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# 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)

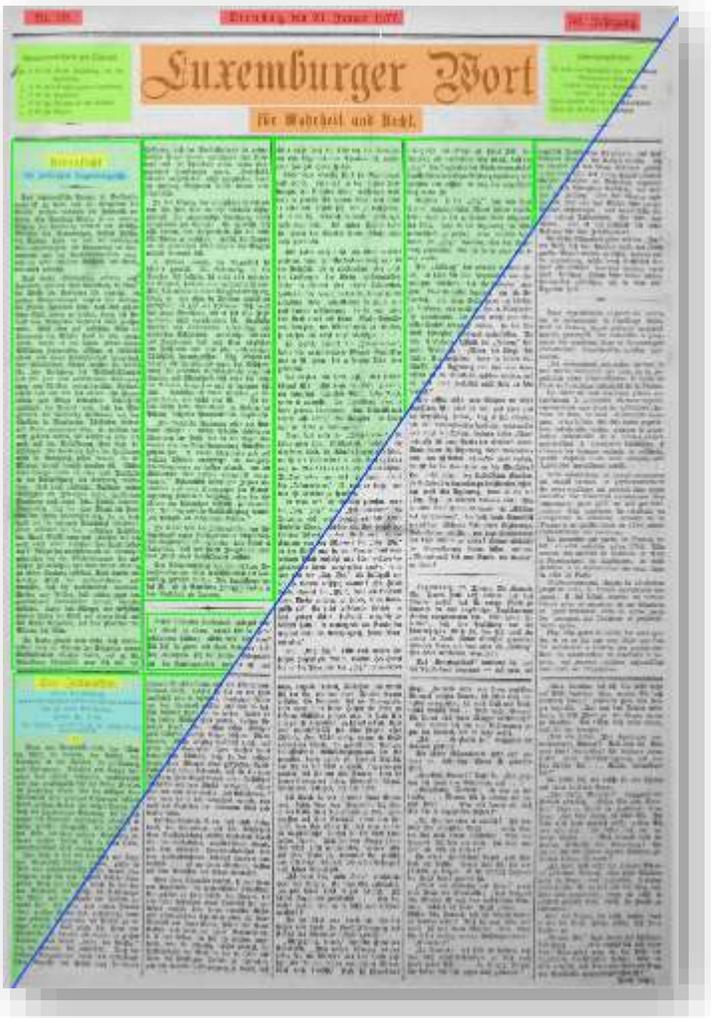
2015

- 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

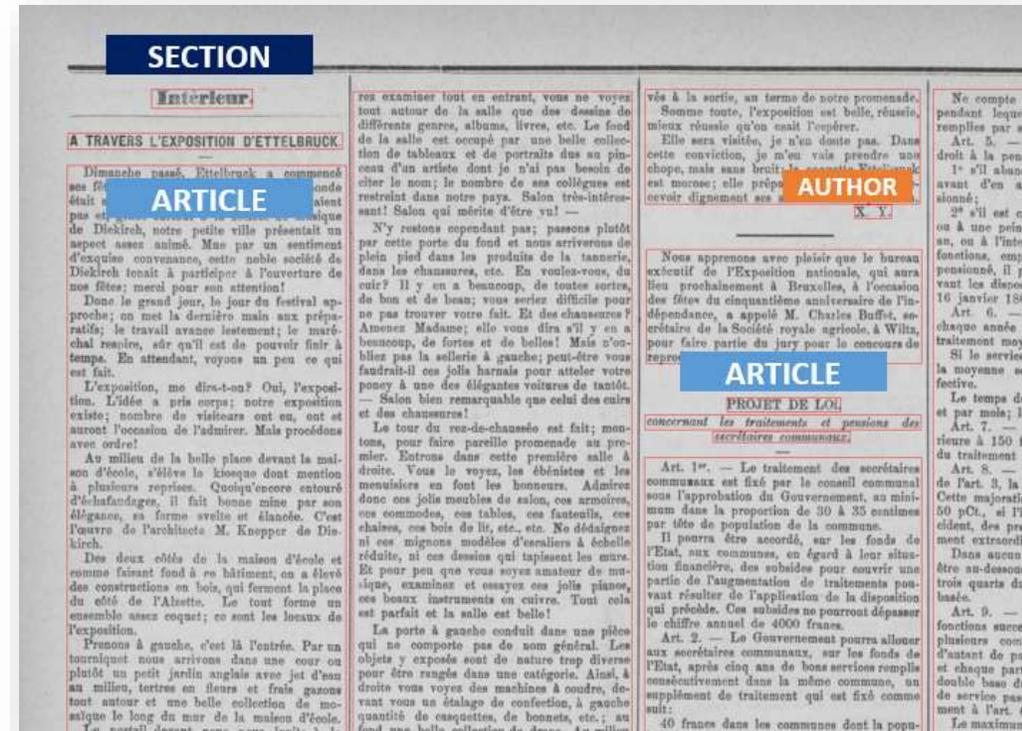


- **METS:**

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

- **ALTO:**

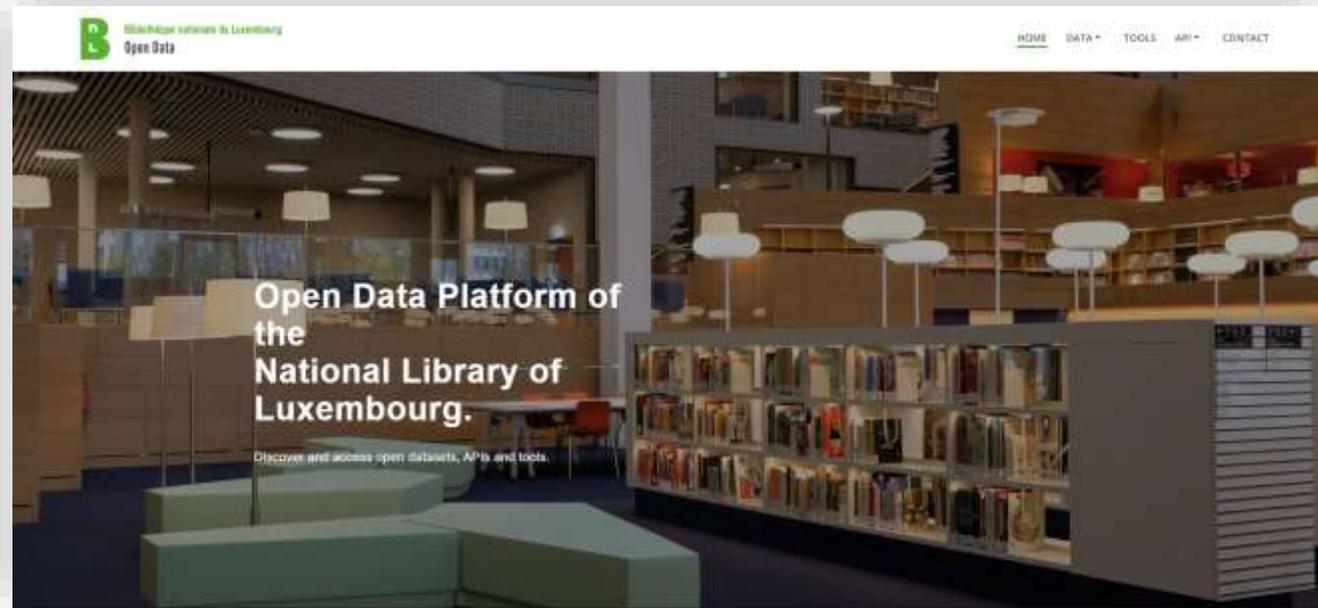
- 1 ALTO file per page
- OCR results with text coordinates
- Organized in Text Blocks, Composed Blocks, Lines and Strings elements



# Open Data & Open Tools



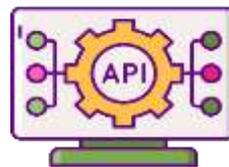
# 2019: data.bnl.lu



**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, 5 days of news, 5 newspaper issues, 22 pages, DWäschfria (1858). Best for getting started & developing.
- DEV PACK**: 3GB, 1 month of news, 26 newspaper issues, 112 pages, Luxemburger Wort (1877). Best for getting started with Big Data.
- SAMPLE PACK**: 1GB, 11 different newspaper titles, 1 issue per newspaper, News between 1845 and 1877. Best for testing different newspapers and metadata.
- ML STARTER PACK**: 32GB, 1 year of news, 304 newspaper issues, 1220 pages. Best for getting started with machine learning.
- BIG DATA PACK**: 257GB, 10 years of news, 2717 newspaper issues, 10680 pages, 1 Union (1860-1869). Best for machine learning and deep neural networks.

Each pack includes a 'DOWNLOAD (ZIP)' button. To the right, there is a section for 'BnL's Technical Requirements' with a 'Download BnL's Latest Technical Requirements (21MB)' button.

# 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



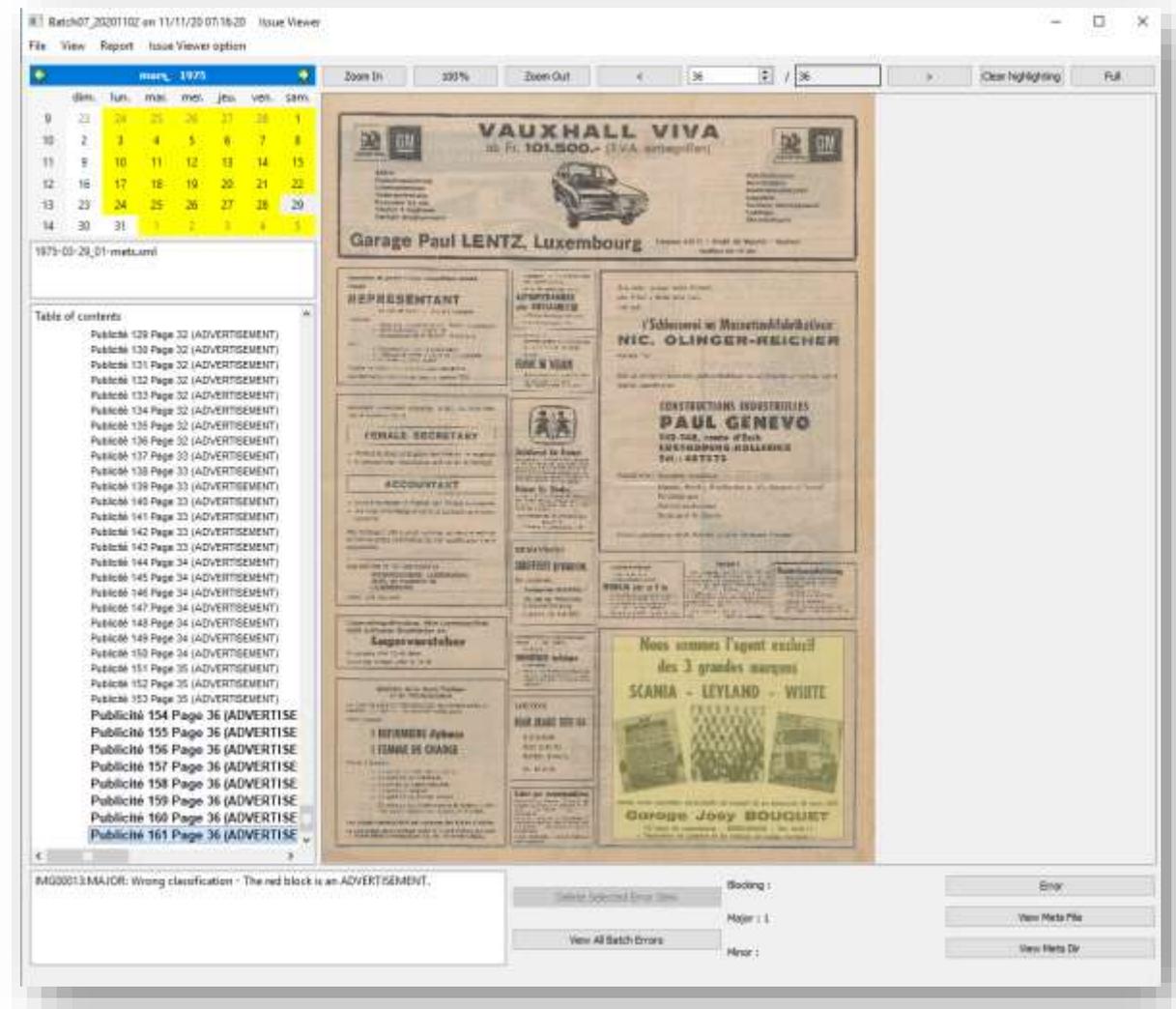
# Quality Assurance Tool

## Namalysator

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

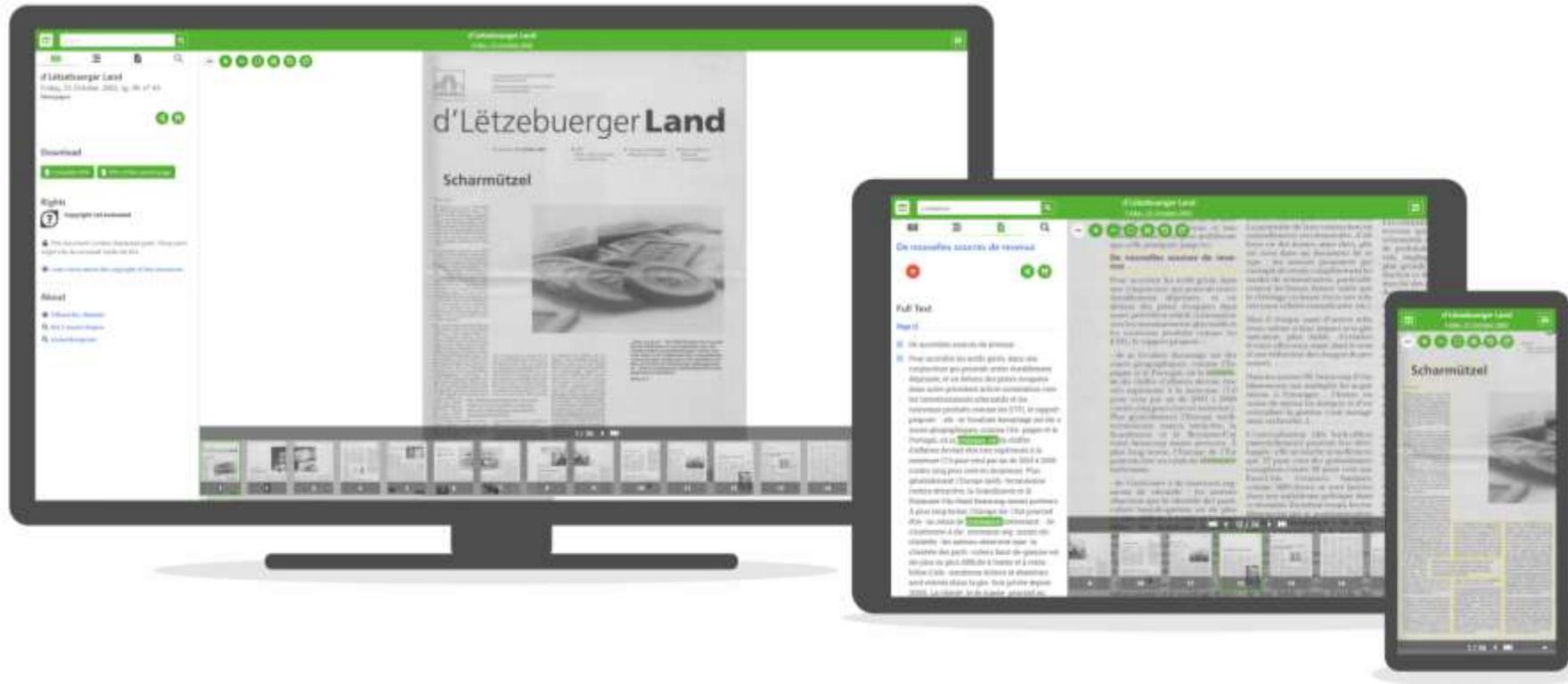


<https://github.com/natliblux/Namalysator>



The screenshot displays the Namalysator application interface. At the top, there is a window title bar and a menu bar with options like 'File', 'View', 'Report', and 'Issue Viewer option'. Below the menu is a calendar for March 1975, with dates 9 through 14 highlighted in yellow. To the right of the calendar is a zoom control set to 200%. The main area is divided into two panes. The left pane shows a 'Table of contents' listing various advertisements with their page numbers, such as 'Publicité 129 Page 32 (ADVERTISEMENT)'. The right pane shows a preview of a newspaper page with several advertisements, including 'VAUXHALL VIVA', 'Garage Paul LENTZ, Luxembourg', 'REPRESENTANT', 'L'Édition de la Presse de la Région', 'CONSTRUCTIONS INDUSTRIELLES PAUL GENEVO', 'AGENCE SECRETAIRE', 'ACCOUNTANT', 'L'Édition de la Presse de la Région', 'Garage Jody BOUQUET', and 'Nous sommes l'agent exclusif des 3 grandes marques SCANIA - LEYLAND - WHITE'. At the bottom, there is a status bar with an error message: 'IMG00013MAJOR: Wrong classification - The red block is an ADVERTISEMENT.' and buttons for 'View All Batch Errors', 'Error', 'View Meta File', and 'View Meta Dir'.

# METS / ALTO Viewer



# 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

The image shows a digital interface for a historical newspaper. At the top, the title "Le gratis luxembourgeois" and the date "Saturday, 3 October 1857" are visible. The main article is titled "Police correctionnelle de Luxembrg." and contains a paragraph of text in German. A search bar and navigation icons are present at the top of the interface. A sidebar on the left shows a list of search results, with one result highlighted in a green box. The main text of the article is also enclosed in a green box.

Le gratis luxembourgeois  
Saturday, 3 October 1857

**Police correctionnelle de Luxembrg.**

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.

Police correctionnelle de Luxembrg.

Page 4

Police correctionnelle de Luxembrg.

§). @,\*@p., ^anbeléinmm unb gctiber tnt @vttttb, Sovftabt Suiemburg, tft tn ber teitén @t'Çuitg beò Budjtpcltjct'gcrictjté ju etncrQefbbufie non 100 gran\* ien mib in bte tioftcn ocvurt^cilt «jorben, afé liber\* fuf,vt, ben Servit ý. t?, @erber, tn ber 9iad,t, aitif offenev @trafic unb cljne ba\$u aufgeretjt toorben ju fetn, gcfélagett unb mtífimnbctf 311 ^abeit.

# 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.

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

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Quality

Binarization

Segmentation

Font

OCR

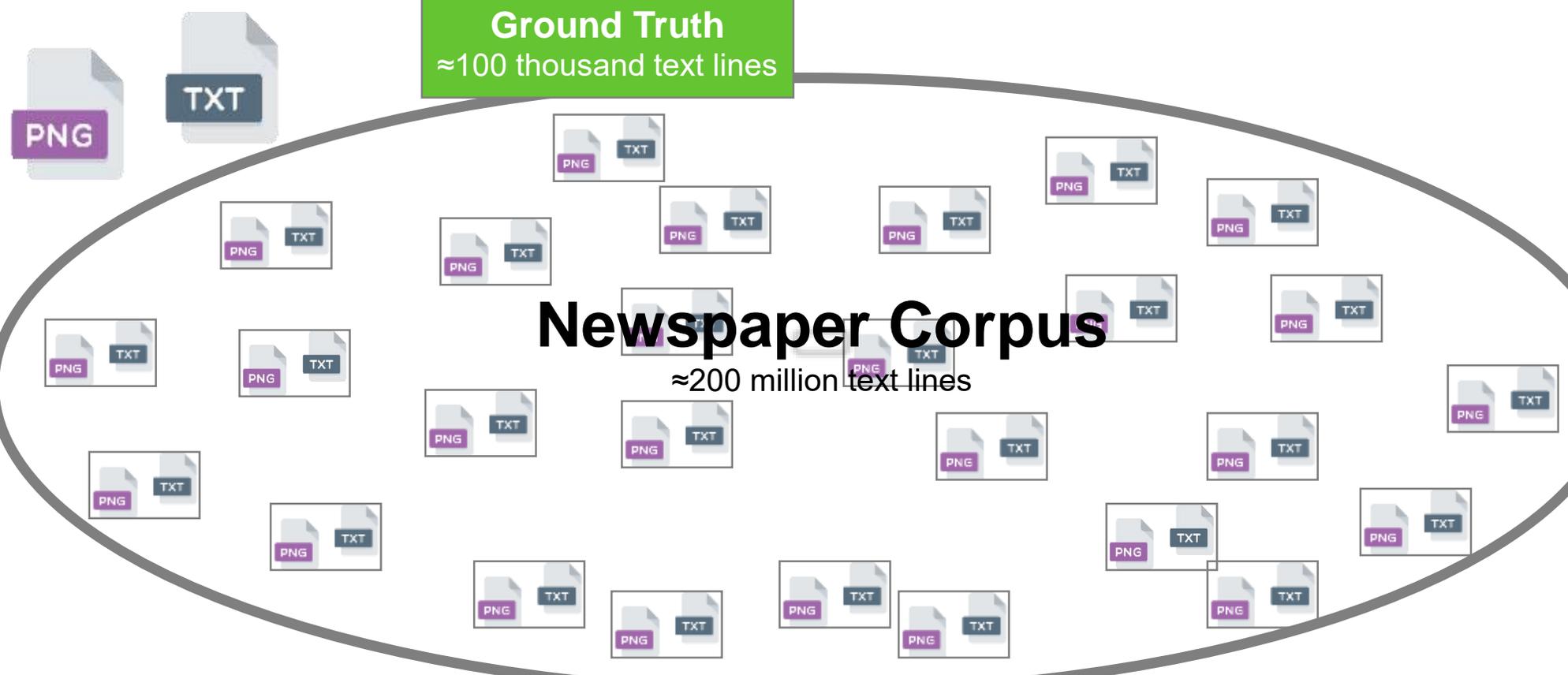
ALTO

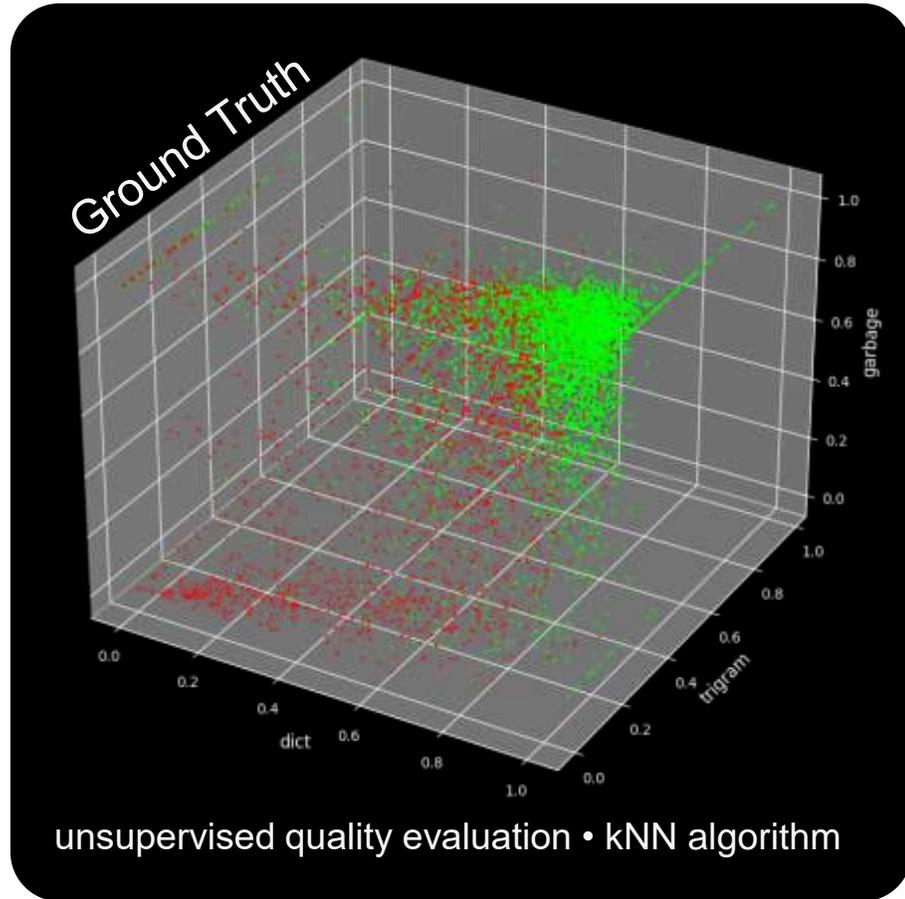
Entities

**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**

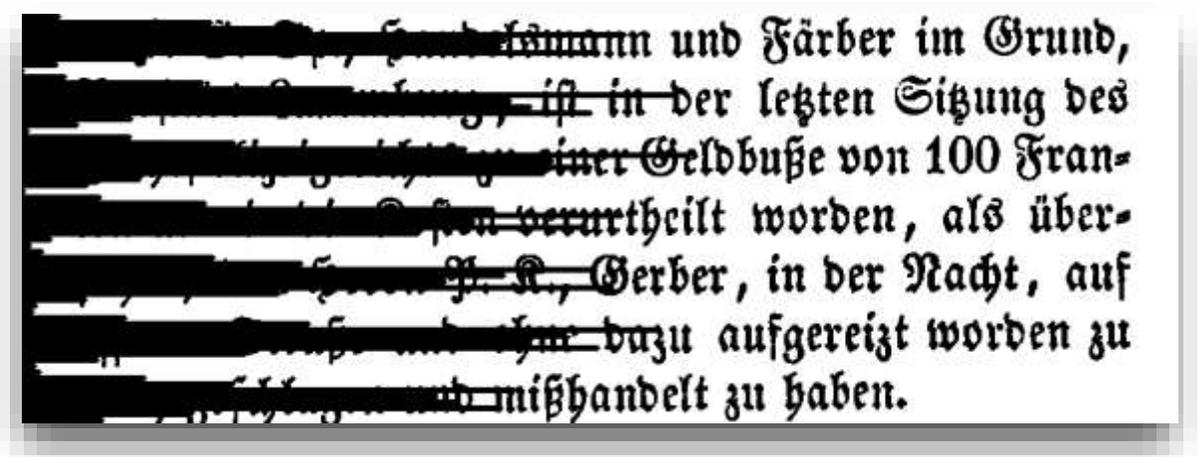
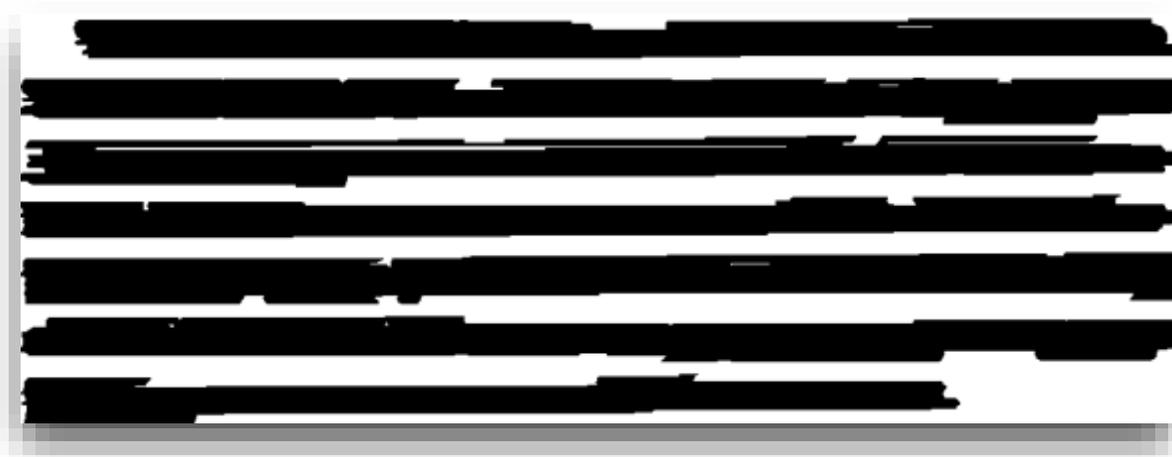
P. G.=Sp., Handelsmann und Färber im Grund, Vorstadt Luxemburg, ist in der letzten Sitzung des Zuchtpolizeigerichts zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Franken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als überführt, den Herrn P. R., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu sein,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

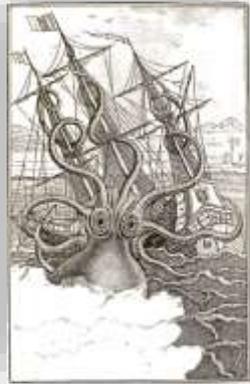


P. G.=Sp., Handelsmann und Färber im Grund, Vorstadt Luremburg, ist in der letzten Sitzung des Zuchtpolizeigerichts zu einer Geldbuße von 100 Franken und in die Kosten verurtheilt worden, als überführt, den Herrn P. R., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu sein,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

**99% Accuracy**  
on test set

morphology • connected components • horizontal histogram projection





**kraken**

**96% Accuracy**  
on test set

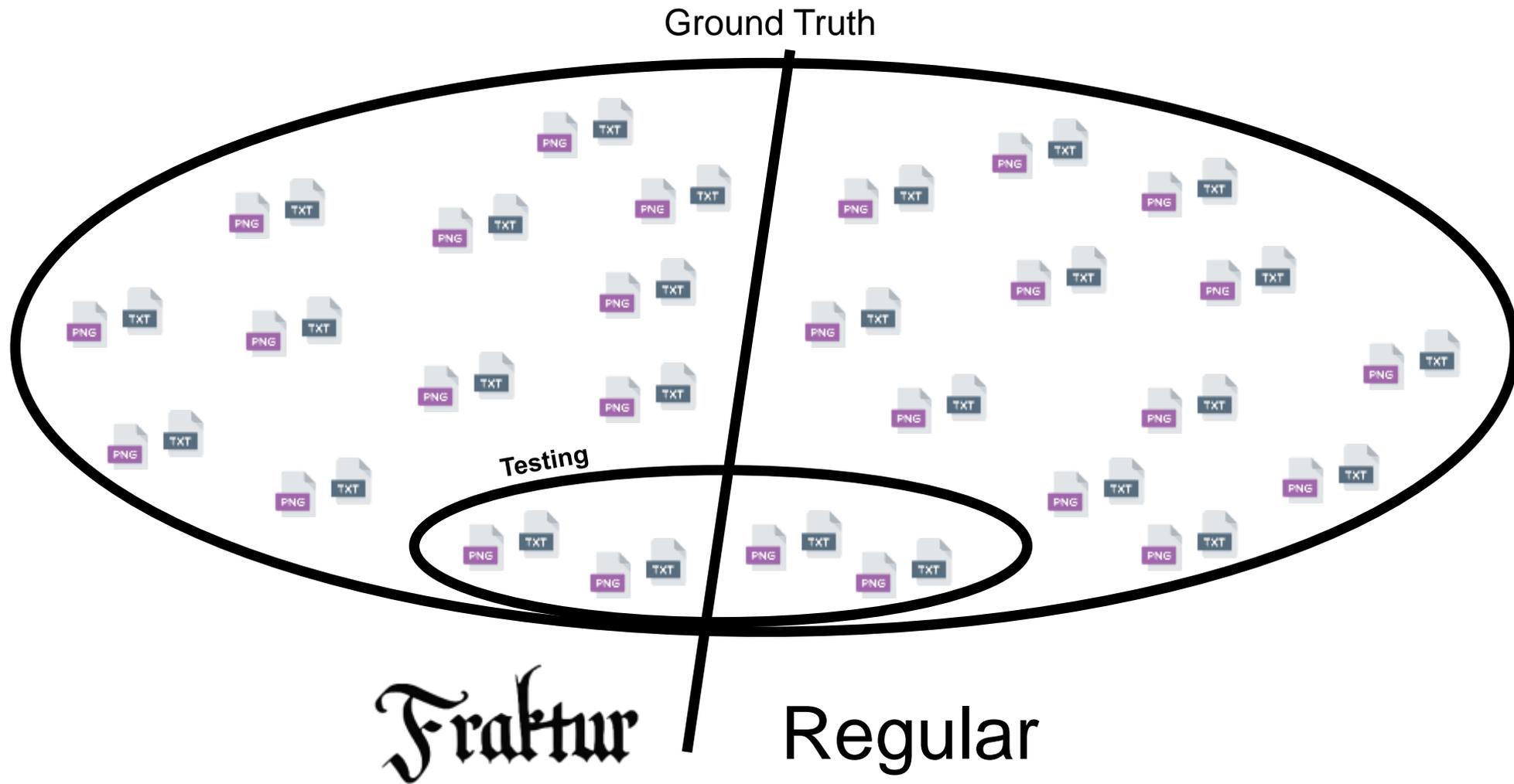


**Tesseract**



**Calamari**

open source software • custom model training



Fraktur

Regular

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

# spaCy

Language Models

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. K., Gerber, in der Nacht, auf offener Straße und ohne dazu aufgereizt worden zu sein, geschlagen und mißhandelt zu haben.

≈35 thousand entities

Improved  
OCR



Location

Person

Organisation

Date

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



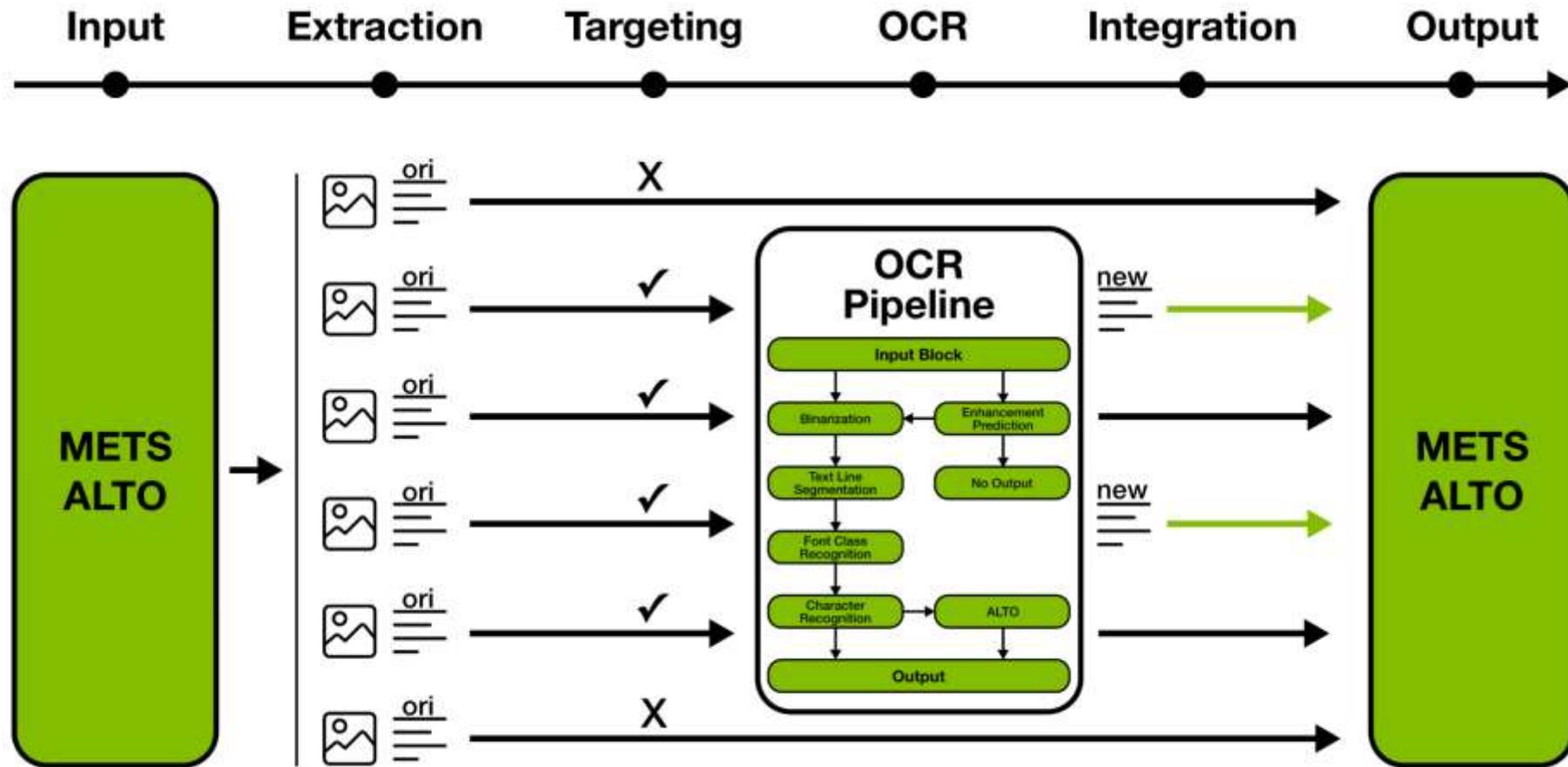
 data.public.lu

# POC



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

# Nautilus-OCR



# data.bnl.lu

## 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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