

6 Outlook

The source code of the OCR tool is freely available, including the database of prototypes, as part of PhilologEg.⁶ It can be straightforwardly run from the command line on Linux and Mac OS X, and with some skills on Windows. We intend to make deployment more straightforward in the near future.

A weakness of the current design is that the classification of signs does not take context into account. We conjecture that a language model, such as that of Nederhof and Rahman (2015), could be used to improve accuracy.

Whereas the tool was designed for handwritten hieroglyphic transcriptions, it also works very well on typeset hieroglyphic, as we found in preliminary experiments with the IFAO font. This requires further investigation.

We also hope to extend investigations in the direction of hieratic. A major challenge is that processing of blobs then becomes much harder than in the case of hieroglyphic, due to signs commonly touching each other.

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⁶<https://mjn.host.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/egyptian/align/>