

UNLOCKING THE CAPABILITY OF CHARACTER RECOGNITION SOFTWARE IN HANDWRITTEN ARCHIVES

Mr. Zaidil Akmal bin Zainuddin
National Archives of Malaysia
zaidil@arkib.gov.my

ABSTRACT

National Archives of Malaysia actively collects and preserves records of permanent and enduring national historical value. Some of these written materials have already been converted into digital form. While the typed materials are typically readable by recognition software, handwritten types are far less so. However, the recognition software has improved over time in recognising handwritten text. In this paper, the four most popular recognition software are tested for reading handwritten archival material. The essential features of the software are discussed, such as pattern training, non-textual recognition capabilities, and conversion support. While the results may not be as good as with typed materials, this test result may still be useful for finding important keywords in a large number of pages in a shorter time which saves money and time in research activities.