

Ditching Transkribus: Local Automatic Text Recognition with Loghi

2024-09-24

About Me

- background in software engineering
- Oct 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

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- 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 from **Henrik Ibsen** that were used to train a deep learning model.

We want to expand the collection with handwritten documents from **Kristine Bonnevie** 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 up-to-date?

Questions?

A Few Final Words Before We Dive In