Crowdsourcing Transcription: Putting Users in the Driver’s Seat

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Conclusion

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

“The concept of a wisdom of the masses is …fanciful, and erroneous... A CW project such as this requires the reader/transcriber to not only decipher handwriting, but to have some sense of the verbiage of the times, the forms of address and even of the artifacts or implements that might be mentioned in the context of such entries... Crowdsourcing may provide interesting ethnographic lab opportunities, but is a lousy way to get anything done.”
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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 roast this week and one oyster supper and had an 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 my self when I was better than if I had went with them to Mr. Adams. I am going to Mr. Sallenbargers 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 Executive both called early on this morning. Miss Hayden and I were not quite ready to go out, so Punten had to talk with them. When the man was some time and almost wished them away. He did not know when we could get to work, and upon the whole manuscripted a continuance of difference that we felt like asking him to leave us. I shall not forget the vile filthy beds in which they put us to sleep. We then refused to let us have an arm balance. The girls fanned it to the town and raised the virus.
Crowdsourcing the Civil War

By Elizabeth 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.
my.reddit.com/r/todayilearned/comments/humy3/til_how_to_participate_in_history_while_sitting
Anyone else getting a really slow connection to this site?

Reddit the giant
Wants to pet the small website
Squishes it instead
v. 2.0
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.
Enter your transcription below:

- Copy the text as is, including misspellings and abbreviations.
- No need to account for formatting (e.g. spacing, line breaks, alignment); the goal is to provide text for searching.
- If you can't make out a word, enter "[illegible]"; if uncertain, indicate with square brackets, e.g. "[illegible]"
- View more transcription tips

Cure for Caked Bag in Cows

give one lb Epsom Salts, and a few hours after a warm Bran Mash made by scalding the bran with boiling water bathe 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