



Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg  
Nationalbibliothék

 @bnluxembourg

# Open Data at the BNL

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# Quick overview

- Digitization @ National Library of Luxembourg (BnL)
- Open Data & Tools
- A.I. / Machine Learning Project

# **Digitization at National Library of Luxembourg (BnL)**



# Digitization @ BnL

- **Preserve** old documents
  - **Restrict** access to physical volumes (scan once, minimize physical usage)
  - Some documents are **unique** (1 copy)
  - Replace microfilms with **improved digital access**
- **Search** Full Text – OCR (optical text recognition)
- Decompose images into **articles** (semantic units) – OLR (optical layout recognition)
- **Present** digital results online: [eluxemburgensia.lu](http://eluxemburgensia.lu), [a-z.lu](http://a-z.lu)

# Digitization timeline

2003 to 2006

- Image only
- Newspapers, postcards, books, manuscripts

2006+

- Luxembourg newspapers
- Image & rich metadata (METS/ALTO)

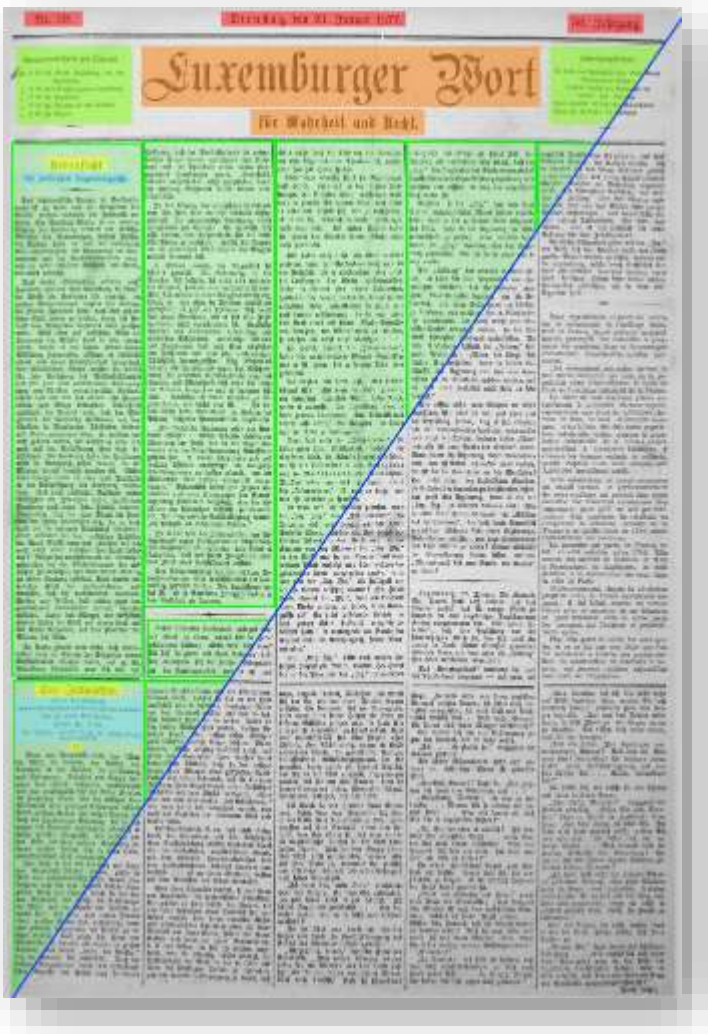
2015

- 15 medieval manuscripts with metadata
- 441 books with METS/ALTO

2016+

- Newspapers, books, postcards etc.

# Standards



- **300 DPI** Images
- **Uncompressed**
- 8 bit
- 256 levels of grey or full color



- **PDF/A** for online download
- With **Full Text** and **TOC**



- **METS:** Container Format
- **ALTO:** OCR Format

**For each issue / book:**

- 1 METS file
- 1 PDF file

**For each page:**

- 1 TIFF
- 1 PNG (B&W)
- 1 PDF
- 1 ALTO



# METS / ALTO

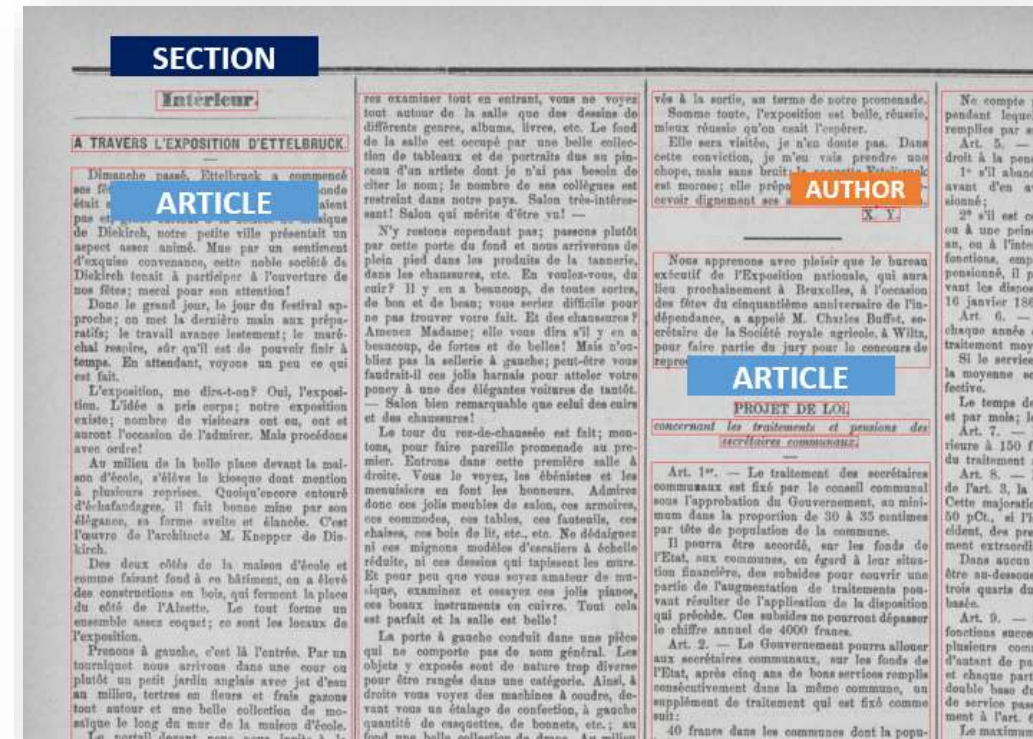


- **METS:**

- 1 METS per document
- Describes the logical and physical structure
- Contains all the metadata (technical, descriptive, access rights etc.)
- Links to ALTO blocks

- **ALTO:**

- 1 ALTO file per page
- OCR results with text coordinates
- Organized in Text Blocks, Composed Blocks, Lines and Strings elements

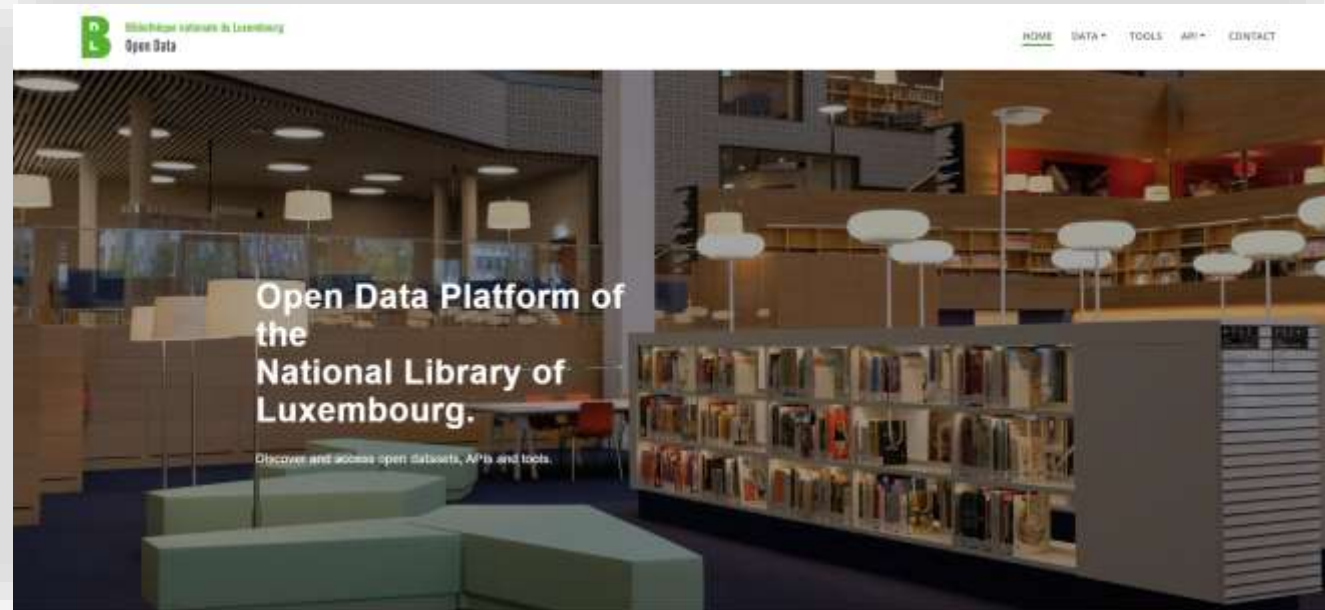


# Open Data & Open Tools





# 2019: data.bnl.lu



**Data**



**Tools**



**APIs**

# data.bnl.lu

- Organised in Packs
- Download what you need
- Raw or Processed Data
- **Technical Specifications**

The screenshot displays the data.bnl.lu website interface. On the left, there are five data packs available for download:

- STARTER PACK**: 250MB, icon of a newspaper. Includes 5 days of news, 5 newspaper issues, 77 pages, DWischra (1858). Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice). Best for getting started & developing.
- DEV PACK**: 3GB, icon of code symbols. Includes 1 month of news, 26 newspaper issues, 112 pages, Luxemburger Wort (1877). Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice). Best for getting started with Big Data.
- SAMPLE PACK**: 1GB, icon of a document. Includes 11 different newspaper titles, 1 issue per newspaper, News between 1845 and 1877. Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice). Best for testing different newspapers and metadata.
- ML STARTER PACK**: 32GB, icon of a gear. Includes 1 year of news, 304 newspaper issues, 1220 pages. L'Indépendance Luxembourgeoise (1877), Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice). Best for getting started with machine learning.
- BIG DATA PACK**: 257GB, icon of a gear. Includes 10 years of news, 2712 newspaper issues, 10680 pages, L'Union (1860-1889). Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice). Best for machine learning and deep neural networks.

Each pack has a green 'DOWNLOAD (ZIP)' button.

On the right, there is a section titled **BnL's Technical Requirements**. It features the logo of the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (Nationalbibliothék) and a green button that says 'Download BnL's Latest Technical Requirements (21MB)'.

# Hackathon – Open Data Challenge

- Create novel interfaces / tools ideally using machine learning techniques
- METS/ALTO is not user-friendly when you have 2 days to learn it & use it



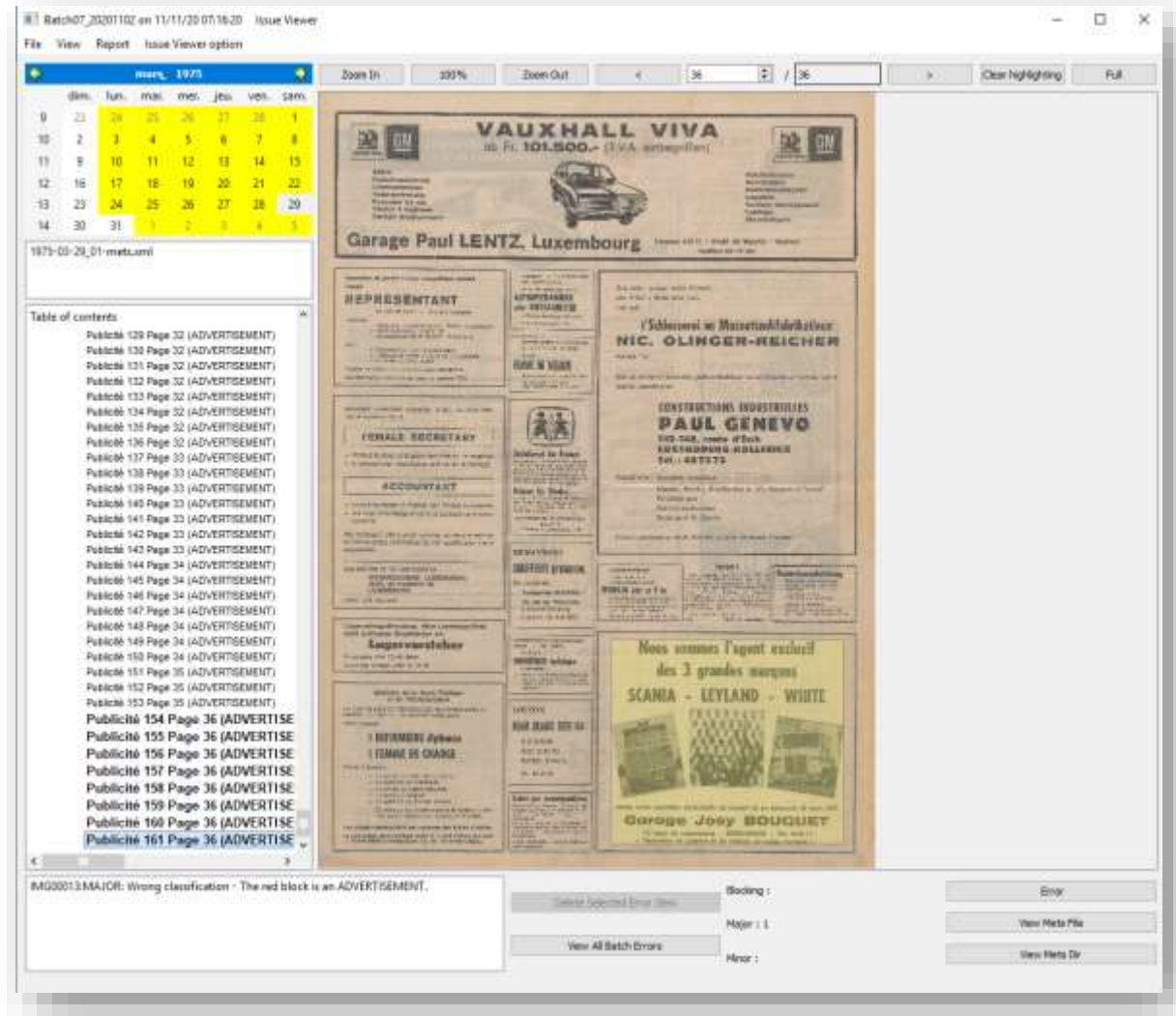
# Quality Assurance Tool

## Namalysator

- Checks METS/ALTO files
- Measures accuracy on the "titles to check manually"
- Generates Report (custom error codes)
- Open Source



<https://github.com/natliblux/Namalysator>





# METS / ALTO Viewer



OpenSeadragon



Cantaloupe

High-performance dynamic image server in Java



International  
Image  
Interoperability  
Framework



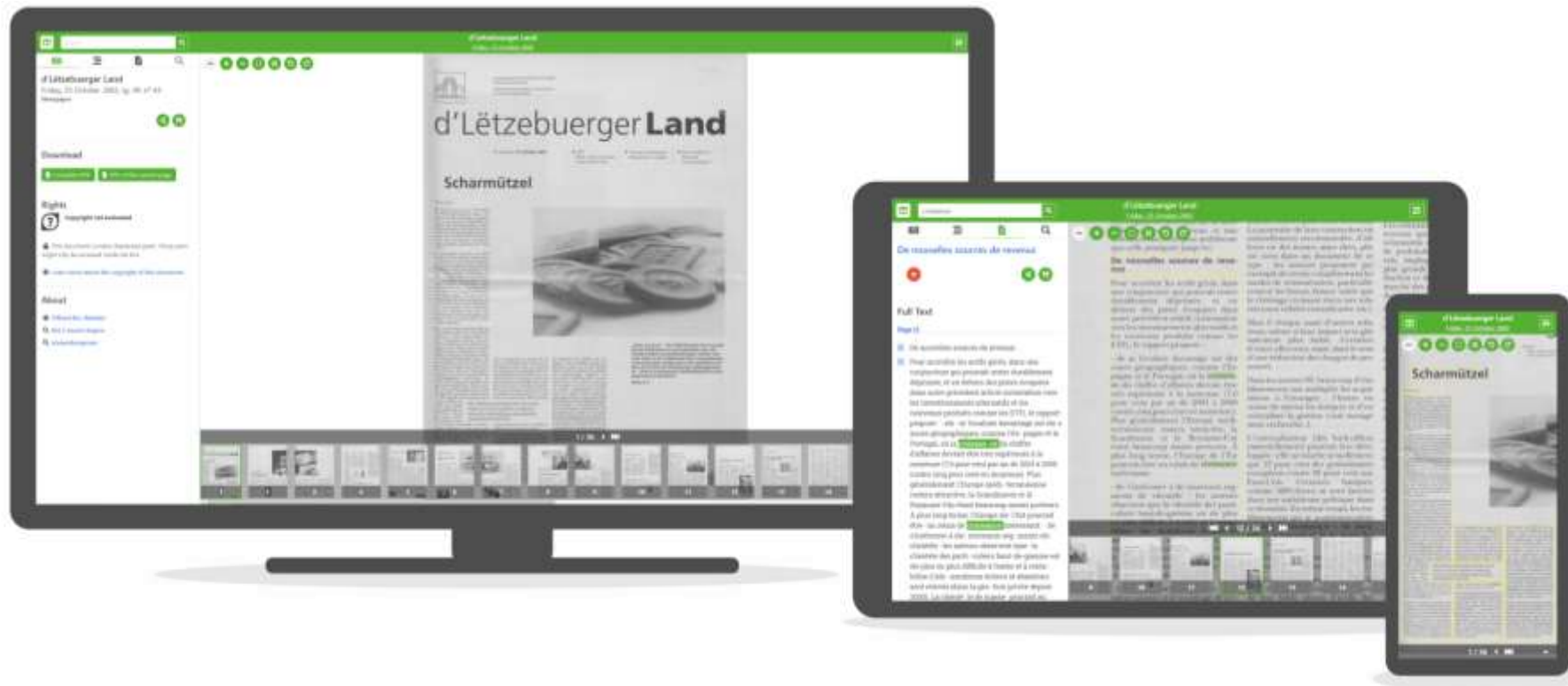
Vue.js



spring  
boot



HAPROXY



Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg

Nationalbibliothék

# METS / ALTO Viewer



Article Segmentation

Full Text

Block-level Links

Word-Highlight

Word-To-Image Link

# METS / ALTO Viewer



Metadata

Table of Contents

Calendar

Search

IIIF Images

Redaction



# **A.I. / Machine Learning Projects**



# eLmA = eLuxemburgensia meets AI

## Improving OCR

Ground Truth

Engine Training

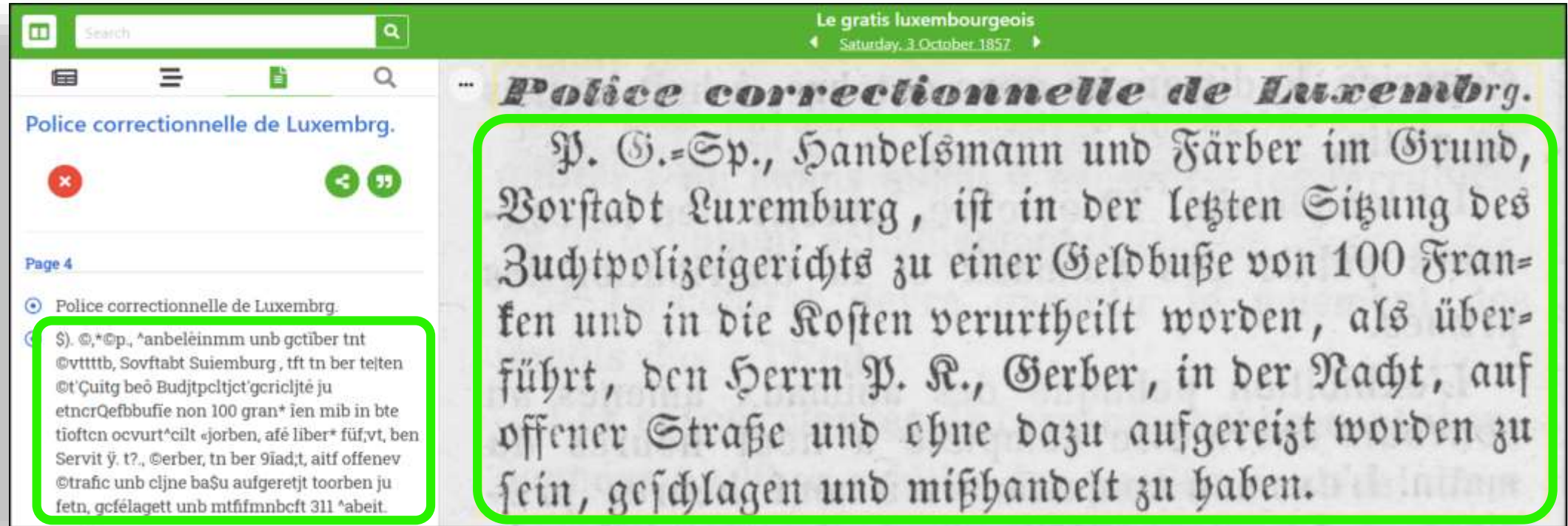
Re-OCR

## Article Recommendation

Visual Exploration

Named Entities

# OCR



# Varying quality for OCR

La machine parlementaire a recommencé à fonctionner. Sauf quelques interruptions, elle va marcher pendant dix mois, sur lesquels les députés en perdront largement quatre ou cinq à des choses qui leur sembleront, à eux et au public, très importantes, et qui seront parfaitement inutiles.

Hierauf werden Gerüchte zurückgeführt, wonach die Prinzessin infolge der Aufregung über den Entlass des Königs Georg von Sachsen, einen Selbstmordversuch begangen habe.

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Quality

Binarization

Segmentation

Font

OCR

ALTO

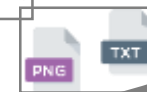
Entities

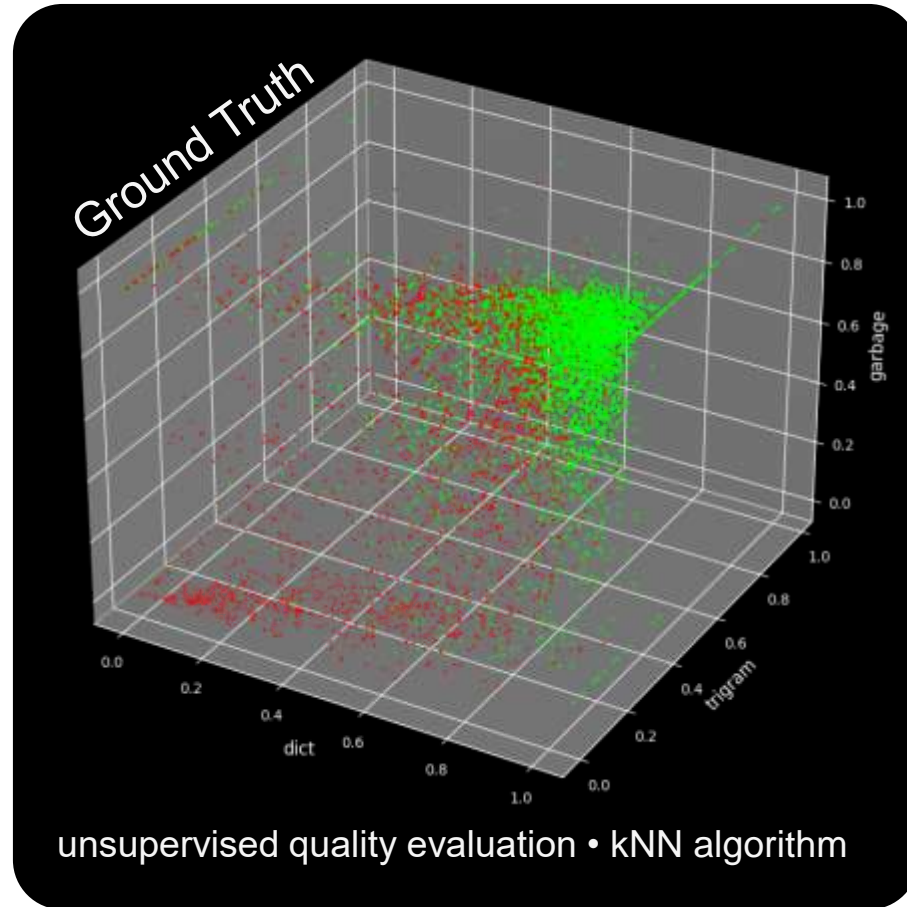
**Ground Truth**

≈100 thousand text lines

**Newspaper Corpus**

≈200 million text lines





● score > 0.95

● else

$$\text{score} = 1 - (\text{editDistance} / |\text{chars}|)$$

**85% Accuracy on test set**



P. G.=Sp., Handelsmann und Färber im Grund, Vorstadt Luxemburg, ist in der letzten Sitzung des Zuchtpolizeigerichts zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Franken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als überführt, den Herrn P. R., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu sein, geschlagen und mißhandelt zu haben.

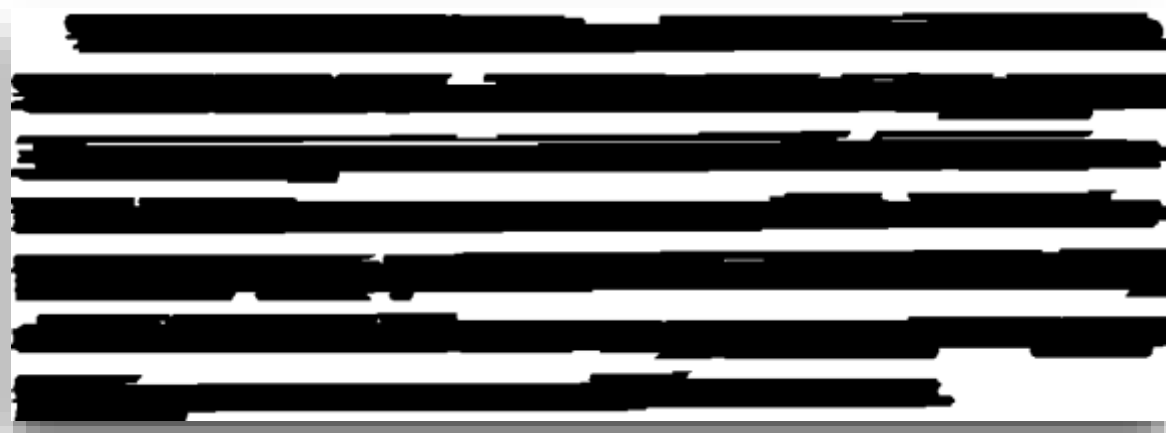
Original Text Block

P. G.=Sp., Handelsmann und Färber im Grund, Vorstadt Luxemburg, ist in der letzten Sitzung des Zuchtpolizeigerichts zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Franken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als überführt, den Herrn P. R., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu sein, geschlagen und mißhandelt zu haben.

Binarized Text Block

cleaning • dilation • padding • inversion • white on black detection



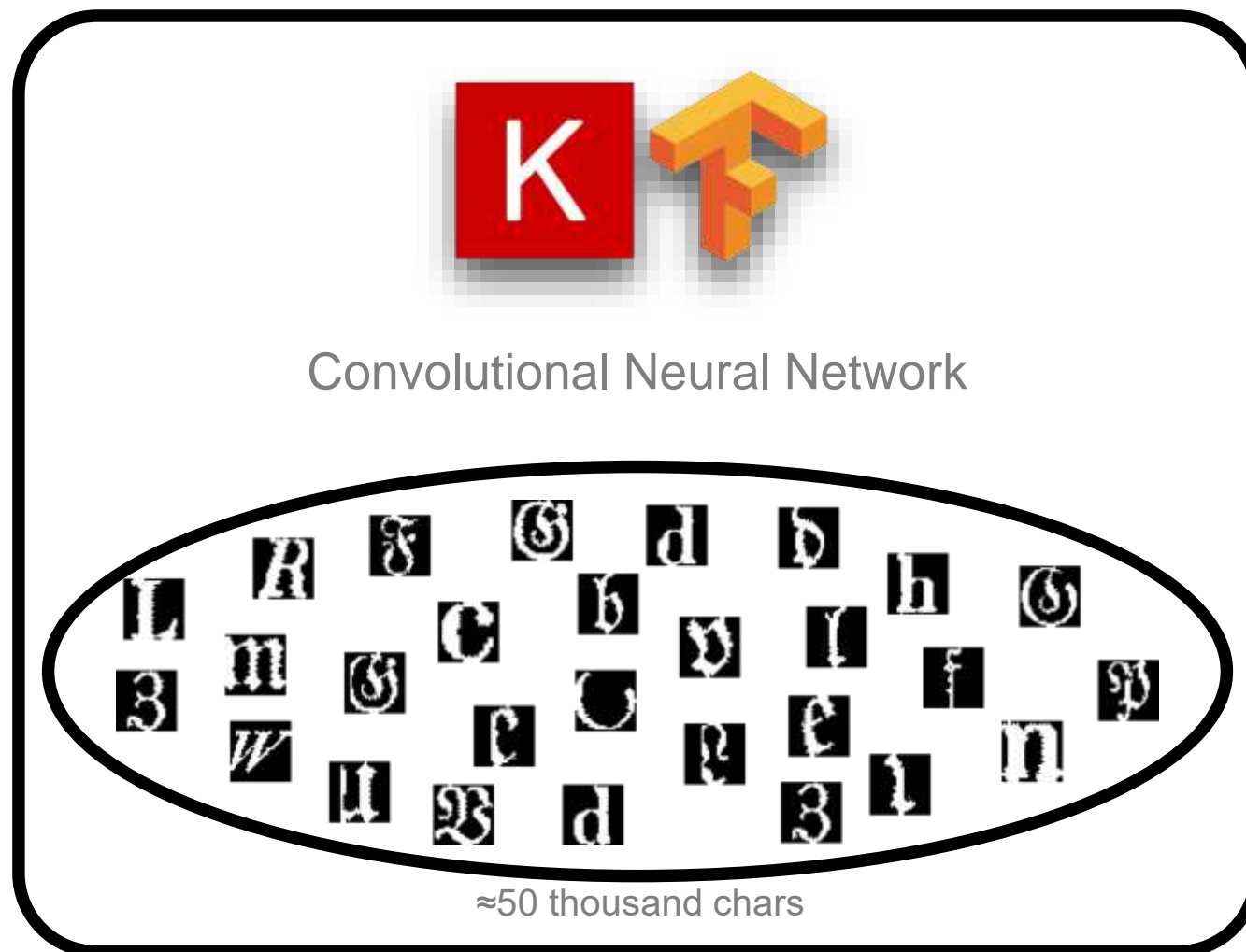


~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~  
~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~ ist in der letzten Sitzung des  
~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~ zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Fran-  
~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~ ken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als über-  
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~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~ offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu  
~~Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,~~ sein, geschlagen und mißhandelt zu haben.

P. G.=Sp., Handelsmann und Färber im Grund,  
 Vorstadt Luremburg, ist in der letzten Sitzung des  
 Zuchtpolizeigerichts zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Fran-  
 ken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als über-  
 führt, den Herrn P. R., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf  
 offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu  
 sein, geschlagen und mißhandelt zu haben.

**99% Accuracy**  
 on test set

morphology • connected components • horizontal histogram projection



Convolutional Neural Network

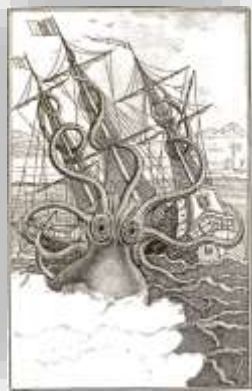
≈50 thousand chars

Fraktur

Regular

99% Accuracy  
on test set

font recognition • binary classifier

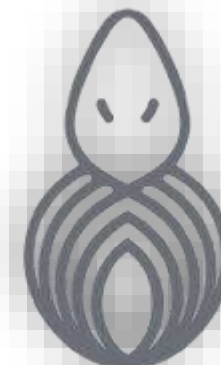


**kraken**

**96% Accuracy**  
on test set



**Tesseract**



**Calamari**

open source software • custom model training

Quality

Binarization

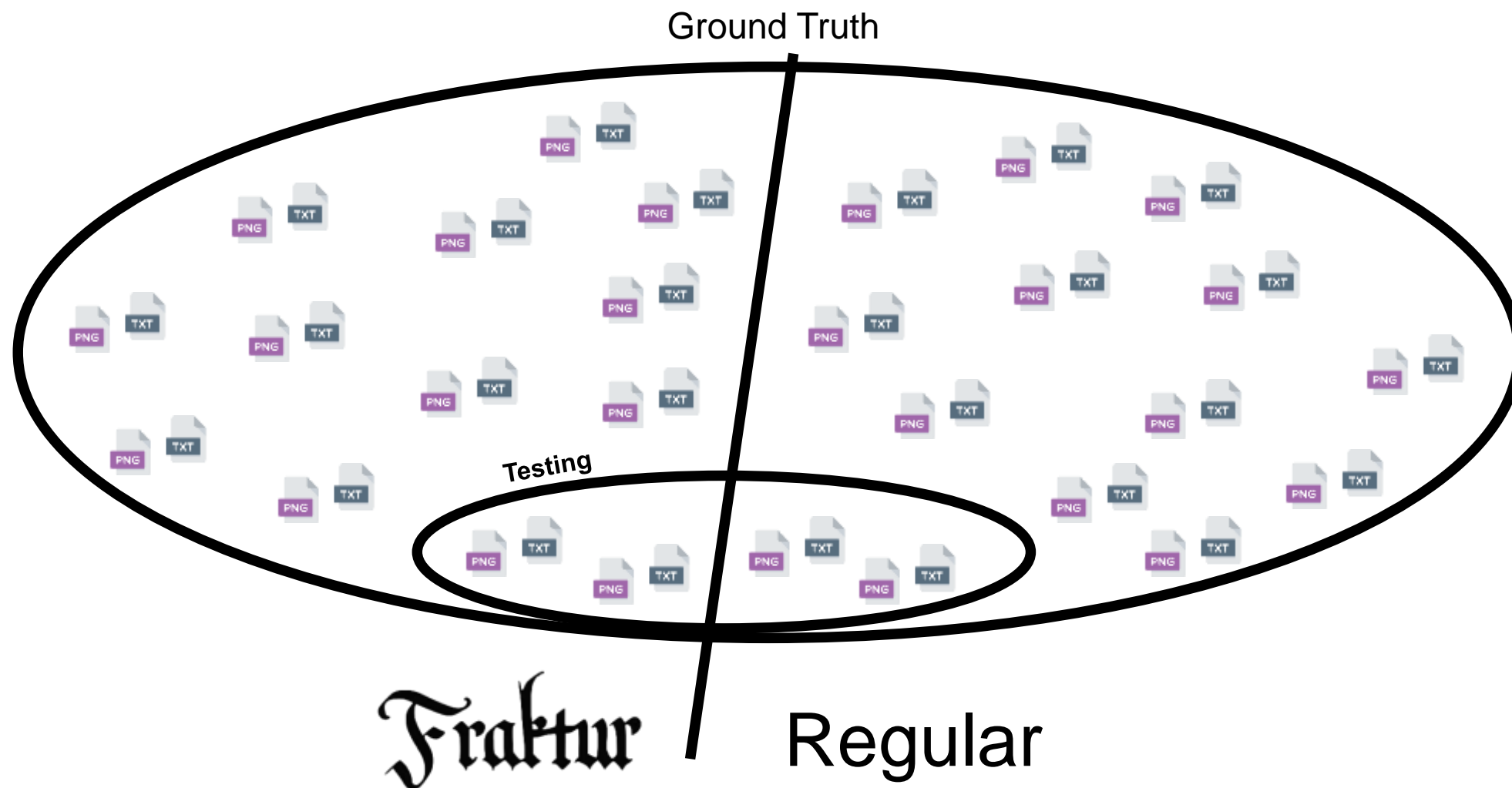
Segmentation

Font

OCR

ALTO

Entities



Vorstadt Luxemburg , ist in der letzten Sitzung des

```
18 <TextLine HPOS="0" VPOS="41" WIDTH="761" HEIGHT="41">
19   <String CONTENT="Vorstadt" CC="00000000" HPOS="0" VPOS="41" WIDTH="135" HEIGHT="41"/>
20   <SP/>
21   <String CONTENT="Luxemburg," CC="0000000000" HPOS="135" VPOS="41" WIDTH="189" HEIGHT="41"/>
22   <SP/>
23   <String CONTENT="ist" CC="000" HPOS="324" VPOS="41" WIDTH="49" HEIGHT="41"/>
24   <SP/>
25   <String CONTENT="in" CC="00" HPOS="373" VPOS="41" WIDTH="42" HEIGHT="41"/>
26   <SP/>
27   <String CONTENT="der" CC="000" HPOS="415" VPOS="41" WIDTH="63" HEIGHT="41"/>
28   <SP/>
29   <String CONTENT="letzten" CC="0000100" HPOS="478" VPOS="41" WIDTH="97" HEIGHT="41"/>
30   <SP/>
31   <String CONTENT="Sitzung" CC="1000000" HPOS="575" VPOS="41" WIDTH="118" HEIGHT="41"/>
32   <SP/>
33   <String CONTENT="des" CC="000" HPOS="693" VPOS="41" WIDTH="68" HEIGHT="41"/>
34 </TextLine>
```

word bounding boxes • ALTO XML schema



ground truth generation • named entity recognition (NER)



# Results

## 1) Improve Optical Character Recognition

### Accuracy

Improvement of ~30% text blocks

### Production

OCR application on entire corpus

## 2) Improve Newspaper Exploration

### Named Entity Recognition

Finished ground truth - observing first results

### New User Interface

Proof of concept

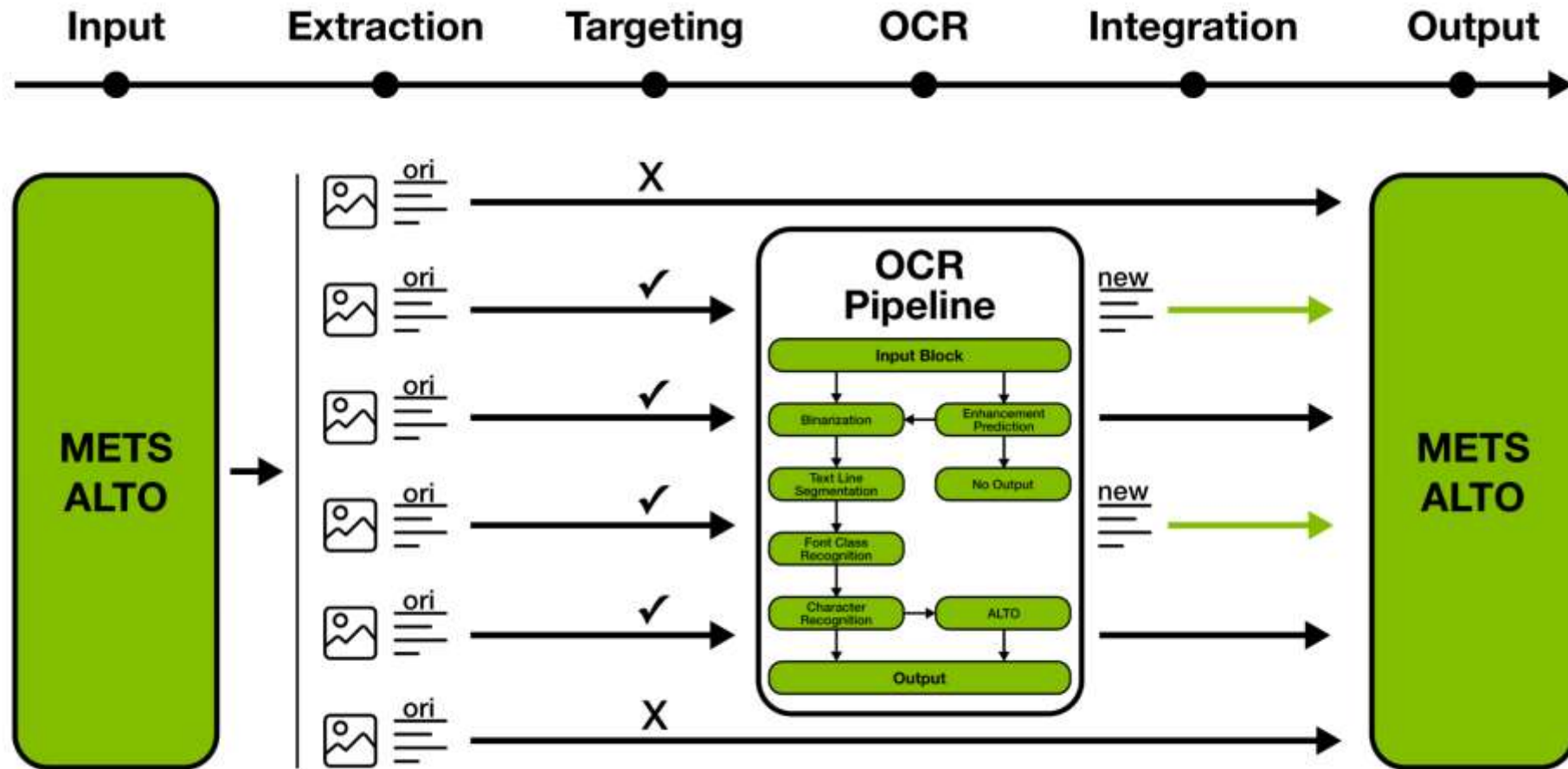


# POC



- Named Entities
- Entity Relations
- Timeline
- Maps
- Wikidata

# Nautilus-OCR



## OCR Datasets

As part of BnL's AI strategy, we provide the ground truth data that falls into the public domain (CC0, see copyright notice).

Available in two variations, the datasets cover historical newspapers published before 1878. The data is generally in German, French or Luxembourgish and has been manually corrected for a minimum accuracy of 99.95%.

### GROUND TRUTH PACK



# 33.000

transcribed text lines

- ♦ Text line based OCR
- ♦ 19.000 text lines in Antiqua
- ♦ 14.000 text lines in Fraktur
- ♦ Transcribed using double-keying (99.95% accuracy)
- ♦ Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice)
- ♦ Best for training an OCR engine

 [DOWNLOAD \(ZIP\)](#)

### RAW GROUND TRUTH PACK



# 1.700

text blocks

- ♦ Raw uncropped text blocks
- ♦ Pairs consist of block image and ALTO XML
- ♦ Public Domain, CC0 (See copyright notice)
- ♦ Best for testing/training text line segmentation

 [DOWNLOAD \(ZIP\)](#)

# Thank you! Questions?

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