

NIOD_WarLet_1935-1950_NoBasemodel

A Free Public AI Model for Handwritten Text Recognition with Transkribus

Milan van Lange, Annelies van Nispen, Carlijn Keijzer & Muriël Bouman

The HTR model ‘NIOD_WarLet_1935-1950_NoBasemodel’ was trained using 968 ‘Ground Truth’ transcriptions of high-resolution scans of various handwritten letters. These letters are all written in Dutch and originate from the period 1935-1950. The training set contains personal correspondence from a wide variety of letter writers (e.g., children, soldiers, Jewish people in hiding). These personal correspondences are all part of the archival collection known as ‘247 Correspondentie’ held by the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam.

This model was created as part of the project ‘First-Hand Accounts of War: War letters (1935-1950) from NIOD digitised’. All documents used for training and validation were scanned and transcribed within this project. This project ran from 2020 to 2023 and was funded by the Mondriaan Fund, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport, and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam.

The ‘Ground Truth’ training set is created by project members Annelies van Nispen, Carlijn Keijzer and Milan van Lange. Additional transcription and correction of ‘Ground Truth’ transcriptions was performed under supervision of Muriël Bouman by citizen scientists Hillebrand Verkroost, Bart Cohen, Evelien Bachrach, Marjo Janssens, and Cocky Sietses. The validation set contains a sample of 17 ‘Ground Truth’ transcriptions from various writers and sub-collections.

The model is trained using PyLaia HTR, max. 500 epochs (321 epochs trained), learning rate 0.0003. No Base model was used.

Model Overview

Name:	NIOD_WarLet_1945-1950_NoBasemodel
Creator:	NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies
Model ID:	50053
Century:	20 th
Languages:	Dutch, Flemish
Script:	Latin alphabet
Engine:	PyLaia
Material:	Handwritten
CER on validation set:	5.40 %
URL:	https://readcoop.eu/model/niod_warlet_1945-1950_nobasemodel/