

Using Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

In connection with a little newsletter job, where the owner only has hardcopies of the articles she wants to use, it occurred to me that it would be nice to be able to use OCR. There were many to chose from, but I finally found new, inexpensive program called Transym OCR 1.3 Trialware (from <http://www.transym.com>). You get to try it for about 100 pages before you have to buy it at \$40.

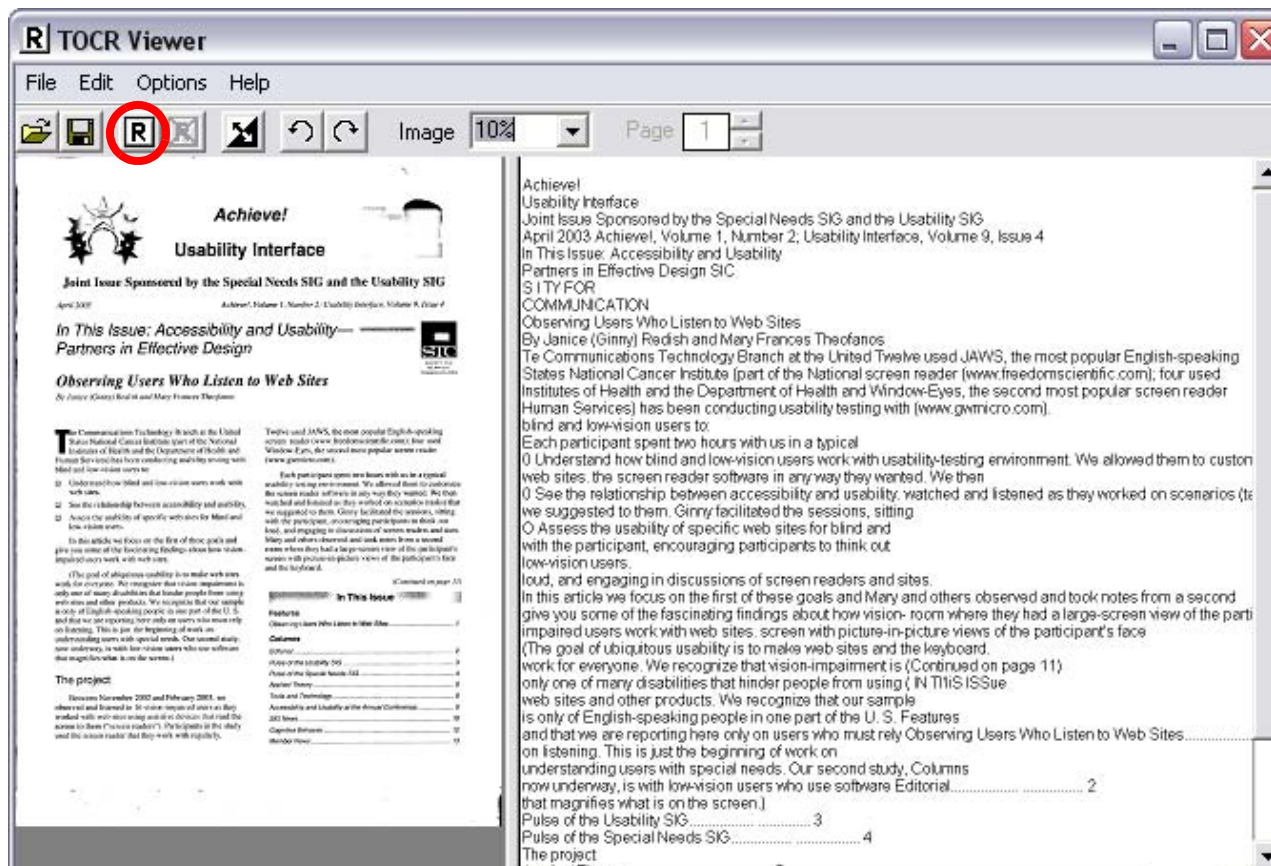
After installing it (from Tucows.com) and reading the Mini-manual, I tried it out. Here is how to do it:

In the program you use when you scan pictures, like Acrobat or Photoshop:

- Scan the document as **text enhanced**.
- Save it as **bmp** or **tiff**.

In Transym OCR

- Open the tiff or bmp file.
- Click the OCR-page icon.
- Save the result as a **txt** file.



In your word processing program

- Open the **txt** file
- Check carefully and correct mistaken recognition. No OCR is perfect. TOCR does not recognize unusual characters.
- Save as document.

I have found other OCR programs since that extract pictures, recognize columns, etc. but this is a simple way to get started.

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Ever get fed up with the poor quality of Optical Character Recognition from your existing scanning/OCR package?

Wish there was a reasonable alternative?

Transym OCR (TOCR) is an optical character recognition engine. It's a no frills product with the accent being entirely on accuracy.

Yes, I know, they all claim nearly 100% accuracy but rarely deliver. TOCR has been tested against the internationally recognised ISRI database and produced results better than well known, expensive, alternatives.

TOCR consists of the OCR engine together with a simple viewer program to connect to the engine (written in VB 5.0 - source code supplied) which will handle both bitmaps and TIFF files.

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Transym OCR Version 1.3 (TOCR 1.3) Trialware

This trialware version of the software is limited to about 100 A4 (8.27" x 11.69") pages before you have to purchase a licence.

Requirements:

Operating system: Windows 95/98/ME/NT4/2000/XP

Memory: You should have at least 64 Mb of memory

Disk space: About 9Mb of disk space are required in the installation directory and up to 6Mb may be required in the system directory

Depending on your operating system, you may need WinZip (which is readily available on the Web) to extract the elements of this file. In either case you should run "Setup.exe" to install. On newer versions of WinZip you can use the install feature which will extract the elements, install the product and cleanup any temporary files for you.

If you are upgrading from a previous version do not un-install the old version, just install the new version over it.

The download file is tocr13.zip (5.44 Mb)



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TOCR 1.3

Rating:

License:[Shareware](#)**Price:** \$40.00**Information:**

This no frills product has a strong focus on accuracy. It has been tested against the internationally recognized ISRI database and accuracy was found to exceed the results of the well known, expensive, alternatives.

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The product consists of the OCR engine and a viewer program to load, manipulate, OCR and view both bitmap and TIF files. The viewer program has been written in VB 5

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and the source code is supplied allowing programmers to tailor the application for their personal needs.

The installation is designed to have a minimal impact on your system, loading only a few DLLs for VB5. It will not invade your system, it will not make itself the default application for any type of file, it will not appear in any place other than the usual Start/Programs menu.

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