

NorHand — Norway's National Library Opens Its Handwriting-Recognition AI to the Whole Sector

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Norway

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Norway's National Library built NorHand, an open AI handwriting-recognition model trained on ~400 historic hands (4.0% character error rate), which has helped digitise about a quarter of its scanned handwritten collection and been adopted by other Norwegian institutions.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[Nasjonalbiblioteket \(National Library of Norway\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[National Library of Norway AI-Lab — Models](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[Transkribus Blog — The NorHand Model](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

Cite this — Evidoria. *NorHand — Norway's National Library Opens Its Handwriting-Recognition AI to the Whole Sector*. Persistent ID: bfcda9ba-7a69-4a6e-858c-c6b1df182399.