

1 Manuscript Transcription Assistant

with Prof. Carrera carrera@wpi.edu

This ongoing project will continue the existing work on a Java application that facilitates the transcription of manuscripts. The new version will add the ability to import existing word/text transcriptions together with the corresponding manuscript image. A new “autoboxing” feature will identify all word boundaries in the manuscript image and draw rectangular modifiable boxes around each word. A correspondence between the manuscript word (in a box) and the transcribed text will be established for each “hand”. Additional “right-mouse” features will be added, depending on the needs of actual users. The team will work closely with HUA professors and with the American Antiquarian Society.

2 Emergent Transcription System

with Prof. Carrera carrera@wpi.edu

This project will add a new dimension to the Manuscript Transcription Assistant project that has been developed by a series of other MQPs. This project will focus on the emergent properties of a system that will allow archives to distribute manuscript images and gradually collect transcriptions of those manuscripts back from the scholars who originally requested the image of the document. The trick is to figure out what incentives will make it desirable for scholars to share their transcriptions with others and what safeguards/rating system should be put in place to avoid collecting tons of garbage transcriptions. The end result should be a self-organizing emergent system that will gradually but incessantly continue to pile up useful transcriptions and will eventually make the best transcriptions bubble up to the top. Issues of copyright, attribution, paternity, security and quality will be addressed in full detail.