Call for competitors

This ICDAR 2021 competition focuses at the challenges of binarizing scanned documents from the 19th century onwards assessing the providing solution both in terms of image quality and processing time.

- The training and test set for this competition is currently available at the IAPR-DIB platform (https://dib.cin.ufpe.br).
- The submitted algorithms will be tested in a few hundred scanned synthetic images with controlled parameters (different intensities of back-to-front interference and blur due to paper traslucidity and ink permeability, overlap shift, etc.) using different textures.
- Two sets of 20 real-world scanned documents representative of the diversity of documents in Nabuco’s bequest and LiveMemory file, availables at the IAPR-DIB platform, will also be used in this assessment.
- There will not be the “best algorithm” as the result of this competition, but the set of "best quality-time" algorithms for the different classes of documents.
- The submitted algorithms will not only be compared among themselves, but also with the image quality/processing times of over 50 of the best known binarization algorithms.
- The quality of the binary images will be compared using the PSNR, DRDM, F-Measure (FM) and pseudo-FMeasure (Fps) and Cohen’s Kappa.
- For each category of document, the top-ten algorithms in quality will have their time complexity assessed.
- All the resulting images produced by the competitors’ algorithms and “classical ones” will be made available at the IAPR-DIB platform immediately after the competition, together with the ground-truth images.

NOTE: As this competition offers a new way of assessing binarization algorithms, algorithms already published or submitted to other competitions are also welcome.

Organizers:
Rafael Dueire Lins (rdl@ufpe.br)
Ergina Kavallieratou (kavallieratou@aegean.gr)
Elisa Barney Smith (ebarneysmith@boisestate.edu)

Important Dates:
- Oct. 1st, 2020: Competition opens to the participants
- Mar. 31, 2021: Deadline for registration for the contest
- April 15, 2021: Deadline for submission of the required executable code as well as a description of the participants’ binarization methodology.
- Sep. 08, 2021: Final contest results to be announced at the ICDAR 2021 conference.