APEF Newsletter

The Archives Portal Europe Foundation monthly newsletter

Dear APEF friends

Welcome to the [Archives Portal Europe Foundation](#) Newsletter #15 !

The APEF Newsletter brings you all the news on the Archives Portal Europe Foundation and its network - plus interesting stories from the world of European archives.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter, please contact (info@archivesportaleuropefoundation.eu)

FROM APEF

Country Managers meeting in Seville – more than 15 archives were represented at the Country Managers meeting in Seville, and others joined online. The meeting explored the future directions of APEF and included a workshop on archival standards by Daniel Pitti (University


of Virginia) and Javier Requejo ([PARES](#))– yet there was time to sneak on the roof of our host, the **Archivo General de Indias**, and admire the beautiful view of Seville from above.

A report on the meeting is available on the website of the Lithuanian State Archives [here](#) (in Lithuanian)

#AllezDemocracy continues

Seven months of **#AllezDemocracy**, and our history of the democratisation process in Europe is as popular as ever. Follow us with the hashtag, and if you have lost the previous episode, all documents are available on the APEF website [here](#)
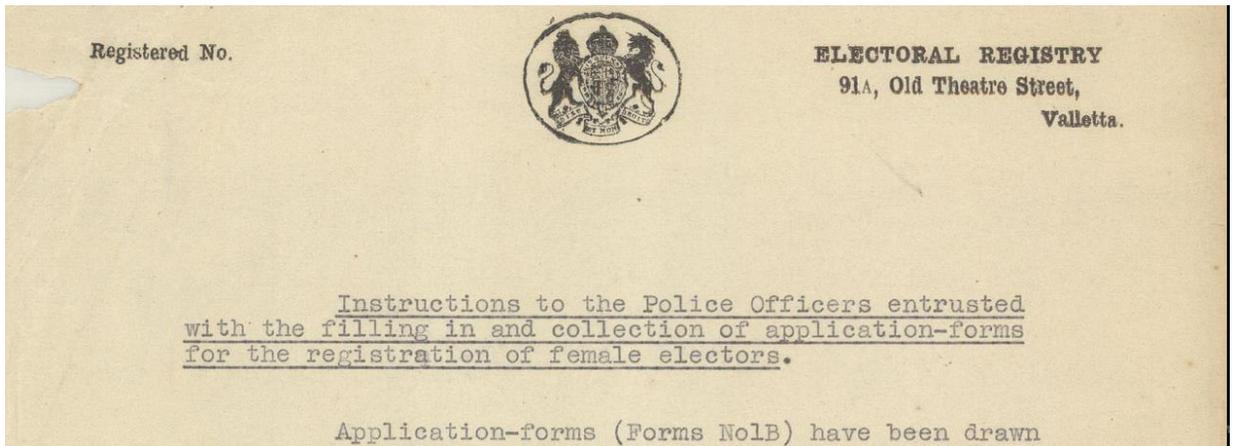
NEW CONTENT PROVIDERS

Three new content providers from **Germany** have joined [Archives Portal Europe](#)! The [Archiv der Hansestadt Wismar](#), Wismar City Archives, that goes back to the 13th century and includes photographic, drawings, films, and newspapers collections; the [Landeskirchliches Archiv Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Norddeutschland](#), Evangelical Lutheran Church Archives in Northern Germany; and [Universitätsarchiv - E.-M.-Arndt-Universität Greifswald](#), the University of Greifswald Archives.
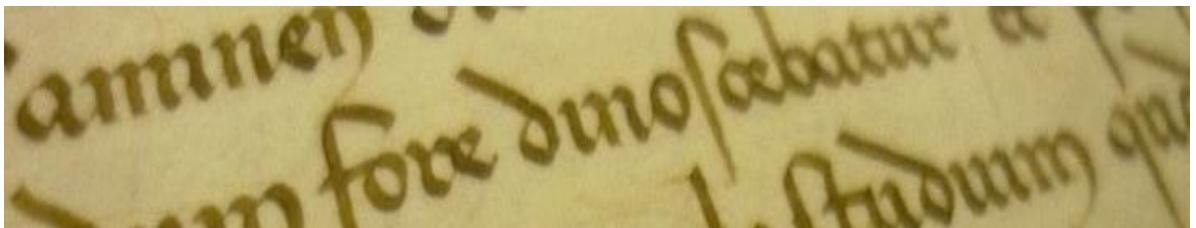
INTRODUCING TRANSKRIBUS – AUTOMATED TEXT RECOGNITION FOR HANDWRITTEN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
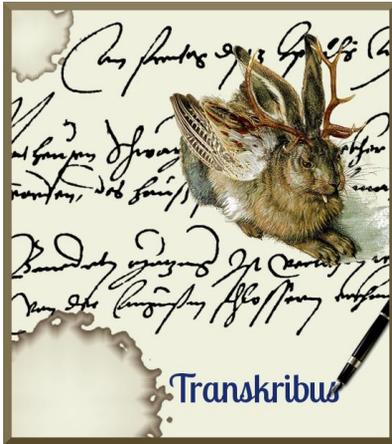
Louise Seaward (University College London) presents a tool for automated text recognition that should interest all archivists and researchers – and invites APEF and all its friends to the next Transkribus conference in Vienna

The digital turn has already had a transformative impact on the archival world and the latest cutting-edge technology promises to go even further to open up archival holdings all over Europe! Transkribus is a platform for the automated recognition, transcription and searching of historical documents. It includes innovative Automated Text Recognition technology that can be trained to recognise both handwritten and printed documents of any script, language, date or format.

Transkribus is free to use – just download the platform from the website to get started.

Automated Text Recognition technology is based on neural network algorithms, which are trained to recognise the text contained in a collection of historical documents. Transkribus users can begin training a model to recognise their documents with 25-75 pages of digitised images and matching transcripts.

The results are impressive to behold – in the very best cases, Transkribus can produce automated transcripts where 95-98% of characters on a page are correct. The platform also includes sophisticated Keyword Spotting technology, which allows users to search through digitised images with a high level of precision. Explore some recent 'success stories' to get a sense of the potential of the technology to recognise collections including medieval Gothic, eighteenth-century English and twentieth-century Danish handwriting.

There are now more than 10,000 registered Transkribus users - mainly archivists, researchers and members of the public. We invite you to join us at the next Transkribus User Conference **in Vienna on 8-9 November 2018** to see how others are working with this technology or share your own experiences. Full registration details coming soon. Your institution can also become one of our supporting partners by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with us - please contact us (email@transkribus.eu) to find out more.

As our user network expands, the Automated Text Recognition technology is becoming stronger and learning to process an increasingly diverse range of historical texts. Transkribus therefore has the potential to revolutionise archival practice, providing unprecedented access to all kinds of historical documents that have never previously been transcribed.

The Transkribus wiki contains lots of How to Guides to help you take your first steps with the platform. The Transkribus team can also come to your archive or event to give an introductory workshop. For more information, please

- download Transkribus
- consult the READ project website
- follow us on Twitter
- contact the Transkribus team (email@transkribus.eu).

Transkribus is offered as a research infrastructure by the READ (Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Documents) project.
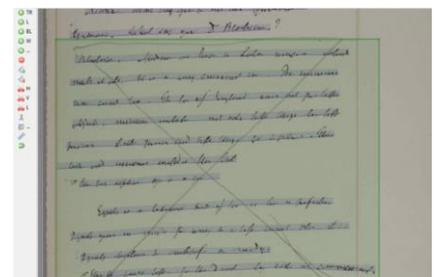
1 Blackstone. Madam we have a Latin maxim which
2 it all. It is a very convenient one. De minimis
3 non curat lex. The law of England cares not for little
4 objects: minimis includes not only little things but little
5 persons. Little persons and little things go together. This
6 Latin word minimis includes them both.
7 This being explained go on to say.

NEWS

Archives of Healthcare Institutions: History and Documentation

The [Ιστορικό Αρχείο Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών](), General State Archives in Athens, Greece, in collaboration with the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens; Historical Archive of the City of Athens; and Network for the History of Health, organised **the first conference on archival sources and research about the history of health**. The event aimed to highlight the status of the health-related archival material and to inform the public about the new trends in historical research, as well as raising awareness on the value of the documents that institutions produce. The conference took place at the Central Service of the General State Archives on the 25-27 April 2018. More information is available here (in Greek): http://www.archive.uoa.gr/

ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ
Αρχεία Φορέων Υγείας:
Ιστορία και διαχείριση πηγών
25 - 27 Απριλίου 2018

The Cultural Heritage Re-use Charter

Several European organisations ([APEF](), [CLARIN](), [DARIAH](), [Europeana](), [E-RIHS]()) and European projects ([Iperion-CH](), [PARTHENOS]()) in the cultural heritage domain are working together to set up principles and mechanisms for improving the use and re-use of cultural heritage data. The first step of this activity concerned the definition of generic principles that both cultural heritages and researchers can adhere to. These principles are: **Reciprocity**, **Interoperability**, **Citability**, **Openness**, **Stewardship,** and **Trustworthness**. On Monday 9 April 2018, [LIBER's Digital Humanities]() Working Group hosted the first feedback workshop for the Cultural Heritage Re-use Charter. The workshop focussed on three of the Charter's principles. For more information: https://libereurope.eu/events/feedback-workshop-reuse-of-cultural-heritage-charter/

LIBER

Ligue des Bibliothèques
Européennes de Recherche
Association of European
Research Libraries

DGA volumes freely available online

The [Direzione Generale degli Archivi](#), **Italian National Archives**, is digitising the entire collection of its publications to make them freely available online. The catalogue and digitised publications are available [here](#) (in Italian), and constantly updated as the process continues. Amongst the publications:

- "**Imaging Technologies for Archives. The Allied Control Commission Microfilm Project. Seminar, Rome, 26-27 april 1996"** (in English and Italian), available [here](#)
- **"A history of Greek State Archives (1970)"**, "Note sugli archivi di Stato della Grecia" (in Italian) available [here](#)
- "**Bibliography on Italian archives (1963)**", "Bibliografia delle pubblicazioni italiane relative all'archivistica. Rassegna descrittiva e guida" (in Italian) available [here](#)

COMING UP

Digital Humanities Benelux Conference
Amsterdam (The Netherlands), 6 – 8 June 2018

The 5th DH Benelux Conference will take place on 6 – 8 June 2018 at the **International Institute for Social History (IISH)** in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and will be organised by the [KNAW Humanities Cluster](#). **DH Benelux** is an initiative that aims to further the collaboration between Digital Humanities activities in Belgium, The Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The conference serves as a platform for the community of interdisciplinary DH researchers to meet, present, and discuss their latest research findings, as well as presenting tools and projects. More information here: http://2018.dhbenelux.org/

Two Exhibitions in Catania
Catania (Italy), 24 March – 31 May

Two exhibitions on at the [Archivio di Stato di Catania](#), Catania State Archives: "Catania com'era: dalle 'Antichità' alle 'Difese' della città" (Catania Once Upon a Time: from 'Antiquity' to the 'Defence' of a city) and "Documenti e immagini e I monasteri di clausura e gli edifici conventuali a Catania tra Settecento e Ottocento. Documenti e immagini" (Documents and images of Catania's between 1700s and 1800s). The first exhibition reconstructs the city and its phases of (re)construction, from the volcano eruption of 1669 to the 1663 earthquake, and later human invasions. The second tells the story of the reconstruction of Church buildings after the 1693 earthquake, which involved some of the most important architects of the 17th century. More information (in Italian) [here](#)
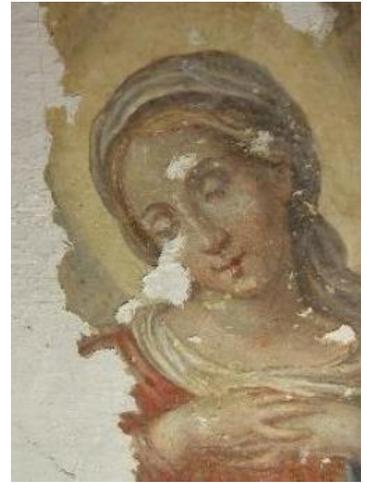
IN THE LOOP

ARCHIVES SAVE LIVES: The Windrush Scandal

In the aftermath of World War II, many young people from Africa and the Caribbean came to the UK thanks to a law that allowed freedom of movement within the Commonwealth: it was the "Windrush Generation". Many were underage and travelled with their parents' passport; even though they spent most of their lives in Britain, they never registered for a passport as it is quite a costly process. Between November and April, the UK Home Office threatened the children of Commonwealth immigrants with deportation if they could not prove their right to remain in the UK. Britain does not issue ID cards and drive licences were not valid. In this situation, [The National Archives](#) were the fundamental proof, as they preserve the personal details of more than 85000 immigrants who arrives in the UK before 1960. Read the full story [here](#)