

Swedish Lion — Riksarkivet's AI Model Making a Million Handwritten Historical Documents Searchable

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Sweden

Quality score: 80/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Sweden's National Archives built an in-house AI handwriting-recognition model, trained via a three-year citizen-science transcription effort, to make over a million pages of 17th- and 18th-century court and witchcraft-trial records full-text searchable, and released the results a

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Riksarkivet \(Swedish National Archives\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Riksarkivet – Riksarkivet gör en miljon handskrivna dokument sökbara](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Interoperable Europe Portal – Swedish National Archives Releases OS for HTR/OCR](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

Cite this — Evidoria. *Swedish Lion — Riksarkivet's AI Model Making a Million Handwritten Historical Documents Searchable*. Persistent ID: 794175a2-7a80-4763-9414-cb6420689016.