmentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recognition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Pages

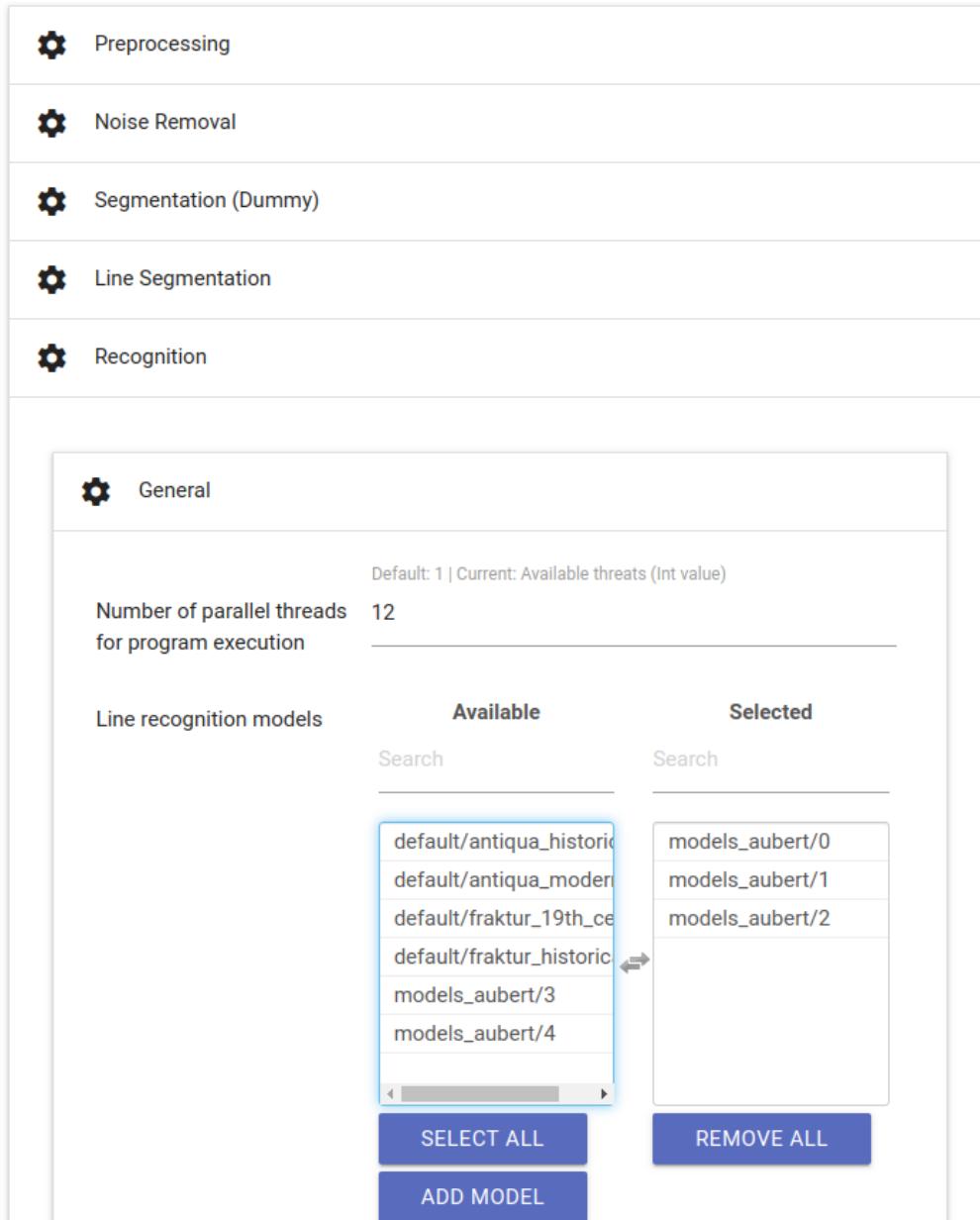
Select all

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page 0001
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Page 0002
<input type="checkbox"/> Page 0003
<input type="checkbox"/> Page 0004
<input type="checkbox"/> Page 0005
<input type="checkbox"/> Page 0006

Settings

Status

OCR4all: Model selection



The screenshot shows the 'OCR4all: Model selection' interface. At the top, there is a vertical list of processing steps: Preprocessing, Noise Removal, Segmentation (Dummy), Line Segmentation, and Recognition. Below this, the 'General' settings section is shown, with a note that the number of parallel threads is set to 12. The main feature is a 'Line recognition models' selector. It has two columns: 'Available' and 'Selected'. The 'Available' column contains a list of model names: default/antiqua_historic, default/antiqua_modern, default/fraktur_19th_ce, default/fraktur_historic, models_aubert/3, and models_aubert/4. The 'Selected' column contains: models_aubert/0, models_aubert/1, and models_aubert/2. A double-headed arrow icon is positioned between the two columns. At the bottom of each column are buttons: 'SELECT ALL' and 'REMOVE ALL'.

Line recognition models	Available	Selected
	Search	Search
	default/antiqua_historic	models_aubert/0
	default/antiqua_modern	models_aubert/1
	default/fraktur_19th_ce	models_aubert/2
	default/fraktur_historic	
	models_aubert/3	
	models_aubert/4	

Default: 1 | Current: Available threads (Int value)

Number of parallel threads for program execution: 12

Line recognition models

Available

Selected

default/antiqua_historic

default/antiqua_modern

default/fraktur_19th_ce

default/fraktur_historic

models_aubert/3

models_aubert/4

models_aubert/0

models_aubert/1

models_aubert/2

SELECT ALL

REMOVE ALL

ADD MODEL

OCR4all: Recognition (Calamari)

≡ Recognition testbuch | OCR 4 All

EXECUTE >
CANCEL

- Settings (General)
- Settings (Advanced)
- Status

Status: Completed

CONSOLE OUTPUT
CONSOLE ERROR

```
r0_l013: 'αρχοντικ ον επεφηνα · '
r0_l014: '127. ογρωμε ενο πλαισιων αγω εινοκρι μηνατε εφταγε σβητε'
r0_l015: 'εβολ · αφρωρτη πιογμοναχος εβοληρη πιλλο ερογη ετεφογοσ '
r0_l016: 'πρδλο αε ση ογσεπη αρκτο εροη πιτκεογει · πλαισιων αε μπερ·'
r0_l017: 'τωογη ρα πιοναχη μποεβιο αψει εβολ σιωμαq · '
r0_l018: '128. αψαοσ πισ ογχλο κε εαμωμε ογηεεγε πε εψαοσ μηπτ·'
r0_l019: 'χασιρητ πιει ηακ εροηη συτρητ ση πικηεεγε κε εηε ακαραρε εηεη·'
r0_l020: 'τολη εαμωμε ακμερε πικαλαχε εαμωμε ακραμε σικη πεοου μηεκ·'
r0_l021: 'χαχε αγω ακληπει εηη πιεγμαωμε εαμωμε κο πιερακ μαγαλακ'
r0_l022: 'πιογχηραλ πιατημαγ αγω πιρεψηρηνε μπαρα ογοη ηη αγω ση παι·'
r0_l023: 'μηπτημεεγε εγηπτηηοσ χως εικκατορθοη μηρωη ηη εκσοογη κε·'
r0_l024: 'πιηεεγε ωλαβλ χως ηη ε(r. 2ο6 b)βολ · '
r0_l025: '129. αψαοσ πισ ογχλο κε μπερκα πιερητ εαμωμε πια πιεκσο·'
r0_l026: 'εικαω μηοσ κε χως τηηηε ερογη εροη αγω οη κε τασκει ερογη·'
r0_l027: 'εροη αγω κε τηηη πιαραροη · αλλα γηποτασσε μηπεπη μηπηηηκε·'
r0_l028: 'ετεη πιεχε μηχπο ηακ πιαταρηη αχη γηποκριη κε μηπεκβωλ εβολ·'
r0_l029: 'ετεη πιεχε μηχπο ηακ πιαταρηη αχη γηποκριη κε μηπεκβωλ εβολ·'

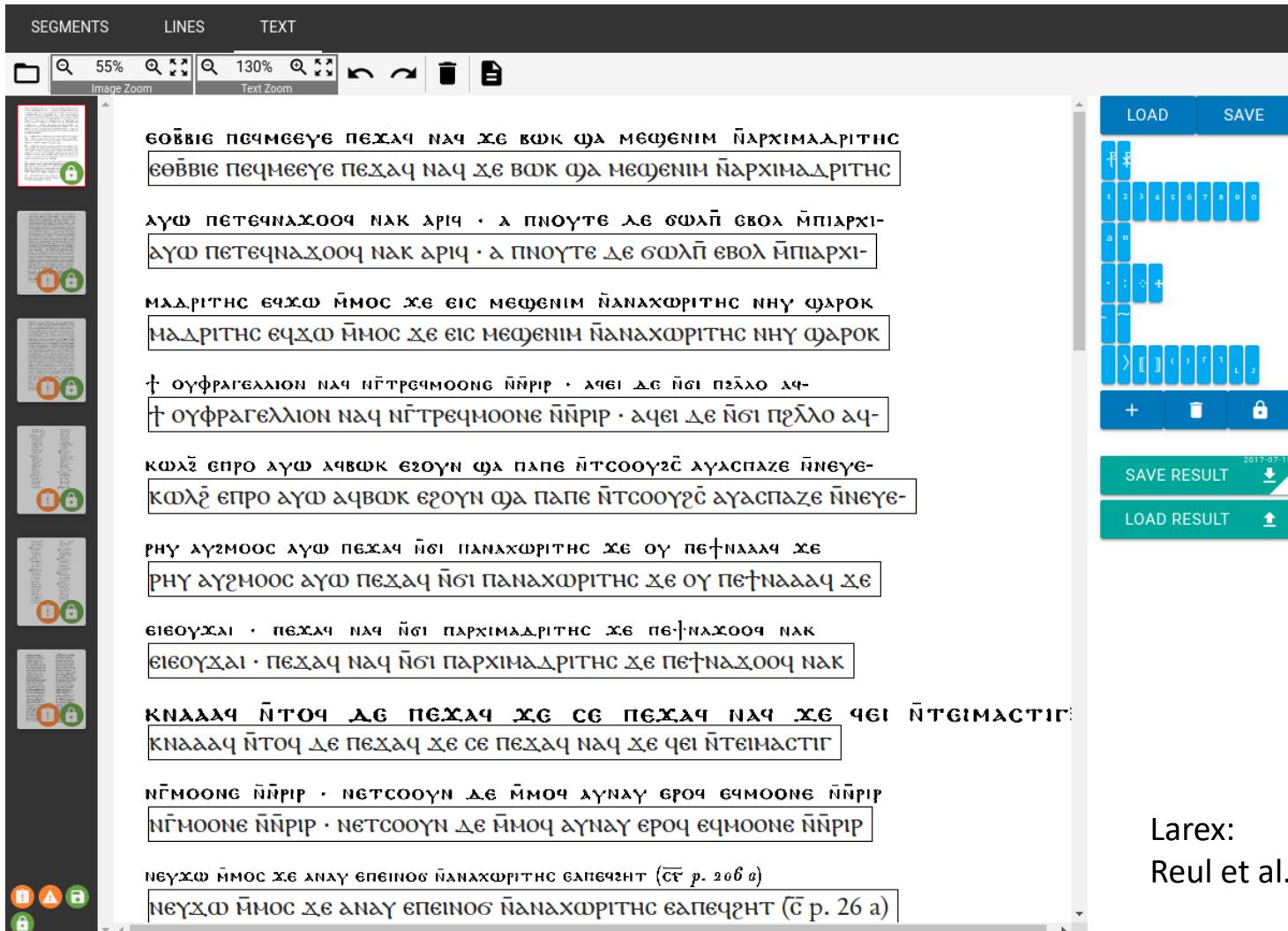
```

Pages

- Select all
- Page 0001
- Page 0002
- Page 0003
- Page 0004
- Page 0005
- Page 0006

Calamari:
Wick et al. (to appear 2020)

OCR4all: Postcorrection (Larex)



The screenshot shows the OCR4all interface with the Larex post-correction module. The main window displays a document page with several lines of Coptic text. Each line is highlighted with a blue box, indicating it has been corrected. The text is in a black font on a white background. The interface includes a toolbar at the top with buttons for Segments, Lines, and Text, and zoom controls (Image Zoom 55%, Text Zoom 130%). On the left, there's a vertical sidebar with icons for document management and a preview area showing the document page. On the right, there's a sidebar with buttons for LOAD and SAVE, and a grid of numbered buttons (1-0) for navigating through the results. Below these are buttons for '+', 'DELETE', and 'LOCK'. At the bottom, there are 'SAVE RESULT' and 'LOAD RESULT' buttons.

Larex:
Reul et al. (2017)

OCR4all: Output (xml)

```

<PcGts xmlns="http://schema.primaresearch.org/PAGE/gts/pagecontent/2017-07-15" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:schemaLocation="http://schema.primaresearch.org/PAGE/gts/pagecontent/2017-07-15 http://schema.primaresearch.org/PAGE/gts/pagecontent/2017-07-15/pagecontent.xsd">
    <Metadata>
        <Creator>User123</Creator>
        <Created>2020-07-11T23:46:38</Created>
        <LastChange>2020-07-11T23:46:38</LastChange>
    </Metadata>
    <Page imageFilename="0001.png" imageHeight="4852" imageWidth="3944">
        <TextRegion id="r0" type="paragraph">
            <Coords points="1,1 3942,1 3942,4850 1,4850"/>
            <TextLine id="r0_l001">
                <Coords points="400,120 3569,120 3569,207 400,207"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>εεββιε πεφμεγε πεχαρη ναρι ιε βωκ ψα μεψενιμ ηαρχιμαδριτης</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l002">
                <Coords points="398,245 3574,245 3574,334 398,334"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>αγω πετεφναζοοη νακ αριη · α πνογτε αε εωλη εβολ μπιαρχι</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l003">
                <Coords points="403,369 3569,369 3569,459 403,459"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>μαδριτης εφχω μμοσ ιε εις μεψενιμ ηαναχωριτης ηηγ ψαροκ</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l004">
                <Coords points="398,486 3572,486 3572,585 398,585"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>f ογφραγελλιον ναρι ηητρεφμοοне ηηριρ · αρει αε ηει πελλο αρ-</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l005">
                <Coords points="401,617 3568,617 3568,707 401,707"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>κωλε επρο αγω αφβωκ εεογη ψα παπε ηητρογεζ αγασπαρε ηηεγε</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l006">
                <Coords points="397,736 3564,736 3564,833 397,833"/>
                <TextEquiv index="1">
                    <Unicode>ρηγ αγεμοοс αγω πεχαρη ηει παναχωριτηс ιε ογ πεφναζаρι ιε</Unicode>
                </TextEquiv>
            <TextLine id="r0_l007">

```

Hopes (Plans?) for the future

- a Digital Coptic repositorium
- an infrastructure in which OCR4all can be run on a (remote) server – no need for local installation

- better documentation for Coptic OCR
- hands-on workshops (like the one planned for this years' Coptic Congress ...): offline and online

Coptic OCR data

Data repository for the Coptic OCR project (“working GitLab repository”)

(At the moment, the repository, is accessible without registration. This may, however, change in the future due to copyright concerns etc. In that case, please, contact us.)

DOI: 21.11101/0000-0007-C9D1-A

<https://vcs.etrab.eu/Coptic-OCR/datasets>

eslincke@staff.hu-berlin.de

Thank you ...

... for having contributed to and/or supported *Coptic OCR*:

Heike Behlmer

Marco Büchler

Kirill Bulert

Camilla Di Biase-Dyson

Frank Feder

Florian Finck

Jürgen Knauth

So Miyagawa

Tobias Paul

Christian Reul

Malte Rosenau

Caroline Sporleder

Uwe Springmann

Ronnie Vuine

References

- Bourcellier, Laurent. 2006. *Création d'une typographie numérique copte adaptée aux usages éditoriaux*, Diplôme supérieur d'arts appliqués, arts et techniques de communication option création typographique, Livret d'accompagnement, Ecole Estienne, Paris.
- Lincke, Eliese-Sophia, Kirill Bulert and Marco Büchler. 2019. Optical Character Recognition for Coptic fonts: A multi-source approach for scholarly editions, in: *DATeCH2019 – Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage*, 87-91.
DOI: [10.1145/3322905.3322931](https://doi.org/10.1145/3322905.3322931)
- Reul, Christian, Uwe Springmann, Christoph Wick and Frank Puppe. 2018. Improving OCR Accuracy on Early Printed Books by Utilizing Cross Fold Training and Voting, in: *Proceedings of the 13th IAPR International Workshop on Document Analysis Systems (DAS)*, Vienna, 24-27 April 2018, IEEE: 423-428.
DOI: [10.1109/DAS.2018.8407700](https://doi.org/10.1109/DAS.2018.8407700)
- Reul, Christian, Dennis Christ, Alexander Hartelt, Nico Balbach, Maximilian Wehner, Uwe Springmann, Christoph Wick, Christine Grundig, Andreas Büttner and Frank Puppe. 2019. OCR4all---An Open-Source Tool Providing a (Semi-)Automatic OCR Workflow for Historical Printings, in: *Applied Sciences* 9(22), No. 4853.
DOI: [10.3390/app9224853](https://doi.org/10.3390/app9224853)
- Reul, Christian, Uwe Springmann and Frank Puppe. 2017. LAREX: A semi-automatic open-source Tool for Layout Analysis and Region Extraction on Early Printed Books, in: *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Digital Access to Textual Cultural Heritage – DATeCH2017*, ACM: 137-142.
DOI: [10.1145/3078081.3078097](https://doi.org/10.1145/3078081.3078097)
- Wick, Christoph, Christian Reul and Frank Puppe. to appear (2020). Calamari - A High-Performance Tensorflow-based Deep Learning Package for Optical Character Recognition, in: *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 14(2).