# Collaborating on Machine Reading: Training Algorithms to Read Complex Collections

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https://tinyurl.com/BUDSC19MoravianLives

### Moravian Lives

Tracing the Movements and History of Members of the Moravian Church (1750-2012)

Home	The Moravian Church	Map	Transcribe German & English	Transcribe Swedish	Using the Desk
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Open map

Search among over 60 000 Memoirs written by members of the Moravian church from 1750 to the present day. The map visualizes place and date of birth and death of the authors.

The Moravian Memoirs project is a collaboration between the Center for Digital Humanities and the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies at University of Gothenburg, Bucknell University, USA, The Moravian Archive in Herrnhut, Germany and The Moravian Archive in Bethlehem, USA.

moravianlives.org

### **Moravian Memoirs**

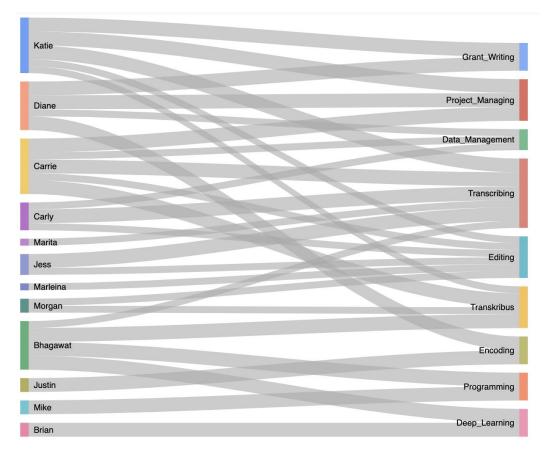
The Moravian archives in Herrnhut, Germany and Bethlehem, PA house over 65,000 memoirs or "ego-documents" of members of the church, dating from 1750 to the present day.

There are many other smaller archives around the world with more uncatalogued and undigitized documents.

The corpus is an important resource for historians of religion, gender, race, linguists, and genealogists.

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### The Moravian Lives Team at Bucknell, 2019



**Prof. Katie Faull**, Moravian Lives, PI **Dr. Diane Jakacki**, Encoding, Project Manager **Carrie Pirmann**, Transkribus Project Manager **Carly Masonheimer**, Student Researcher Marita Gruner, PhD Student, Transcriber Jess Hom. Student Researcher Marleina Cohen. Student Researcher Morgan McMullen, Student Researcher **Bhagawat Acharya**, Student Researcher Justin Schaumberger, Student Researcher Mike McGuire, Programmer **Prof. Brian King**, Deep Learning, Computer Science

# Transcription Desk

# Built with Scripto plugin in a WordPress frame

### Scripto

Home My transcriptions Recent changes logged in as Katiefaull Logout

#### Transcribe page 01

#### in Marianne Spence

Brief Rotices concerning the life and happy departiese from this world but etomety of the Bit Marianno former who fell aship in Chess on Monte forming. June the 184, 1860; at Sulacek.

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Brief notices concerning the life and happy departure from this world into eternity of the S<sup>ale</sup> S<sup>c</sup> Marianne Spence who fell asleep in Jesus, on Monday morning. June the 15th, 1866: at Fulneck.

Our late Sister was born on October the 10<sup>t</sup> 1844 at the Mission Station of Bethabara in the Island of Jamaica where her parents laboured in the Lord's Vinevard as esteemed and useful servants of the Brethrens Church. From her very birth and more especially on the day of her baptism on November the 24<sup>t</sup> she was by them dedicated unto the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls as His redeemed property, with the servant prayer that He himself would lend and keep her as one of his sheep.-This praver was answered: for the Lord our Saviour was ever mindul of her and through the days of her childhood & youth and to the very end of her sojourn here below manifestly led her with his rod and staff .-- The blessed name of Jesus she learnt to know and to love from her earliest years. -- Brought up as a little child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord under the parental roof she early learnt to love the house, and the word of the Lord, and to pray. -- She was naturally not of a robust constitution, a weakness in her chest was perceptible even in her youngest years tho' as far as I can hear, she never materially offered from this cause at that time .-- In the

# Challenges to Crowdsourcing Transcriptions

- Slow, painstaking, and meticulous work
- We need transcribers who have some facility with reading cursive; this is becoming more difficult to find among students who might want to work on the project
- Crowdsourcing produces results that vary in levels of accuracy
- Our rate of images being acquired is far exceeding the manual transcription rate (i.e., a weeklong trip to the Archives may result in digital images for 100 memoir documents, which equals hundreds of pages to be transcribed)

# Working with Transkribus

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## What is Transkribus?

- Comprehensive platform for the automated recognition, transcription, and searching of historical documents
- Originally developed at University College, London; development team is now housed at University of Innsbruck (Austria)
- Uses predefined handwriting models to machine transcribe handwritten documents (handwritten text recognition, or HTR)
- Users can "train" their own models, specific to the handwriting style(s) of the documents in a corpus
- Accuracy rates of 95% and above are possible with adequate amounts of training data

### Transkribus Workflows

- Establishing a training corpus of data from the Moravian memoirs
  - Batch upload digital images to Transkribus' servers, and match existing transcriptions to digital images to ensure diplomatic transcriptions of the documents
- These documents have been used to train HTR models, which can be reconfigured and tweaked as necessary, with the goal of achieving a CER (character error rate) of between 5-10%.
- Apply HTR models to new, untranscribed documents; assess models for best results
- The resultant transcriptions generated by Transkribus still need to be checked by humans, a job done by Carrie, Katie, Jess, and Morgan.

# Building an HTR Model

- Eyeballing for similar handwriting styles to build models - sometimes leads to good results; sometimes not
- Have created 30+ models, best CER is 5.42%
- Other models with CER of 11% or lower have performed well against documents

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### **Refining Models**

Samuel Benade memoir

First computer generated transcription

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### **Refined Model**

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# Room for Improvement

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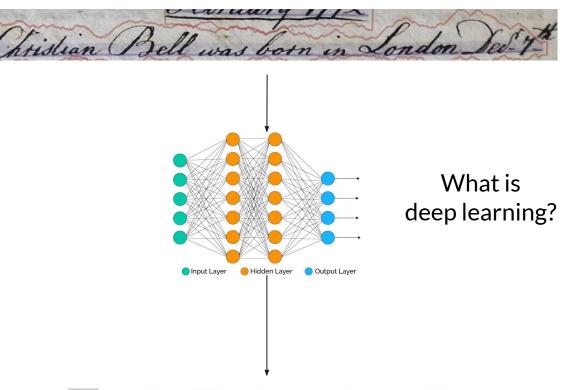
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# Deep Learning: Making HTR a reality



1-2 Christian Bell was born in London Decr 7th

# **Alan Turing**





Vol. 118, No. 236.]

[October, 1950

#### M I N D a quarterly review of PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

#### I.-COMPUTING MACHINERY AND INTELLIGENCE

By A. M. TURENG

#### 1. The Instation Game.

I process to consider the question, "Can machines think ?" This should begin with definitions of the meaning of the terms "machine" and "thick". The definitions might be framed as as to reflect so far as possible the normal use of she words, but this attitude is dangerons. If the meaning of the words" machine' and "thick" are to be found by examining how they are commonly used it is difficult to every the correlation that the meaning and the answer to the question. "Can machine think ?" is to be scupit in a statistical survey such as a Gallap poll. But this is abound. Instead of attempting such a definition I shall replace the question by another, which is closely related to it and is expressed in relatively unambigmout words.

The new form of the problem can be described in terms of a game which we call the 'imitation game'. It is played with three people, a mail (A), a worsa (B), and an interrogator (C) who may be of either sex. The intercepator slays in a norm spart from the other two. The object of the game for the interrogator is to determine which of the other two is the man and which is the woman. He knows them by labels X and Y, and at the end of the game he ways either 'X is A and Y is B' or 'X is B and Y is A'. The interrogator is allowed to put questions to A and B that:

C: Will X please tell me the length of his or her hair ! Now suppose X is actually A, then A must snawer. It is A's 28 cm

# Human Learning vs. Machine Learning





We assess our performance

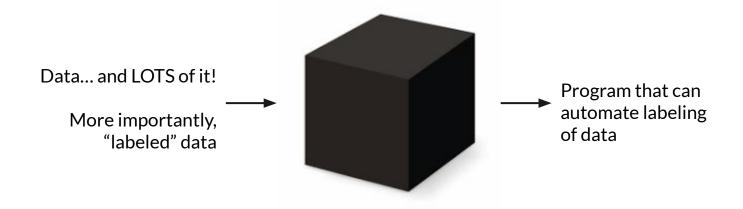
72% of 1000 images correct

We (hopefully) makes adjustments if performance is low!

# **Machine Learning**

A ML algorithm: "Learns" about your data

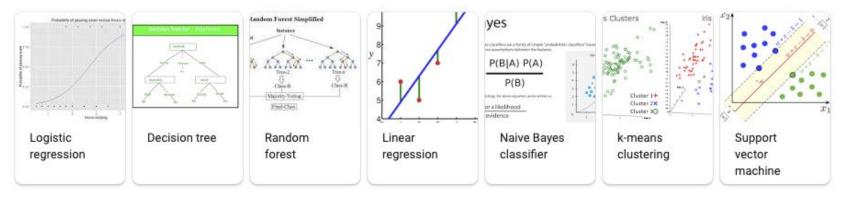
identifies key **features** in your data that distinguish between different labels





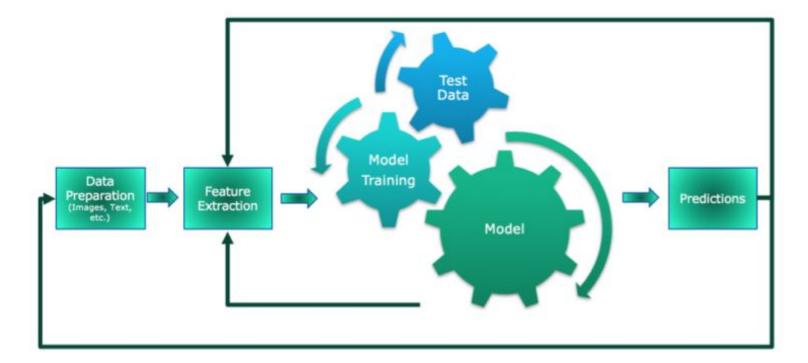
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### Popular on the web

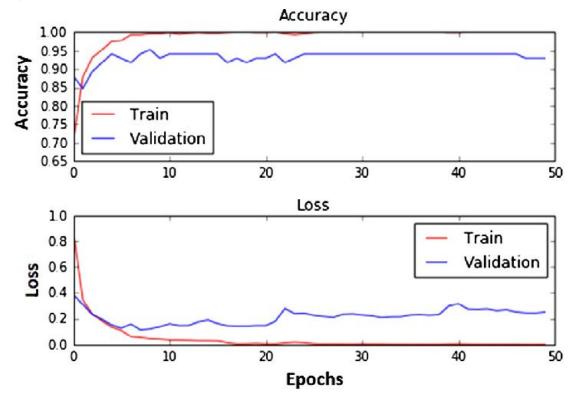


And the list goes on...

### **A Standard Machine Learning Pipeline**

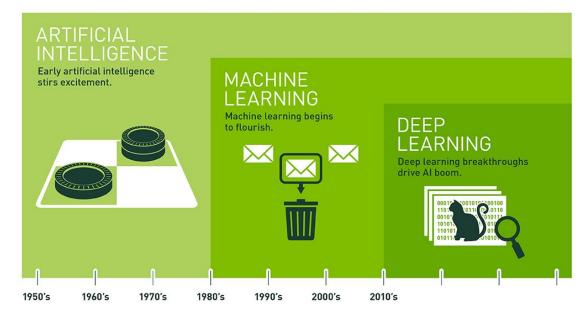


### Learning curve



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Traces-of-training-and-validation-accuracy-top-and-loss-bottom-during-training\_fig4\_319952138

# $\textbf{AI} \rightarrow \textbf{Machine Learning} \rightarrow \textbf{Deep Learning}$



Since an early flush of optimism in the 1950s, smaller subsets of artificial intelligence – first machine learning, then deep learning, a subset of machine learning – have created ever larger disruptions.

## The rise of "deep" learning

"Deep learning is getting lots of attention lately and for good reason. **It's achieving results that were not possible before."** -Mathworks.com



Autonomous driving



Facial recognition

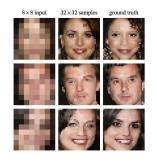


Image restoration

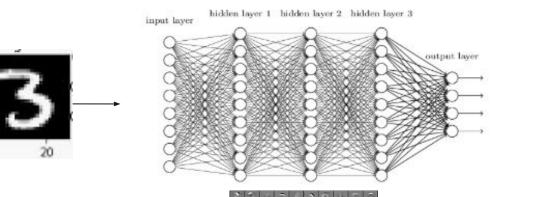
Optical Character Recognition is designed to convert your handwritting into text.

> Optical Character Recognition is designed to convert your handwriting into text.

Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR)

### **Automatic feature extraction**

Deep neural network



A deep learning model learns key "features" of the input that distinguish between labels

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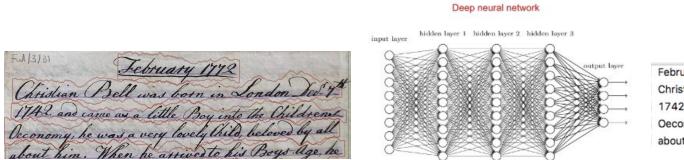
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https://mc.ai/tutorial-1-mnist-the-hello-world-of-deep-learning/ https://towarddatascience.com

# "Deep" learning - The take away

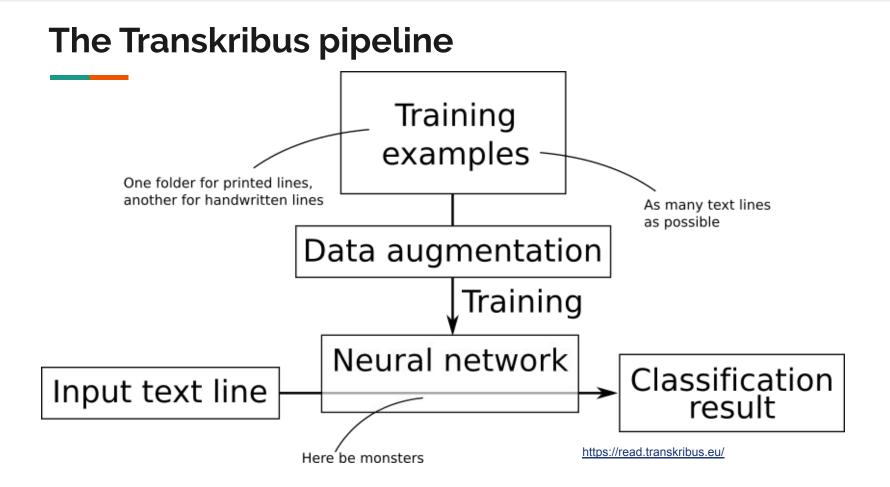
- Traditional machine learning:
  - Great on smaller, well-defined classification / regression problems from *structured* data
  - Limited results on large, high-dimensional, unstructured data
    - Image, audio, video, time series, etc.
  - Often requires substantial time to prepare / reduce data so that methods could learn
- Deep learning
  - Works with complex, high-dimensional, large datasets
  - Works with *unstructured* data
- Deep learning there is no free lunch
  - Computational costs can be huge
  - LOTS of data required to perform well

### **HTR: Handwritten Text Recognition**



February 1772 Christian Bell was born in London Decr 7th 1742 and came as a little Boy into the Children's Oeconomy, he was a very lovely Child, beloved by all about him. When he arrived to his Boys Age, he

### Transkribus developers leverage deep learning to create a series of HTR models



### Transkribus live demo

# Challenges

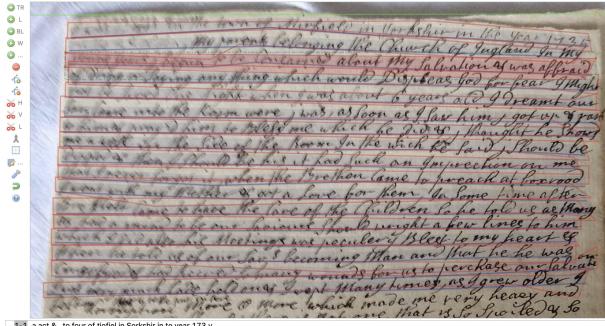
youth John Morgan was May the 26" 1748. He came to when he was about & years old, whole Deconomy to Smith house Lydia Halley was Born Gimersal, y "10th of April 1724 ker Parents, till She thought it Leave them and go to Service in so He was required to the high maiden name was Ubank was blest with 1 for & & daugh 1 daughter has survived him

### • Transkribus

- Supplies only one English handwriting model, which was created based on a corpus of materials with one single handwriting style
- User is also allowed to train their own models
- For Moravian Lives Project?
  - Not all images are "clean"!
  - Inconsistent digitizing (using a smartphone camera!)
  - Artifacts from bleedthrough, poor image quality, paper decomposition from age, etc.
  - The default Transkribus English handwriting model is not a good match with the majority of our documents
  - Scribes can often exhibit substantially different script styles

### Challenges

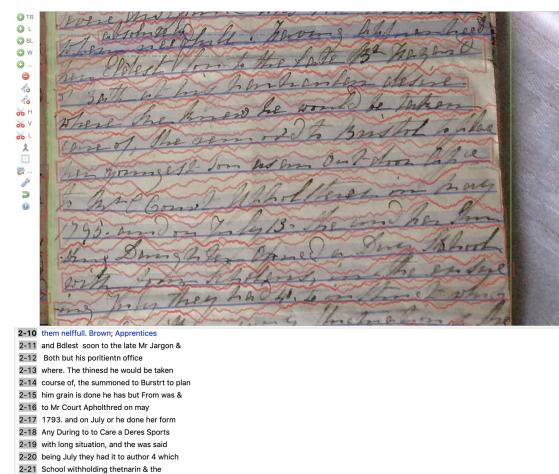
Poor image quality



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### Challenges

Unique handwriting style



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# Improving the HTR models

A model that is built on handwriting that is representative of samples from the Moravian Lives project will perform better than the default English model, which is built from only one handwriting

### **PROVEN!** But, can we do even better?

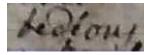
A model built from highly similar handwriting should perform even better than a single, broadly trained model

QUESTION: How can we identify similar handwriting?

### Scribe identification?

The youth John Morgan was May the 20th 1743 the came to when he was about & years old, whole Decomomy to Smith house is had a promising Genisus and

- We do not know the identity of the scribe for for every memoir in the Fulneck corpus
- Human intervention?



- Our approach:
  - We made an assumption on a handful of examples from the same memoir that they also used the same scribe

# Auto identification of the scribe

Hypothesis: Developing a model to predict the scribe can prove that deep learning can distinguish between handwriting styles.

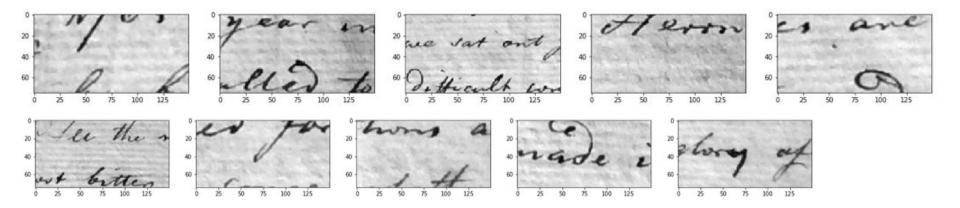
How? Get good, high quality handwriting examples from different scribes, and train a deep learning model!

- 1. Improve the selection of handwriting on each image to eliminate artifacts not representing handwriting
- 2. Create small, random "**patches**" representing snippets of script from different scribes
  - Why? We don't care about the text, only the style of the handwriting.
  - These are our input into a model
  - Output? The scribe

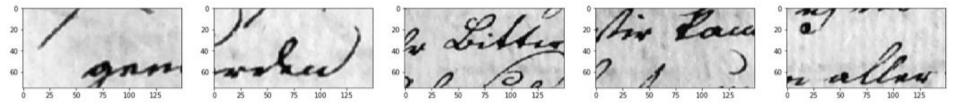
### Generate and train a dataset

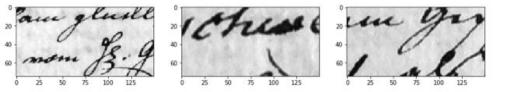
- We have images from different memoirs.
  - Divide the images from each memoirs for training and testing
- For every image, generate random patches of same size
- Patches are filtered to maximize the likelihood of capturing ONLY patches that contain text.
  - Filtered using the standard deviation to determine if a patch is mostly the same color (probably no writing) or different colors (probably writing)
  - Currently working on better ways to generate patches
- Classify these patches and train the model

### **Example Patches**



### **Example Patches (continued)**





# Train

Model is trained from 300 patches per memoir using 6 memoirs

# **Evaluate**

For a new image, select 15 random patches from the image

# Predict

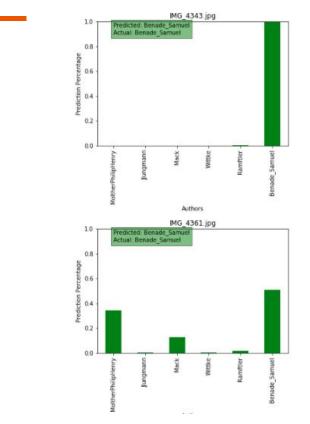
For any image, the scribe with the most predictions over all patches wins the prediction!

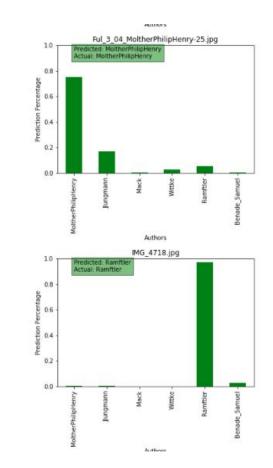
#### **Prediction Table**

Prediction for the test images of each memoir.

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	IMG_4322.jpg	0.1316	0.0001	0.1157	0.0001	0.0013	0.7512
	IMG_4329.jpg	0.0011	0.0001	0.0439	0.0002	0.0235	0.9312
	IMG_4330.jpg	0.0106	0.0001	0.0090	0.0001	0.0027	0.9776
	IMG_4332.jpg	0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	0.0000	0.0043	0.9956
	IMG_4343.jpg	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0003	0.9997
	IMG_4361.jpg	0.3444	0.0016	0.1273	0.0014	0.0164	0.5089
JJungmann	JJungmann.jpg	0.1009	0.6639	0.0059	0.1645	0.0154	0.0493
	Women_s memoirs - 126 of 192.jpg	0.0000	0.9999	0.0000	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000
	Women_s memoirs - 129 of 192.jpg	0.0034	0.9381	0.0045	0.0534	0.0005	0.0001
	Women_s memoirs - 131 of 192.jpg	0.1265	0.7995	0.0006	0.0656	0.0018	0.0061
	Women_s memoirs - 153 of 192.jpg	0.0269	0.8127	0.0001	0.0692	0.0855	0.0057
Mack	10.jpg	0.0011	0.0000	0.9272	0.0004	0.0008	0.0705
	19.jpg	0.0011	0.0000	0.8872	0.0001	0.0670	0.0445
	3.jpg	0.0004	0.0000	0.9964	0.0026	0.0001	0.0005
oltherPhilipHenry	Ful_3_04_MoltherPhilipHenry-01.jpg	0.8713	0.0009	0.0630	0.0271	0.0037	0.0341
	Ful_3_04_MoltherPhilipHenry-10.jpg	0.7829	0.0600	0.1200	0.0197	0.0112	0.0061
	Ful_3_04_MoltherPhilipHenry-25.jpg	0.7522	0.1658	0.0006	0.0255	0.0517	0.0041
Ramftler	IMG_4718.jpg	0.0011	0.0003	0.0000	0.0000	0.9721	0.0264
	IMG_4733.jpg	0.0002	0.0001	0.0000	0.0000	0.9954	0.0043
	IMG_4747.jpg	0.0023	0.0593	0.0004	0.0001	0.8229	0.1150
	IMG_4750.jpg	0.0620	0.0004	0.0000	0.0000	0.8998	0.0377
	IMG_4757.jpg	0.0456	0.0182	0.0002	0.0016	0.9053	0.0291
	IMG_4768.jpg	0.0645	0.0009	0.0561	0.0001	0.8562	0.0222
Wittke	Women_s memoirs - 112 of 192.jpg	0.1328	0.6283	0.0615	0.1751	0.0012	0.0011
	Women_s memoirs - 113 of 192.jpg	0.2785	0.3448	0.0803	0.1560	0.0581	0.0824

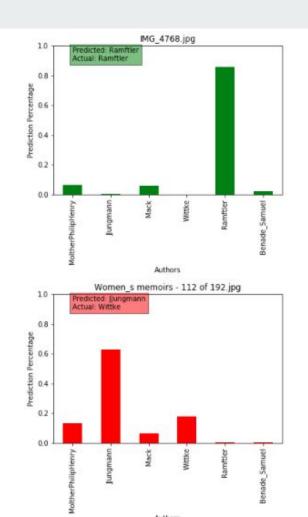
#### **Prediction Visualized**



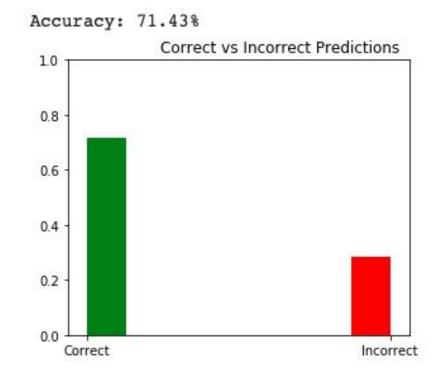


# **Prediction Visualized**

The bottom graph shows an incorrect prediction.



#### **Prediction Results**



### Challenges

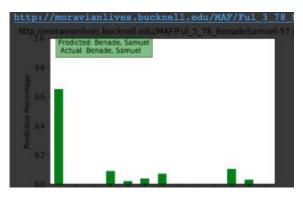
mg the n

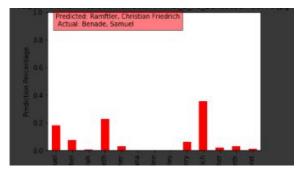
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Conto

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# Outputs & Next Steps

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Cennick_Sarah_Ful_SS_68_tei.xml ×				
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	II xmlns='http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0'>			
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4 🗢	<filedesc></filedesc>			
5 🗸	<titlestmt></titlestmt>			
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7				
8 🗢	<pre><pre>publicationStmt&gt;</pre></pre>			
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19 🗸				
20 -				
21	<pre><l>The Life of the S. Sr Sarah Cennick who went happily home Jany 24th 1770</l></pre>			
22	<1>I was born June the 12th old Style 1712 in Reading Berks. $$			
23	<1>wass baptiz'd in the Church of England and brought up in that Comunion. $$			
24	<l>The first thing I remember is the simple and happy intercourse I <math>\langle 1 \rangle</math></l>			
25	<l>lived in with the Lord: I Knew he lov'd me; and I lov 'd him; &amp; therefore</l>			
26	<l>&gt;used to have recourse to Him without the least reserve. <math></math></l>			
27	<l>&gt;When I was about 5 Years old, I remember to have been particularly</l>			
28	<l>&gt;naughty &amp; amp; selfwilld, which caused me much heaviness, tho approximate and the set of the se</l>			
29	<l>I could to divert and get rid of the Conviction by play &amp; amp;c. But<math></math></l>			
30	<l>&gt;val&gt;running hastily into my Mothers room, where she was sitting with <math></math></l>			
31	<1>my late dr Bror John then an Infant lying in her lap $$			
32	<l>I saw her weeping with litted up hands, and heard her pray. I was</l>			
33	<l>&gt;much affected: But felt so hard, to acknowledge my fault, but</l>			
34	<l>&gt;upon repeatedly asking my Mother, why she cried and what she</l>			
35	<l>was saying? She referr'd the Cause to me and said: "I was praying</l>			
36	<l>&gt;for you and for your Brother." This pierc'd me through, and I</l>			
37	<l>thought my heart would break. For I thought, The Lord also is</l>			
38	<l>greived! I therefore silently withdrew condemn'd and asham'd</l>			
39	<l>and hasted to a private Place, where with many Tears, I beged</l>			
40	<l>Him to forgive me; which he most graciously did directly, and</l>			
41	<l>all my Burthen instantly removed.</l>			

🐱 Cennick\_Sarah\_Ful\_SS\_68\_tei.xml [/Users/cmp016/Documents/GitHub/ML/Fulneck/Raw\_XML/Cennick\_Sarah\_Ful\_SS\_68\_tei.xml] - <oXygen/> XML

/Users/.../Raw\_XML/Cennick\_Sarah\_Ful\_SS\_68\_tei.xml

# What happens after transcription?

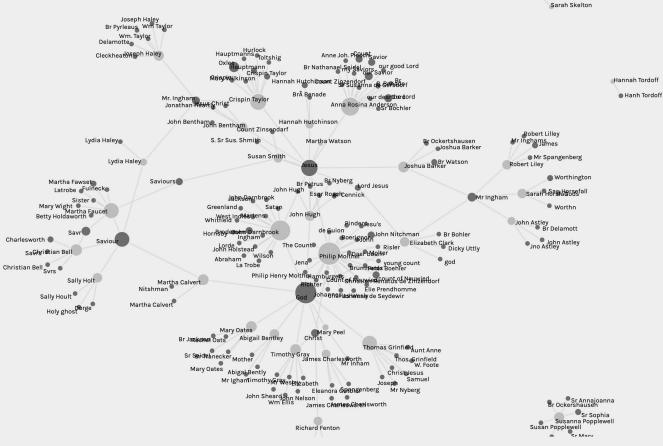
- Batch export of TEI-compliant XML, raw TXT, and keyword searchable PDFs directly from Transkribus
- Documents housed in GitHub repository
- Semantic and text analysis
- Automated entity extraction (XSLT)
- Building personography and placeography
- Working toward digital editions
- ... and more possibilities!

#### Sarah Skelton Sarah Skelto

# Linking Entities

Using Palladio to visualize person-person networks

Extracted persName entities from the Fulneck collection



Rendered October 1, 2019 by Katherine Faull

## What have we learned?

- The value of interdisciplinary, collaborative work
- The value of having undergraduate students work as research assistants they each bring their own skills and interests and can help further develop parts of the project
- Progress on creating English-language models is informing our work developing German script models
- Benefits of multiple project management tools (Trello, GitHub, Google Apps, Slack)

# **Questions?**

Moravian Lives: <u>http://moravianlives.org/</u>

Moravian Lives - Transcribed Memoirs: <u>http://moravianlives.scholar.bucknell.edu/</u>

Transkribus: <u>https://transkribus.eu/Transkribus/</u>

Moravian Lives GitHub: https://github.com/moravianlives/ML

Project Contacts:

- Katherine Faull (PI): <u>faull@bucknell.edu</u> (@KatherineFaull)
- Carrie Pirmann (Transkribus): <u>carrie.pirmann@bucknell.edu</u> (@librariancarrie)
- Brian King (Machine Learning): <a href="mailto:brian.king@bucknell.edu">brian.king@bucknell.edu</a> (@bkingcs)
- Bhagawat Acharya '20 (Algorithm Development): <u>ba017@bucknell.edu</u>

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•	Practice Quizzes?

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