Digital New France Aglobal partnership experience in documentary heritage research and data management

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Maxime Gohier

Université du Québec à Rimouski

Digital Cultural and Heritage Collections of the Future: Enabling Innovative Access and Expanding Research

CRKN's Researcher Council

Montreal

November 2nd, 2022

DIGITAL NEW FRANCE

Project goals:

- Scientific:
 - Investigate the production and dissemination of information in the New France era.

Methodological:

- Locate, in very large documentary corpora, clues of intertextuality (textual borrowings, recurrent stylistic structures, marks of alterations)
- Identify actors and the networks that link them

Technological:

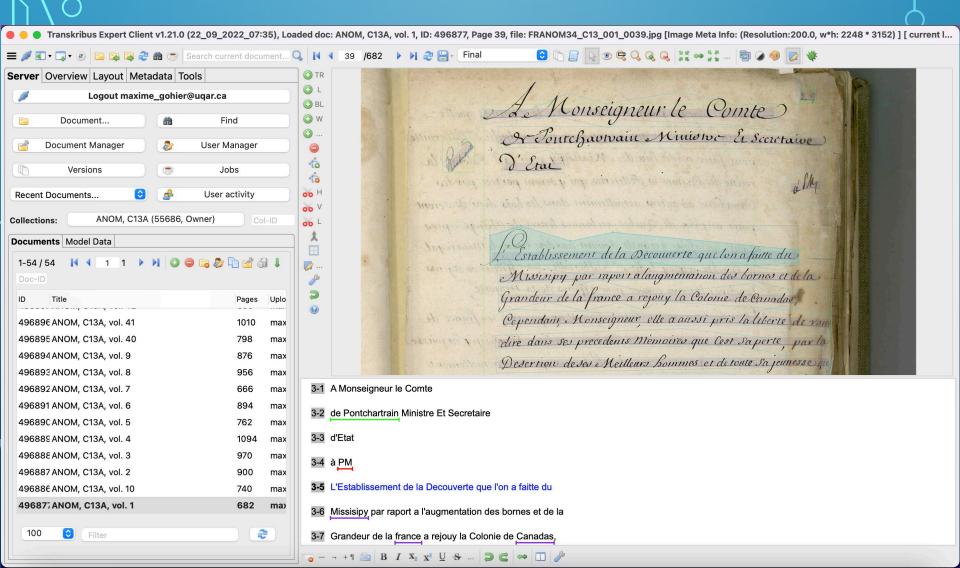
- Identify the technology needed to allow all researchers on New France to share their research data
- Facilitate the analysis of this data with new technological tools

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DIGITAL NEW FRANCE

- Research partnership (SSHRC)
- Some twenty researchers from different disciplines (history, literature, geography, anthropology, linguistics, art history, heritage studies, archival studies, etc.)
- Institutional partners:
 - BAnQ
 - LAC
 - Museum of Civilization
 - Archives and Rare Book Library, Université de Montréal
 - READ-COOP SCE (Transkribus)
- Citizen Volunteers

TRANSKRIBUS : USING IA FOR MANUSCRIPT ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT



FORMING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Working protocols

- Standardized transcription
- TEI tagging schema
- Transcription status and project management tools

HTR models training

- Private models
- Public models (open data)

Transkribus Training

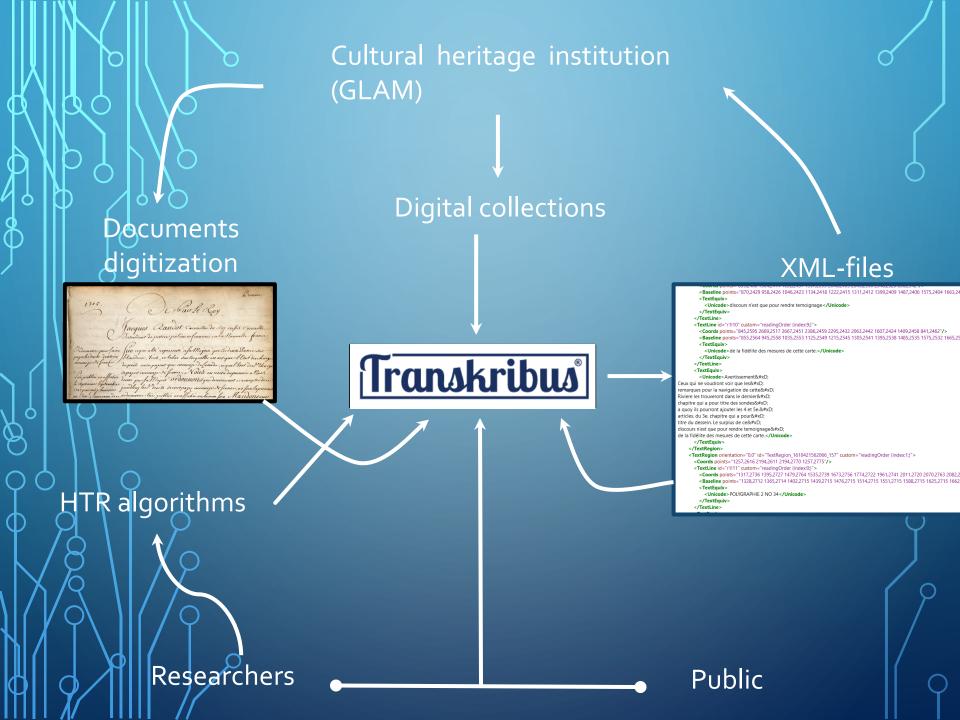
- Summer Schools
- Ongoing Literature Review Workshop
- Webinars
- Ad hoc trainings

The « Gardenotes »

Structuring a crowd sourcing team

Preparing a digital repository

TNF Plateform



C'anbédatsin avoir froid c. anbidé dents. C. anbin vanbin voir. c. anbeséssin fuer. e anboi moinf peu petitement Lac De Bois Carte done Sartie du Lac Superiour auec la Deconnerte de la Ruiere repuis le Grand Portage A jusqu'au Lac Oninipigon, ou on a Construit Le vort Maurepas, Le fort et Charles, est dans le Lac des Bois, et dans le Lac Tekamamionen, un troisieme Fort qui porte le nom de d Sierre. Les Lace et Rivierse Marquees en Couleur Deau, Sont Celles quon a Decouvertes

RESULTS

- Over 150,000 pages transcribed
- Two public models
- Dozens of private models
- Wide variety of documents processed :
 - Court records: Bailiwick of Montreal
 - Correspondence from colonial administrators: Louisiana and Canada
 - Ordinance books of intendants
 - Notaries' registries
 - Native language dictionaries
 - Handwritten maps

PUBLIC MODELS: OFFICIAL CORRESPONDANCES

- Variety of writting hands
 - ÉSecretaries' and administrators' scripts
 - Round, bastard and running hand
- Real performances on the page below:
- CER: 4,91% WER: 15,15%

A dozen archival fonds over a century

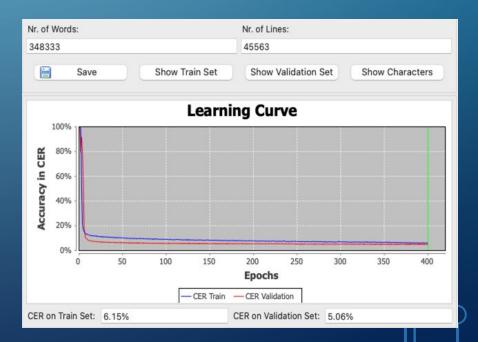
 $(\sim 1660-1760)$.

Traning set: 1832 pages

Validation set : 197 pages

Total: 2029 pages

part; the movinional of in paut complet oujour fur fur aux mations que en naturalem. 60 onne et attaché aux freemoirs, el n'est en que trom pour fela comerce que de Large fournir for 60 erois est d'avoir pour une Les Menagemens que exigen fon erois es est foreir, par le moyen el my aura pour és craindres que L'anglois y penetres my



PRIVATE MODELS: 17TH & 18TH CENTURIES CANADIAN NOTARIES

Regularity of writting hands

One registry = one scriptor

Standardized lexicon : recurent juridicial terminology

• Effective error rate on the above page :

CER: 1,35%

WER: 7,64%

The quality of the writing varies greatly from one notary to another

High performance model with little training data

Michel Saindon's registry (1768-1780) BAnQ-Rimouski, CN104,S50

Traning set: 112 pages
Validation set: 27 pages
Total: 139 pages

