University of Belgrade library
Transkribus User Experience

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University of Belgrade library participation in H2020 READ

- University of Belgrade library – a MoU partner
  - Library resources
  - National project funding
University of Belgrade library participation in H2020 READ

- General importance
University of Belgrade library participation in H2020 READ

- Particular added value
  - Searchable texts
  - New partnerships
  - Prestige
What we did so far

• Two projects with Serbian Ministry of Culture funding
  - Groundbreaking effort in bringing new technologies to real life use in Serbian culture environment
What we did so far

• One working model
• Several transcribing efforts in the pipeline, one just finished and waiting for the model
• 13 Trnaskribus ongoing users in different roles (7 transcribers, 4 editors)
What we did so far

• Focus on training the transcribers
  - within library
  - coming from partnering institutions (Digitization academy)
Experience in working with Transkribus

• Easy to use tool
  - Three librarians trained to use it and train others to use it
  - Up to ten trained transcribers from various institutions, at the moment 4 active transcribers working in collaboration with librarians
Experience in working with Transkribus

- Text written corpora usability
  - Volume
  - General readability having in mind possible transcribers
  - Previous use of text (printed edition of part of texts, notes on text)
  - Importance of the writer, availability of his/her other handwritten texts
Experience in working with Transkribus

• Specifics of handwritten text and the transcriber
  - Ability to read the text
  - Ability to interpret the text
  - Speed and accuracy of transcription

• The role of the editor (trainer)
What we plan to do

• Transcribing more texts, getting more models
• Working with Serbian Cyrillic, Serbian Latin, text in other languages of Serbian authors (Jovan Cvijic)
• Establishing more partnerships within Serbia
What we plan to do

- Establishing more partnerships within Serbia
  - Finding new authors, new text corpora and new transcribers
  - Establishing new partnerships (individual like prof. Bajic, institutional like GLAMs, organisational like NGOs)
Conclusions

- RAED project and working with Transcribus are high priority for UoBL
- More models, more trained transcribers for building infrastructure and expert network in handwritten text recognition in Serbia
Keep transcribing!

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