

Comments from the public about collaborative text correction

Author: Rose Holley (Manager - ANDP)

Version: 1.0

Date: 30 January 2009

'I like being able to see the OCR text and the original side by side. This is a smart move to entice people to correct text.'

'OCR text correction is great! I think I just found my new hobby!'

'It's looking like it will be very cool and the text fixing and tagging is quite addictive.'

'I was not aware that user editing was going to be included, but what a great idea.'

'An interesting way of using interested readers "labour"! I really like it.'

'A wonderful tool - the amount of user control is very surprising but refreshing.'

'This newspaper digitisation project is yet another example of how the NLA continues working energetically to extend its relevance to a wide audience.'

'It is wonderful that you have made it available before it is "finished". Also kudos on incorporating features - especially text-correcting - unavailable in any other product. Fantastic work!'

'You're providing a great service and I've been very happy to correct the errors I've found in the articles I've been viewing, thanks.'

'A great idea. I would sooner have online access, and search possibilities, even with the mistakes, and am happy to correct the scanned text as a quid pro quo.'

'Would be happy to spend an hour a week correcting pages.'

'Thank you! You lot are so cool!'

'I am especially impressed by the creation of crude OCR (and its implications for searching) and the invitation to end-users to assist editing/correcting the text. The National Library is to be congratulated on its pioneering work in this area.'

'Wonderful!!! First article I came across was gobbledegook, but correcting the text is very intuitive, no problems.'

'Great development (and very addictive)'

'This is a really useful project. And I like the invitation to correct text - many hands and all that'

'I appreciate the great work being done on this project and pleased to help where possible.'

'I love this site and have made many corrections.'

'This service is absolutely brilliant and I'm sure it will take off with its own community of modern day sub-editors.'

'The Australian Newspapers digitisation program is the best thing that has ever happened to me in twenty years of family history research. Is there anything I can do to show my appreciation?' Correct text.

'Thank you all for your efforts. This is a wonderful resource and so valuable for folk who can only do research on-line. I look forward to continuing search successes and am happily correcting text when I can.'

'Would like to say this is a great initiative although I think there should be a warning about using this site and its possible addictive effects! I have a great deal of trouble getting back to what I should be doing at times.'

'Correcting electronically translated article text is a worthwhile and enjoyable task for retired or interested people. Thank you for a great concept.'

'I think this service is fantastic. I have found some very useful information with my searches and am expecting to find more as the text is improved. I am happy to contribute by editing.'

'Wow – well I got sucked in! I can see why everyone is editing the OCR text... its compulsive!'

'I applaud the capability for readers to correct the text.'

'It is great that the NLA is breaking new ground in allowing the public to help them correct the OCR'd text.'

'I'm spending as much time as I can correcting text and occasionally come across an ancestor. I'm happy to do this as I don't work and other researchers do, and because if enough of us try, then someone else might correct my ancestors' names.'

'A fantastic site! It is nice to be able to contribute to the preservation of old records, and by correcting the OCR copies of documents, I am also able to help, many hands make light work. Well done!'

'Why not call for/request volunteers to assist in the text fixing. My experience with family history is that people do volunteer work. Perhaps offer the 10 highest text updaters something special from the library in the family history area as an incentive/thank you.'

'You have a list of the top 5 text correctors who have been doing this longer than I have and I shall probably never catch up! My suggestion would be to have your current rankings and also top correctors of the week or the month. This would certainly be a nice incentive for me.'

'Maybe some interesting publicity to have a public/semi-public thankyou/award for some of the top text correctors in the NDP? Its also the sort of thing local media may pick up on to increase awareness of the site.'

'The decision to let members of the public edit & correct articles must have been a difficult one, but it's a great idea.'