

# Ditching Transkribus: Local Automatic Text Recognition with Loghi

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# About Me

- background in software engineering
- Okt 2023: PhD in Computerised Image Processing
  - specialisation: handwritten text recognition
  - focus: Astrid Lindgren's shorthand manuscripts
- since April 2023: software engineer at Popular Movements' Archive Uppsala
- Software Carpentries instructor
- Code Refinery ambassador

# Ice Breaker

- your name
- 1-2 sentence about your field/background
- your favourite pastry/snack to have with coffee/tea

Today's Goal:

**Learn how to use Loghi for Automatic Text  
Recognition (ATR)**

# What is Loghi?

- "comprehensive toolkit" for ATR
- developed by KNAW Humanities Cluster, Netherlands

# Why Loghi and not Transkribus?

## Transkribus

- business model not suitable for everyone
- requires data upload to foreign server
- no model export

## Loghi

- fully open source and free
- locally hosted  $\Rightarrow$  full control of data and models

# Why Loghi and not Transkribus?

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## Loghi

- fully open source and free
- locally hosted  $\Rightarrow$  full control of data and models
- caveat: no transcription interface
  - *check out eScriptorium, for an open source Transkribus alternative*

# Scenario

From a previous project on Norwegian handwriting, we have a collection of transcriptions that were used to train a deep learning model.

We want to expand the collection with handwritten documents from **Person X** but don't want to spend endless hours transcribing everything by hand.

⇒ Learn how to make use of the prior work, in order to kickstart our new transcription project!



# Plan for Today

1. Introduction to Automatic Text Recognition (ATR)
2. Setting up Loghi with Docker
3. Using a pre-trained model to recognise text
4. --- **Break** ---
5. Creating training data from existing annotations
6. Fine-tuning and using a small custom model
7. Final questions and wrapping up

# Pre-Flight Checklist

## Material

- downloaded?
- unzipped?
- know where it is?

## Docker

- installed?

## Nvidia GPU Users:

- drivers updated?
- Nvidia's docker extension installed?

Questions?

# **A Few Final Words Before We Dive In**