Books2eBooks

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Experience report from books2ebooks to the automatic book scanner ScanRobot® from TREVENTUS

In this report we want to summarize our experience with the book scanner ScanRobot® from TREVENTUS.

The acquisition of the scanner and software took place in 2012. The installation included one ScanRobot® MDS 2.0 and one ScanFlow® installation with 3 ScanGate® licenses for image post processing.

Of course, the expectations were high as we were one of the first to acquire a ScanRobot® in Australia.

The purpose of the acquisition was to make scanning service for customers that do not have the budget to purchase such a high-end device.

Therefore, one of the expectations were that we can scan fast, with high quality and as many different books as possible.

Experience with the ScanRobot® from TREVENTUS Mechatronics GmbH

Speed

One thing that we learned during the training and our work is that scanning speed and throughput are two very different sides of the coin. Although scanning speed is important, the time needed for preparations and post processing have a huge influence on the throughput.

Scanning speed

The scanning speed is dependent on the quality of the books. In general, all kinds of books can be scanned as long as the binding of the book is more or less ok. Some loose sheets in a book can easily be scanned on the additional scanner that belongs to the ScanRobot® system.

Only books with a strong water damage mean a challenge for the operator to scan.

Preparation and image post processing

The job preparation with the ScanRobot® is pretty fast and the more experience the scanning operator has the faster it gets.

The image post processing is very much dependent on the desired output. Simple cropped images along the page edge can be created very fast with the delivered software we received with the ScanRobot®. Of course, we have also more demanding requests within our scanning projects. Image improvements like background removal or centering the text into the page are more comprehensive and take more time for check and adaption of the settings. But the workflow we received with the ScanFlow™ solution allows us to create such improvements very fast.

Material

During our projects we have to scan all different kind of books. With increasing experience we learned to scan a wide range of books with the ScanRobot®. Not just hard cover, but also soft cover, old and new books. Also the different paper type or thickness can be handled very well with the ScanRobot®.

Software

As mentioned above the delivered software ScanGate™ allows to do image processing. The software is designed to handle a lot of images at the same time. It offers a lot of functions from that we until now did not need all of them. Therefore the software is definitely sufficient for us.

Calibration

Compared to other scanners we have experience with the ScanRobot® needs very little calibration. In addition, it is very easy and takes only 2–3 minutes.

Support

The general reaction time of TREVENTUS is very quick and the few support cases we had were all solved in a sort time.

Summary

With the ScanRobot® we can scan a wide range of books with a good throughput and the software solution ScanFlow® helps in the image processing. The combination of hardware and software allows us to handle many different projects at the same time.