RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES FOR CROWDSOURCED TRANSCRIPTION AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR WEB-BASED LIBRARY, ARCHIVE, AND MUSEUM CONTENT

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1: Introduction

Our 3 year IMLS-funded research project, Crowdsourced Data: Accuracy, Accessibility, Authority (CDAAA) investigates whether and how LAMs integrate crowdsourced transcriptions into their discovery systems and whether the results are accessible for people who use assistive technology to navigate the web.

2: Purpose of Study

Our research provides timely insights and guidance for LAMs who are creating and managing crowdsourced data in their digital repositories or content management systems to better provide their users with accessible cultural heritage data.
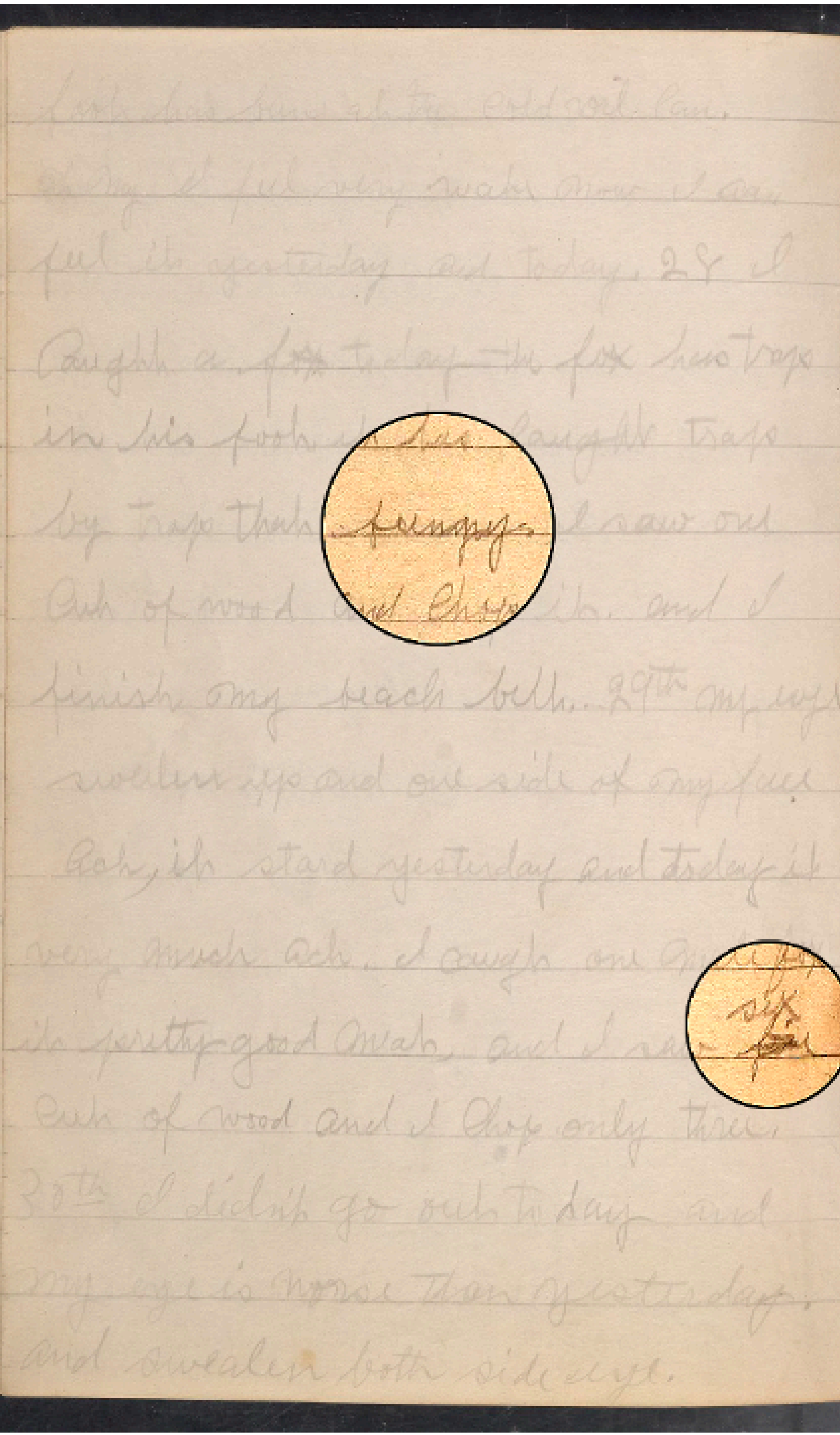
3: Research Questions

- RQ1 (Authority): Are LAMs able to integrate crowdsourced transcriptions into a Content Management System (CMS) or other repository?

- RQ2 (Accuracy and Authority): What are LAM practitioners' attitudes towards crowdsourced transcription data quality? How do LAM practitioners assess the quality of crowdsourced data?

- RQ3 (Accessibility): What are print-disabled users' experiences of searching for and reading transcription data? Is transcription data accessible to users with a print disability?

4: Ada Blackjack Diary

4 accessibility testers who tested the Dartmouth Library system encountered a unique object: the diary of Ada Blackjack (Iñupiat, 1898-1983), the sole survivor of the Wrangel Island expedition. 11 of our 12 testers also tested an HTML version of a page from this document.

28.

I Caught a fox today the fox has trap in his foot it has caught trap by trap that fun y ny. I saw one cut of wood and chop it. And I finish my black belt.

29th.

My eye swolen up and one side of my face ach, it stard yesterday and today it very much ach. I caught one male fox it pretty good meat, and I saw five ^six cut of wood and I chop only three.

Image of the Ada Blackjack Diary and its accompanying encoded text transcript

ACC Tester ID	Blind or low vision	T1: Can you navigate to the Dartmouth College Libraries' website?	T2: Search for digitized materials i.e. images of manuscripts with transcriptions	Search for phrase: "three white foxess that makes seven foxess	'This discovery system website is easy to use' (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, strongly	'This website meets my needs as a user.' (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, strongly	LAM CMS test position
ACC-1	B	Complete Success	Failure	Failure	Agree	Agree	3
ACC-4	B	Complete Success	Failure	Failure	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	1
ACC-9	B	Complete Success	Success with minor difficulties	Failure	Agree	Agree	2
ACC-11	B	Complete Success	Failure	Failure	Agree	Agree	3

Quantitative results from user testing of the Blackjack Diary

5: Conclusion

CMS and database creators could better serve LAM practitioners and their users by deploying standard fields for accessible transcription data. Such fields could improve discovery pathways for all users, not just blind users. LAMs could enhance accessibility of transcriptions by including information about transcription conventions, providing texts with minimal markup, and/or modernized language.

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