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A2iA Introduces World's First Keyword Spotting Tool for Unstructured Cursive Handwritten Documents

A2iA DocumentReader will be Key in Developing Next-Generation Content Management, Knowledge Management and Workflow Systems

PHILADELPHIA, AIIM, Booth #1257, May 17, 2005 – A2iA Corporation today unveiled the first-ever automated data capture and keyword spotting software for freeform cursive handwriting, making it possible to quickly scan through the content contained within large volumes of unstructured handwritten letters and loosely structured fields within forms. A2iA DocumentReader™ will be the key to unlocking valuable cursive handwritten information in future generations of content management, knowledge management and workflow systems.

Using A2iA's Intelligent Word Recognition (IWR) technology, combined with the company's broad range of document analysis technologies, A2iA DocumentReader enables a computer to mimic a human speed-reader. It locates, segments and processes the information contained in the paper that businesses use and archive every day – cursive handwritten information previously excluded from traditional forms processing and records management applications.

"A2iA DocumentReader will empower a new generation of applications that enable businesses to gain access to information that hasn't been available in electronic form until now and to streamline critical business processes," said Jean-Louis Fages, A2iA's president and CEO. "It features capabilities designed for both real-time business process management and workflow applications –

such as spotting keywords to route incoming mail – as well as knowledge management applications, where large batches of documents containing cursive handwriting become searchable for the first time. A2iA DocumentReader automatically does for businesses what no amount of manpower can ever achieve manually."

On full-page handwritten letters, A2iA DocumentReader starts by locating the paragraphs composing the main body content and segments the paragraphs into lines and the lines into words. It then converts the handwritten words into electronic data, matching the words against language-specific and industry-specific vocabularies of between 10,000 and 30,000 words, to produce a rough transcription. This functionality within A2iA DocumentReader gives companies the ability to index – in electronic text format and together with other data entered or captured electronically – the information contained in documents that are typically read, archived and retrieved manually in their native format or stored in image archives. The captured data can fuel customer relationship management and knowledge management applications. Other potential applications include collecting handwritten intelligence from doctor's notes, prescriptions, accident witness statements, police reports, and litigation support, to name a few.

In addition to full-paragraph handwriting recognition, A2iA DocumentReader is designed for keyword spotting on single images and entire image repositories. Users can define their own set of keywords and phrases to be located. Automatic indexing of unstructured handwritten letters eliminates the time and cost associated with manually reviewing and sorting stacks of mail, archives and other documents, and will permit these documents to be searched as quickly and easily as web pages. In electronic mailroom, Business Process Management and workflow applications, the keywords can be employed to route documents to specific individuals or departments.

Because it also uses technology found in A2iA FieldReader™ for automatic data capture on forms, A2iA DocumentReader can be used for full-page forms processing, including the capture of constrained, unconstrained and freeform cursive writing. Using its keyword spotting capabilities, A2iA DocumentReader can search through the information contained within loosely structured fields on forms, such as a freeform commentary field in a customer satisfaction survey

and blocks of handwriting on clinical trial forms, for example. With A2iA DocumentReader, this type of information will be readily accessible through user-defined searches.

"A2iA DocumentReader is a powerful cursive handwriting recognition and keyword spotting tool that will enable our partners and resellers to advance the capabilities available in their content management, forms processing, knowledge management and workflow systems," said Fages. "The true power of A2iA DocumentReader will be unleashed when it is included as a valuable component of a complete records management or forms processing solution."

Features and Benefits

- Low indexing cost and rapid access to information compared to manual transcription.
- The ability to perform ad-hoc searches of handwritten information, previously unusable in electronic form.
- Automated handwritten document classification and analysis streamlines workflow in paper-intensive industries and mailrooms.
- Better compliance as a result of making handwritten documents and their content searchable and by providing more customer information.

Availability

A2iA DocumentReader is a first-generation application available for integration by A2iA's official licensees and resellers. For more information, call 917.237.0390 or visit www.a2ia.com.

About A2iA Corporation

A2iA (Artificial Intelligence & Image Analysis), founded in 1991, headquartered in New York and Paris, is the worldwide leading developer of Intelligent Word Recognition (IWR) technology for reading natural handwriting, including cursive handwriting, from paper documents. The company's technology has been helping paper-intensive industries reduce data entry costs and improve processing automation for 14 years. A2iA's products combine the company's OCR, ICR and IWR technologies with its artificial intelligence and neural network systems to make the most comprehensive advanced recognition engines on the market today. For more information: www.a2ia.com.

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