Crowdsourcing Transcription: Putting Users in the Driver’s Seat

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Mark Anderson
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Crowdsourcing is not the most cost-effective way of generating transcriptions for manuscript materials.

Crowdsourcing is a very worthwhile activity and yields numerous benefits.
Viewpoints

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“...the best argument: not that crowdsourcing saves time or resources but that it gets a larger community of people involved and interested. This could, in fact, be a key component to rescuing the humanities from oblivion: give more people access to and a vested interest in our work by inviting them to help.”
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“...the best argument: not that crowdsourcing saves time or resources but that it gets a larger community of people involved and interested. This could, in fact, be a key component to rescuing the humanities from oblivion: give more people access to and a vested interest in our work by inviting them to help.”
Oyster Suppers
confidence and I fear your love but if you are afraid to trust it to my keeping again I will have to be satisfied for it is my own fault but I do not think you will ever have reason to doubt me again. If you again trust me. The weather is cold and disagreeable. It has been raining some to day and snowing and then the sun will shine. I have been to two turkey roasts this week and one oyster supper. And had in invitation to one last evening at Mr. Adams but had the sick head ache so I could not (but went to prayer meeting instead) they did not like it much but I could not help it. I know I enjoyed myself when I was better than if I had went with them to Mr. Adams. I am going to Mr. Sullenbargers to a turkey roast to night. It is the fifth one in the last two weeks don't you.
Saturday April 23rd
This has been a day of some excitement. The surgeon in charge and the two company leaders called early in the morning and I was not quite ready to go out. My sister had to talk with them. In the morning the bands were marched off and almost situated. And he did not know when we could get to work and upon the whole we were a little nervous. I shall not forget the mile full of beds in which they put us so soon. We were refused to let us have an arm balance. The girls should take to town and raise the spirits.

Transcription:

Enter transcription in the box below.
Copy the text exactly, including misspellings, abbreviations, and punctuation.
Indicate illegible text in square brackets: [?] or [town?]
Hit the return key to indicate a new paragraph.

Name (optional):
Email (optional):
Submit Transcription

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Crowdsourcing the Civil War

By Elizbeth Grant

Have a little time to spare? Consider helping transcribe Civil War letters and diaries online.

In commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the libraries of the University of Iowa put together the exhibit “Now Do Not Let Your Courage Fail: Voices from the Civil War,” currently on display at the university, which incorporates letters and diaries from three manuscript collections. As a part of this exhibit documents were scanned and made available online here (image below).

While the scanning of 3,014 pages of letters and diaries is an accomplishment, they still need to be transcribed to make them more readable and searchable for those who visit them online (see an example of a transcribed and finished document). Since transcribing is a time-consuming and costly endeavor for a small staff at a university library, they're turning to the help of the masses to get this done.
TIL how to participate in history while sitting on my ass by transcribing Civil War diaries online.

Submitted 4 months ago by dick_long_wigwam

[Red post title: see sidebar rule #7a] 236 comments share

Announcement: For the love of all that is holy, PLEASE read the rules in the sidebar before posting, and PLEASE message the mods about inappropriate/inaccurate posts.

deadlikeeme1985: In a way, you are already doing that by logging in to some websites with captchas from google recaptcha :) Currently digitizing old New York Times editions.

right on.

That knowledge makes me actually a little happy every time I have to deal with one. It also makes me extra careful, because if I mess it up it has actual consequences beyond just having to retype it.

Civil War-era Reddit:

"DAE have a weird red line growing up their arm after getting cut?"
"TIL how to reload one-handed [PICTURES]"
"I'm a crewman on the USS Merrimack (IRONCLAD!) AMA!"
"I got sent to the front lines, and need all the karma I can get..."
Anyone else getting a really slow connection to this site?

Reddit the giant
Wants to pet the small website
Squishes it instead
Szathmary Culinary Manuscripts and Cookbooks

Handwritten cookbooks, ca. 1600s-1860s, documenting culinary history in America and Europe and how tastes have changed over the years. Help improve access to these historic documents by transcribing handwritten pages, reviewing transcriptions (look for items marked “Needs Review”), and correcting typewritten text. Select an item below to start transcribing or create an account to enjoy additional features.
Cure for caiced Bag in Cows

give one lb Epsom Sals, and a few hours after a warm Bran Mash made by scalding the bran with boiling water bath the Bag with hot water followed with dry rubbing.

To remove films from the Eyes of Cattle and Horses

Take a piece of Leather, burn it to Cinder, pulverize it to a powder fine - blow a large Goose quill full into the Eye affected - one application generally
Collection Integration / GIS

http://universityofiowa.maps.arcgis.com/explorer/?open=3f263ce248dc4fc2aa32d02507d290a3