

Optical Character Recognition using Tesseract

Writer: Migui Phillip Galan

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a technology that transforms printed or handwritten text into machine-encoded text. It plays a vital role in digitizing documents, automating data entry, and enabling text analysis for a wide range of applications. One of the most powerful and widely-used OCR engines available today is Tesseract.

Now, to challenge ourselves. We will try recognize characters from images.

Image acquisition



To start with, we will use the DOH forms (clear images can be seen below) provided in this challenge. These will be printed out to be filled with dummy data. Next, a scanner reads these documents and converts them to PNG images which we will use for the next step.

Text recognition tool

After multiple flavor taste from the suggested tools, I found Tesseract as my go-to tool for this activity mainly because it's an open-source code and its popularity in qualitative OCR-library.

How does it work?

Tesseract is finding templates in pixels, letters, words and sentences. It uses two-step approach that calls adaptive recognition. It requires one data stage for character recognition, then the second stage to fulfil any letters, it wasn't insured in, by letters that can match the word or sentence context.

Installation

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sudo apt install tesseract-ocr
```

Running Tesseract

Tesseract is a command-line program, so first open a terminal or command prompt. The command is used like this:

```
tesseract imagename outputbase [-l lang] [-psm pagesegmode] [configfile...]
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So basic usage to do OCR on an image called 'img001.png' and save the result to 'img001.txt' would be:

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tesseract img001.png img001
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Finally, to view the generated result. We will locate the .txt file within the working directory which should be 'img001.txt'.



We will repeat this process until we have completely converted all images into encodedtext.

What are the results?

As the result was satisfactory for our use case, we will now match the accurateness of the encoded characters with the images. We won't be using any tools for this to test the accurateness but we will solely rely on observation.



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img001.txt

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img003.png

MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT FOR LANDBASED OVERSEAS WORKERS Approved and authorized by the Department Of Health (DOH) | Seminary | Annual College | Seminary | Seminar

img003.txt

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Approved and authorized by the Department of Health (DOH)

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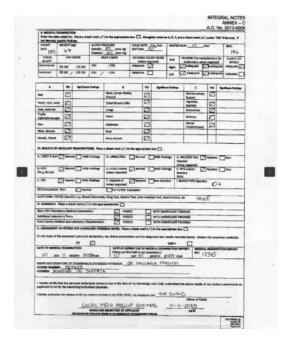
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img004.png



img004.txt

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ANNEX - I A.O. No. 2013-0006 NAME OF CLINIC HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) SCREENING TEST CERTIFICATE This is to certify that Mr./Ms. GALIAN, NIGUL PRELLIP G. has undergone screening test for HIV/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and was found to be Non-Reactive* Reactive* based on laboratory test (HIV-1/HIV-2). DR. HAULANIN HARSUDI Examining Physician License No. 9874,855 Date of Medical Examination 10-11-2025 LABORATORY REPORT Date: 10 - 11 - 2025 Name: GALAN, LINGLIT PRINLIP G. Age: 22 Sex: M. Civil Sumar: SINGLE Address: PADARANANS, DKI JAKARTA Human Immunodeficiency Vinas Types I (HIV-I) and (HIV-2) as a screening test for HIV/AIDS: Screening Test Used: (please check) RAPID Particle Agglutination ELA / CALLA / ELFA Others (specify) RESULT* NORREACTIVE REACTIVE HAULANIA HARSUDI EN Medical Tacherlogist HIV Proficiency Cort No. 9991 Expiry date 10-10-1200 HARSUDI HAULANIE RI *A numeroustic result delicates that the technic sample does not contain detectable Human Immunodeficiency View (IIIV) artibody. This does not preclad the possibility of crease exposure is an efficiency to III.

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img008.txt



List of mistaken text:

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Unlocking Tesseract OCR's Potential

Our observations reveal that Tesseract OCR, while a powerful tool, can be sensitive to image quality, resulting in inaccuracies, especially with unclear images. Intricate characters like 'O,' 'D,' and 'P' are sometimes misinterpreted, and small letter 'L' and capital letter 'i' are occasionally confused. Moreover, it's crucial to ensure that handwritten characters are well-formed and clear as well to recognize them accurately.

To harness Tesseract's full potential, we recommend combining it with complementary libraries such as OpenCV, ImageMagick, or Pillow, which can enhance image preprocessing and overall accuracy. By addressing image quality and using Tesseract in conjunction with these libraries, users can significantly improve the precision and reliability of optical character recognition tasks.

Remember, Tesseract OCR, when coupled with the right tools and best practices, can provide exceptional results in text recognition, making it a valuable asset in various applications.

Finally, there are other OCR options available, each with its unique strengths for specific projects and it's advisable to explore alternative OCR tools and assess which one best suits your needs to ensure the highest level of accuracy and efficiency.

DOH Forms



NAME OF CLINIC

DOH ACCREDITATION NUMBER Clinic Address Clinic Contact Information Email Address INTEGRAL NOTES ANNEX – D A.O. No. 2013-0006

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ANNEX – I A.O. No. 2013-0006

NAME OF CLINIC

Address Contact Information E-mail address

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) SCREENING TEST CERTIFICATE

be Non-Reactive*/Reactive* based o	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and was found to a laboratory test (HIV-1/HIV-2). Examining Physician License No Date of Medical Examination
	LABORATORY REPORT
	Date:
Name:	Age: Sex: Civil Status:
Screening Test Used: (please check) RAPID Particle Agglutination EIA / CMIA / ELFA Others (specify)	DNREACTIVE REACTIVE
Medical Technologist HIV Proficiency Cert. No Expiry date	
Pathologist	
A non-reactive result indicates that the tested sample a the possibility of recent exposure to an infection by HIV.	loes not contain detectable Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) antibody. This does not preclus MFOWS-Annex I-HIVST Revision:01 06/08/2011

INTEGRAL NOTES ANNEX - C A.O. No. 2013-0006

NAME OF CLINIC

DOH ACCREDITATION NUMBER Clinic Address Clinic Contact Information Email Address

MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT FOR LANDBASED OVERSEAS WORKERS

Approved and authorized by the Department Of Health (DOH)

SURNAME	LAST NAME:		GIVEN NAME	:				MIDDLE NAME:		
AGE:	DATE OF BIRTH		ONTH YEAR	PLACE C	F BIRTH:		OUNTRY	NATIONAUTY:		
GENDER: MALE	FEMALE [CIVIL STATUS:	SI	NGLE	MARRIED		RELIGION:		
ADDRESS:				_						_
PASSPORT NUMBER:				CC	DUNTRY OF DE	TINATION:				-
POSITION APPLIED FO	R:				AME OF COMP	ANY/ EMPLO	YER/ REC	RUITMENT AGENCY (WI	HENEVER	
I. MEDICAL HISTORY - Place a check mark (ed, sought	advice or treat	ment from a	medical o	loctor on the following	conditions:	
ead or Neck Injury	YES	NO	Other Lung Dis	orders	YES	NO _	[Gyna	ecological Disorders	YES	NO
requent Headaches	YES	NO	High Blood Pre	ssure	YES	NO _	Last I	Menstrual Period Specify date		
requent Dizziness	YES	NO	Heart Disease/ Chest Pain	Vascular/	YES 🗀	NO _	Kidne	y or Bladder Disorder	YES	NO
ainting Spells, Fits, Seiz r Other Neurological D		No□	Rheumatic Fev	er	YES	NO _	Back Arthr	Injury/Joint Pain/ Itis	YES 🗆	NO
somnia or Sleep Dison	ders YES	NO	Diabetes Melli	tues	YES	NO _		tic, Hereditary or ial Disorders	YES 🔲	NO
epression, other Ment isorders	ai YES 🗀	No C	Other Endocrin	ne Disorder	s YES	NO _	Sexua	Illy Transmitted Disease	s YES	NO
ye Problems/ rror of Refraction	YES 🗆	No.	Cancer or Tum	or	YES 🗆	NO C		cal Diseases (e.g. Malari old Fever – Specify Date		NO
Deafness, Other Ear Dis		NO	Blood Disorder		YES	NO _		tosomiasis (Specify Date		NO
lose or Throat Disorder	s YES	NO _	Stomach Pain, or Ulcer	Gastritis	YES	NO C	Asthr	na	YES	NO
uberculosis	YES	NO	Other Abdomin	nal Disorde	ers YES	NO [Allerg	ies (Specify)	YES	NO
							Opera	ation(s) (Specify)	YES	NO [
Place a che	ck mark (/) in the	e appropri	ate box 🔲.							
Have you e Have you e	ver been signed of ver been hospitaliz	f as sick or red?	repatriated from	m a jobsite	overseas?		Ì	res no		
	ver been declared edical certificate e			oked?			- 1	- H		
5. Are you aw	are that you have :	any medic	al problem, dise	ase or illne				コード		
	healthy and fit to ergic to any medica		ne auties or you	r oesignate	a position/occ	upetion	ł	3 H		
	ing any non-prescr				922 (94)	14.0				
If yes, pleas	e list the medicati	on(s) take	n/being taken, a	nd the pur	pose(s) and do	sage(s):	1			
-										
									1 000	PENER
										Revision 06/21/2

Optical Character Recognition using Tesseract

INTEGRAL NOTES ANNEX - C A.O. No. 2013-0006

not Normal, HEIGHT (cm):					PULSE RATE:/min RHYTHM:			RESPIRATION:/min					вмі:	
VISUAL ACUITY	FA	R VISION	N	EAR VISION	V	ISHIHARA COLOR VISION (when required)			EAR		G (Converse			CLARITY O
Uncorrected	OD 20/	OS 20/	ODJ	l OSJ		Adequate			Right	Audiometry when required) Adequate Inadequate				Adequate [
Corrected	ected OD 20/ OS 20/ ODJ		l OSJ		Defective		Left	Ade	Adequate Inad		uate	Defective [
	_													
A YES Significant Findings		B Neck, Lymph Nodes,			YES Significan		nt Findings		С	YES	Significant Find	ficant Finding		
kin 🔲		Thyroid		es,					to-urinary em					
Head, neck, sca	lead, neck, scalp		Chest-Breast-Axilla					Ingui						
Eyes, external		1		Lungs	1100	1118				_	mities			
Pupils, Ophthalmoscop	sic]		Heart						Refle	xes			
Ears				Abdome	n					Dent	al th/Gums)			
Nose, Sinuses				Back		Jiř.				(ree	J Guillaj			-
Mouth, Throat]		Anus-rec	tum				500440					
i. ECG: for_> 40 y/o) :. CBC:			th Findings	(when re	itis B:	Non		With Find	lings H	when requi . RPR and/ eactive PHA BLOOD TY		Reactive):		Non-
PSYCHOLOGICA			mal	(when re	equired)	valuation	uve L	Non-wear	uve I.	BLUODIY	PE (Specify	r: 		
ADDITIONAL TE	13/5/16		1000.07		AMERICANIA.	3000 A			100					
V. SUMMARY.	7,011.5		A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		S	n reat, tiv	er runcu	on rest, su	or Cultur	e, etc.				
Basic DOH Man				Г	PASS	en.		WITH SIGN	HEICANT	CINDINGS				
Additional Labo			anon.		PASSED WITH SIGNIFICANT								_	-
lost Country M	edical an	d Laboratory I	Requirements		PASS	SED		WITH SIGN	VIFICANT	FINDINGS				
On the basis of the DATE OF MEDIC	the exam	nee's person: FIT		, my clinica	examina	ation and	of MED	nostic test r	esults rec	orded abo				medically:
DA	Y	MONTH	YEAR	1.00		DAY		ONTH	Y	EAR			_	
IAME AND SIG ICENSE NUMBI ADDRESS:		OF EXAMININ	G/AUTHORIZ	ED PHYSIC	:AN:						7.0			
hereby certify explained to me hereby authori	by the ex	amining/auth	orized physic	ian.					nderstan	- 0.000 00 1.250 - 0.	e results of		ical ex	amination
			NAME AND	CONT.	DE 05 45	041000	_				TE			

Optical Character Recognition using Tesseract

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NAME OF CLINIC

DOH ACCRE DITATION NUMBER Clinic Address Clinic Contact Information Email Address

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR LANDBASED OVERSEAS WORKERS

Approved and authorized by the Department of Health (DOH)

SURNAME/LAST NAME		GIVEN NAME:		MIDDLE NAME					
AGE:	DATE OF BIRTH:	ONTH YEAR	PLACE OF BIRTH:	NATIONALITY:					
GENDER: MALE	FEMALE		INGLE MARRIED	RELIGION:					
ADDRESS:	07-127		134 24						
PASSPORT NUMBER:		COUNTRY OF DESTI	TRY OF DESTINATION:						
POSITION APPLIED FOR		EMPLOYER/COM PA	NY/RECRUITMENT AGENCY (IF AP	PLICABLE):					
ATISFACTORY HEARING	37		YES NO]					
SATISFACTORY SIGHT?			YES NO						
SATISFACTORY COLOR	ASION? (WHEN REQUIRED)		YES NO						
SATISFACTORY PSYCHO	LOGICAL TEST?		YES NO						
	IG FROM ANY MEDICAL CONDITI CE OR TO ENDANGER THE HEALT			SEAS WORK OR TO RENDER THE APPLICAN					
	PHOTO (MUG SHOT) PASSPORT SIZE	(24/4/2017/201	OF APPPLICANT)	UNFIT					
	DFFICIAL STAMP	Date of	Name and Signature of Examining/Authorized Physician Date of Examination: Approved by:						
		Medica	Director	<u> </u>					
I HAVE READ AND UND	ERS TO OD THE CONTENTS OF TH	E ABOVE AND THE	INTEGRAL NOTES HEREOF.						
APPLICANT'S NAME AN	ND SIG NATURE: BE AFFIXED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE	EXAMINING PHYSICIA	N)	DATE:					
	OF PEME CERTIFICATE:		DATE OF EXPIRATION OF PEME CERTIFICATE: (Filling out this field is not mandatory.) DAY MONTH YEAR						
				DCH-PEME Ravision 0521/2 Page 1					

Optical Character Recognition using Tesseract



Republic of the Philippines Department of Health HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU

ANNEX-G A.O. No. 2013-0006

TABULATED PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

Name: Position Applied for: Referred by:									
Date of Examination:									
TEST ADMINISTEREI Intelligence Test Personality Test: Others:	100								
I. INTELLECTUA	L LEVE	L:							
() Very Superi	or		() Ave	erage	() Mentally Deficient				
() Superior			() Bel	ow Average					
() Above Ave	rage		() Bor	derline					
II. PERSONALITY	TRAIT	S AND C	HARACTE	RISTICS:					
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY	1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Low Average	4 Average	5 High Average	6 High	7 Very High		
Perseverance							1000		
Obedience		1	1			1			
Self-discipline/Orderly		-		-					
Enthusiasm	-	-							
Initiative	1								
PALOTTONIAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
EMOTIONAL STABILITY									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and inconveniences									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and inconveniences Faces reality									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Folerance to stress, pressures and nconveniences Faces reality Confidence									
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and inconveniences Faces reality Confidence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and inconveniences Faces reality Confidence Relaxed OBJECTIVITY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
STABILITY Can withstand boredom and work alone Tolerance to stress, pressures and inconveniences Faces reality Confidence Relaxed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		

Optical Character Recognition using Tesseract

MOTIVATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assertiveness							
Independence							
Resourcefulness							
INTERPERSONAL AND PERSONAL ADJUSTMENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Relationship with Peers and Co-workers (Team manship)							
Relationship with Superiors,Employers and Authority Figures (Deference)							
Self-esteem							
Aggressive Tendencies							
GOAL- ORIENTATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Directs one's effort towards clear cut objectives							

I. CONCLUSION/REMARKS:

() RECOMMENDED

No significant personality problems noted at the time of evaluation.

() FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

LEGEND:

- 1- Very Low
- 2- Low
- 3- Low Average
- 4- Average
- 5- High Average
- 6- High
- 7- Very High

-5/11-0	Psychologist	

MFOWS-Annex G-Psychological Evaluation Form Revision:02 12/08/2014 Page 2 of 2

ANNEX - D A. O. No. 2013-0006

NAME OF CLINIC

DOH ACCREDITATION NUMBER Clinic Address Clinic Contact Information Email Address

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR SERVICE AT SEA

Approved and authorized by the Department Of Health (DOH) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Republic of the Philippines Issued in compliance with STCW Convention, 1978, as amended Section A-I/9 Paragraph 7 and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

URNAME/LAST NAME:	GIVEN	FIRST NAME:			MIDDLE NAME:
GE: DATE OF BIRTH: DAY MO	INTH YEAR	PLACE OF BIRTH	li.		NATIONALITY:
SENDER. MALE FEMALE	CIVIL STATUS:	SINGLE	MARRIED		RELIGION:
ADDRESS	•				
PASSPORT NUMBER:		SEAMAN'S BO	OK NUMBER.		
POSITION ON BOARD:	ing OTH	ERS SPECIFY			COMPANY:
DECLARATION OF THE AUTHORIZED PHYSIC					
CONFIRMATION THAT IDENTIFICATION DOC	JMENTS WERE CHECK	ED AT THE POINT	OF EXAMINAT	ION.	YES NO
HEARING MEETS THE STANDARDS IN STCW O	ODE, SECTION A-1/97				YES NO
UNAIDED HEARING SATISFACTORY?	14		4.000		YES NO
VISUAL ACUITY MEETS STANDARDS IN STCW	CODE, SECTION A-I/9	?	100000		YES NO
COLOUR VISION MEETS STANDARDS IN STCV Date of last colour vision test: (Day/ Month/		97			Y ES NO
VISUAL AIDS (tick if worn) SPECT		CONTACT LENS	SES		
FIT FOR LOOKOUT DUTIES?			111		YES NO
NO LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON FITN	ESS?				YES NO
f "NO" specify limitations or restrictions: S APPLICANT SUFFERING FROM ANY MEDIC SUCH SERVICE OR TO ENDANGER THE HEALT			ED BY SERVICE	E AT SEA	OR TO RENDER THE SEAFARER UNFIT FOR
	THIS IS TO CERTIF	THAT A MEDICAL A	ND PHYSICAL EX	AMINATIO	DN WAS GIVEN TO
	(NAME OF SEAFAI	RER)			7
PHOTO (MUG SHOT)	RESULT: FIT FOR DUTY.		UNFIT FOR DU	TY	
PASSPORT SIZE		TURE OF EXAMINING ATION DAY/MONTH			/
	MEDICAL DIRECTO	DR .		_	
OFFICIAL STAMP	NG AUTHORITY				
		RTIFYING AUTHOR	ΙΤΥ		
HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD AND WAS		ONTENTS OF THE	CERTIFICATEA	ND OF T	HE RIGHT TO A REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE
SEAFARER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE:		11112220	200		DATE:
THIS SIGNATURE SHOULD BE AFFIXED IN THE PRES			OF EXPIRAT	TION: D	DAY/ MONTH/ YEAR
			30		

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