

Guatemalan Manuscript Digitization Project

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SIMSSA Workshop XVII

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Project Goals

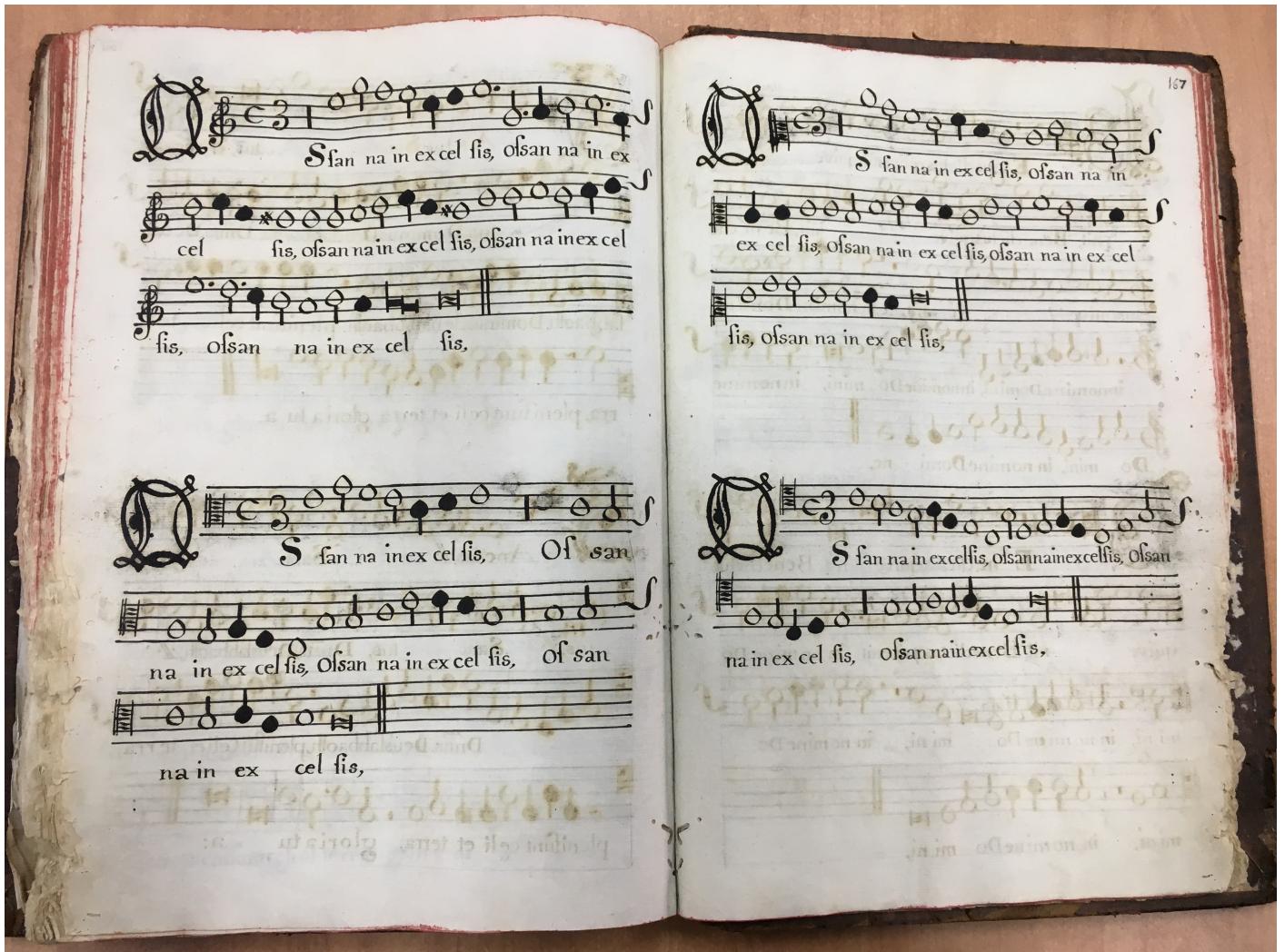
- Preservation and dissemination of the musical content of a set of colonial music manuscripts from Guatemala
- Using the tools developed at SIMSSA
 - Pixel.js
 - Calvo's method
 - Interactive Classifier (IC)
 - Pitch finding
 - Scoring-up tool



[Wikipedia: Central America](#)

Guatemalan Manuscripts

- Copied between XVI - XVIII
- Choirbooks
- Written in **mensural notation**
 - Music notation system used in Europe throughout the Late Middle Ages and the Renaissance

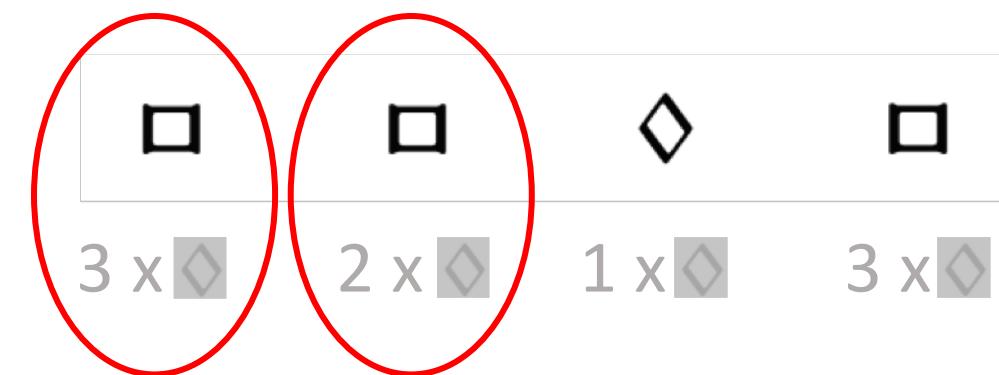


Mensural Notation

longest
↓
shortest

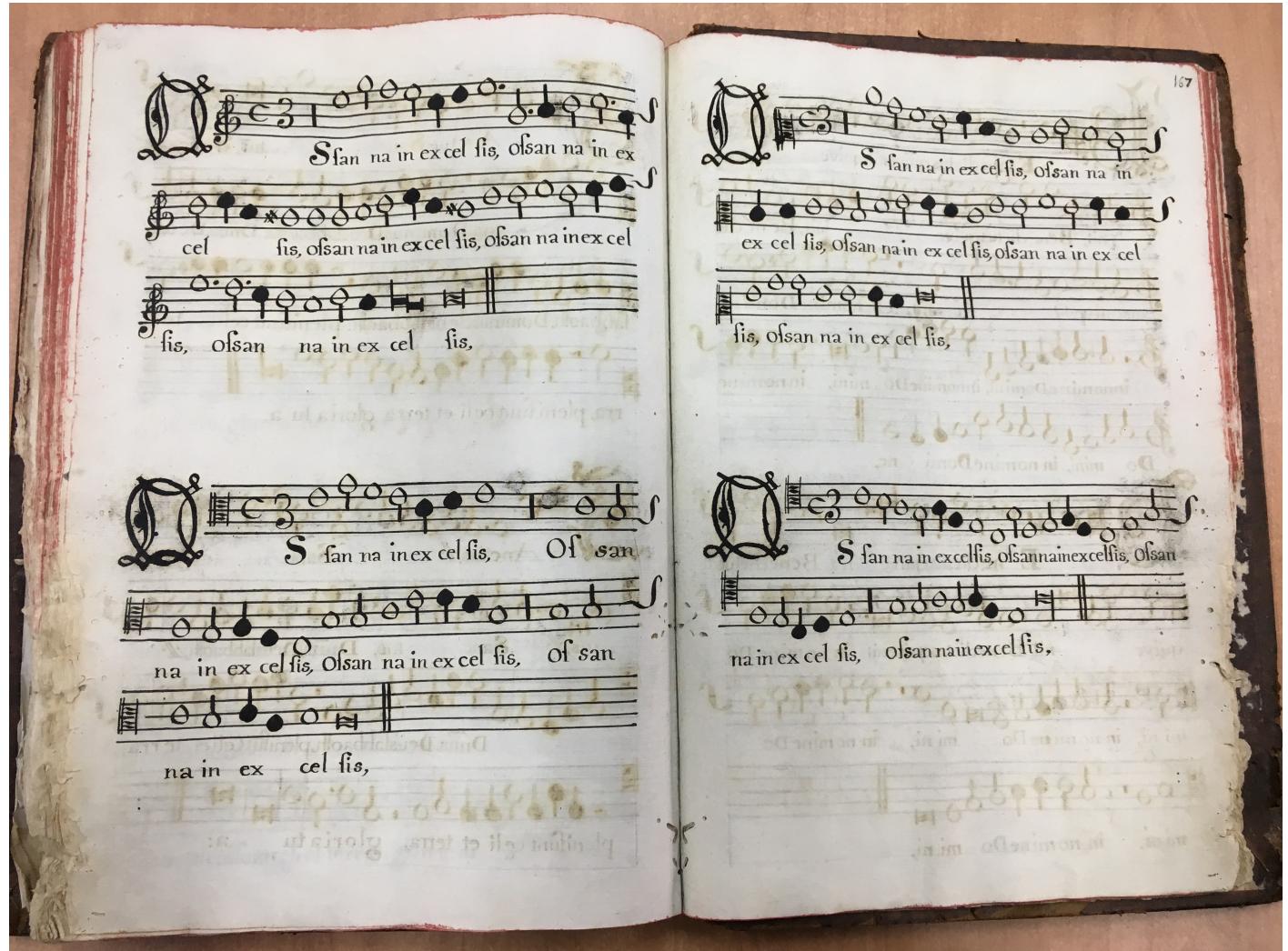
Notes		Values			
Name	Shape	Perfect		Imperfect	
Maxima	□	♩	♩	♩	♩
Long	♩	□	□	□	□
Breve	□	◊	◊	◊	◊
Semibreve	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊

mensuration

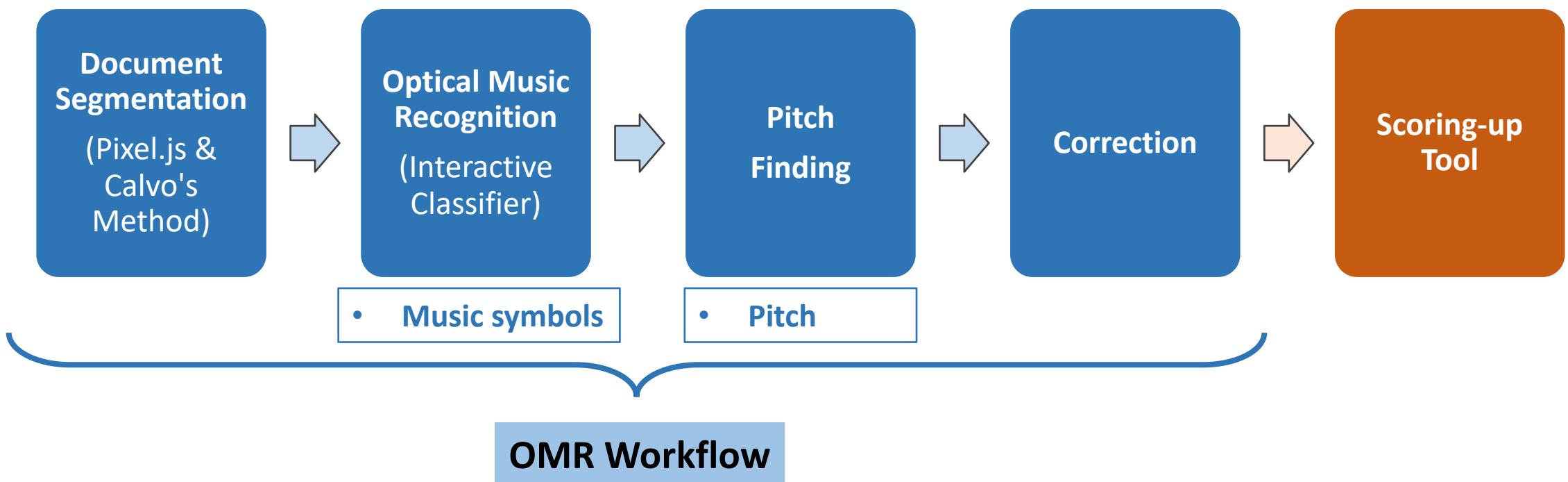


Barriers for Accessing the Music

- Lack of high-quality digital images
 - Notation style (mensural notation)
 - Layout (choirbook format)



SIMSSA Tools



- Pitch
- Note shape



OMR

Mensural
MEI file

Superius part



OMR

Mensural
MEI file

Contratenor part



OMR

Mensural
MEI file

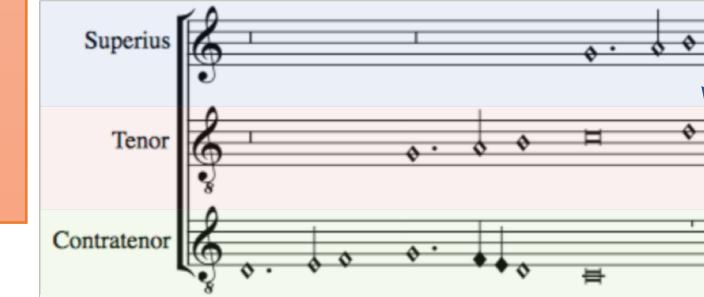
Tenor part

Scoring-up Tool

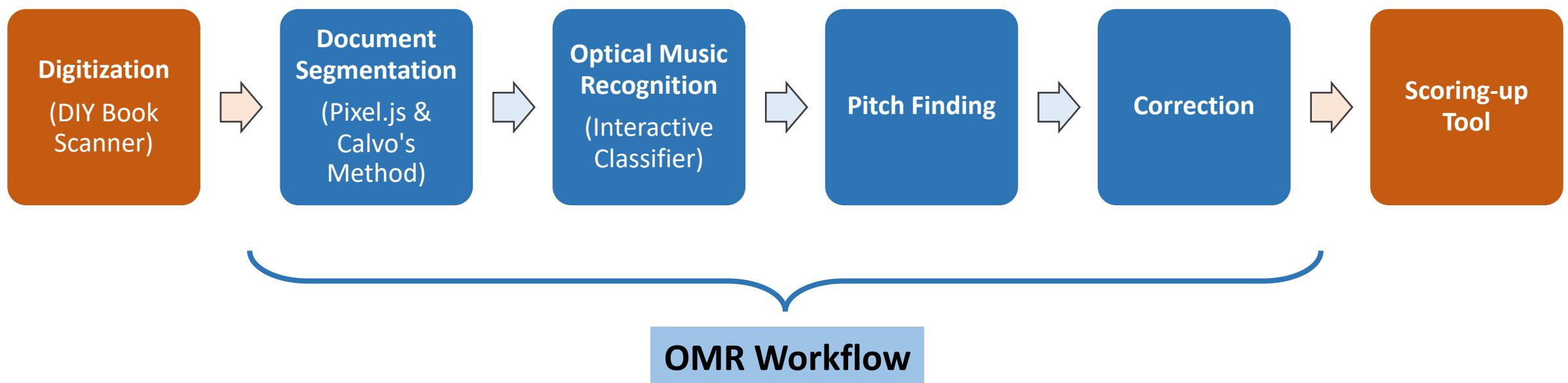
1. Duration based on context
2. Merge all files together

Mensural
MEI file

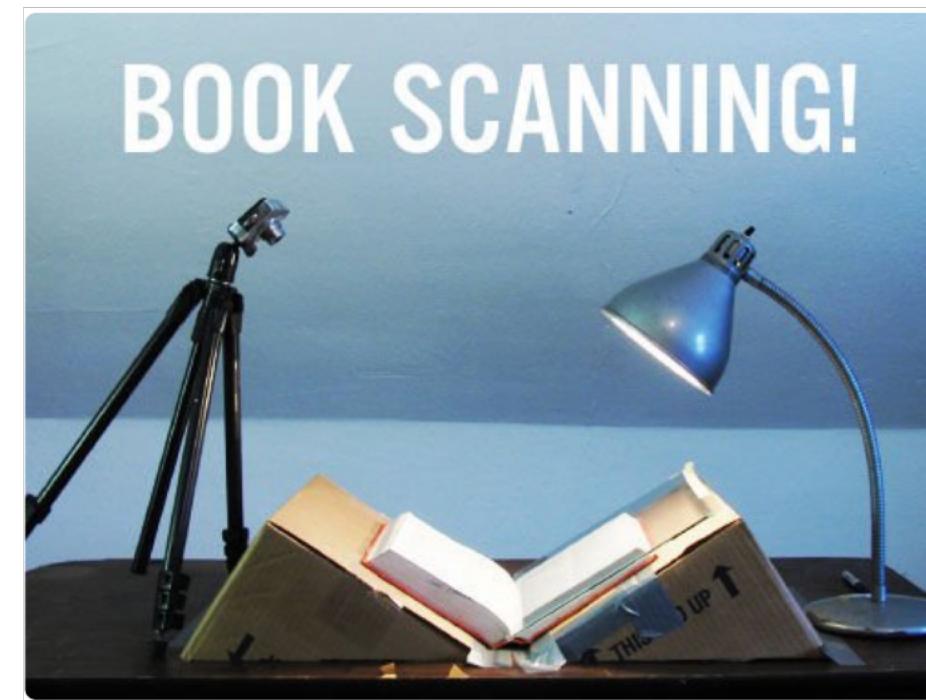
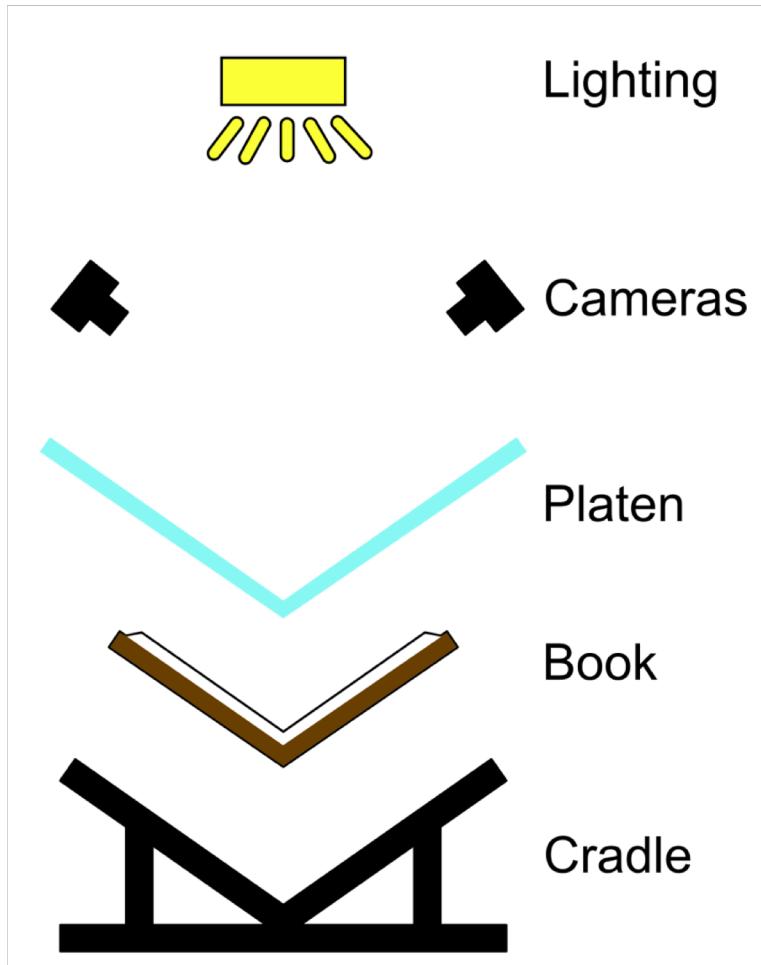
SCORE



SIMSSA Tools

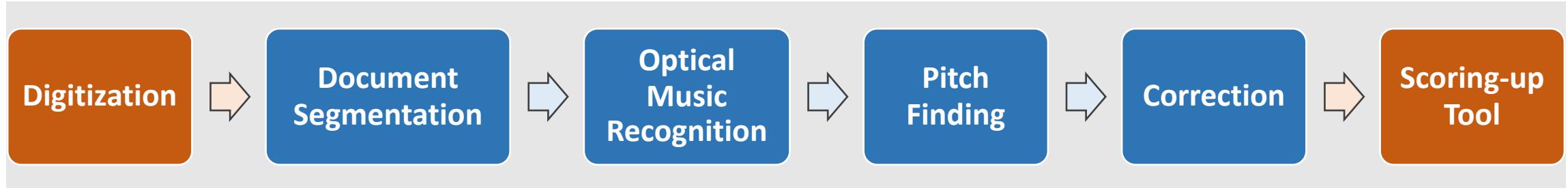


DIY Scanner



[DIY Book Scanner](#)

Expected Results



- Digitization and encoding of the repertoire as musical scores in a machine-readable file format
- Facilitate its preservation, dissemination, study by musicologists, and appreciation by the general public
- We expect this research to be used as a model for the digitization of the mensural repertoire of other countries that were once part of the colonial past

Thank you!

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SIMSSA | Single Interface for Music
Score Searching and Analysis



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



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École de musique Schulich

DDMAL

DISTRIBUTED DIGITAL MUSIC
ARCHIVES & LIBRARIES LAB



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