

Transcription/ indexing of parish records for **online genealogy publishing company**

A successful project initiated by SBL for restoring age old parish records of 15th century onwards



CASE STUDY

Abstract

A leading genealogy publishing house based in UK required parish records to be extracted from age old images ranging from 15th to 19th century with high data accuracy of 99%. The extracted data records were to be published online. Parish registers are collections of handwritten or printed of religious events such as baptism, marriage, and burial maintained by the parish church. They are a valuable source of information that helps researchers and common people to trace their family tree because the census and official records of birth, marriage and death do not go back further than 1837.

The client approached SBL with the requirement of transcribing those age-old genealogical records. After a detailed discussion and thorough understanding of the client's requirement the SBL team initiated the transcription process.

Challenges

The client wanted to complete the parish records image well ahead of the online publishing date. Since the images data were age old handwritten parish records SBL's data/information security team had to safeguard the mishandling or manipulation of the information.

Approach

The SBL team studied the guidelines for transcription of the parish records and did an initial sampling of the parish record images. This sample was approved by the client to ensure SBL process is in-line with the client's requirement.

A competent team was trained in the age-old handwritten style that included records as old as the 15th century. The training plan was also updated to accommodate all the suggestions from the client for enhancing the data accuracy.

The transcription process was fine-tuned on a regular basis. This helped the SBL team to deliver even the very complex handwritten styles records with highest data quality and accuracy.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|----|---------|------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 00009 | Birth | 26 | Jan | 1792 | Ägäthä | Florian | Wolf | Apolonia | Wolltin |
| 00009 | Birth | 27 | Jan | 1792 | Joannes | Florian | Roger | Dorothea | Schuklin |
| 00009 | Birth | 14 | Hornung | 1792 | Gertrudis | Urban | Oswauth | Bärbärä | Wultin |
| 00009 | Birth | 12 | Mar | 1792 | Gertrudis | Simon | Wukounig | Gertrudis | Woschniaggin |
| 00009 | Birth | 28 | Mar | 1792 | Georgius | Mihael | Nogradnigg | Gertrudis | Zigouzin |
| 00009 | Birth | 31 | Mar | 1814 | Maria | Martin | Hallend | Maria | Schwarzenbacher |
| 00009 | Birth | 35 | Apr | 1814 | Georg | Thomas | Bartl | Maria | N. |
| 00009 | Birth | 28 | Mai | 1814 | Maria | Thoman | Egarter | Eva | Ganglin |
| 00009 | Birth | 2 | Aug | 1814 | Elisabeth | Martin | Ertl | Katharine | Nuspaumerin |

Benefits and value addition

Identify discrepancies : SBL's project related query raising system enabled the client to identify discrepancies in the project that were not identified earlier by themselves.

High quality and timely project delivery : Benefited the client to simplify their internal process. They were able to publish millions of parish records online.

Extract data from illegible images : SBL's R&D team worked on millions of age-old parish record images and identified all the possible illegible images. This information helped the client to take proactive decision on which image related data was to be extracted for publishing.

About us

SBL is an IT and ITeS service provider that offers smart solutions to organizations across geographies and industry verticals and empowers them to respond quickly to the changing market dynamics. We offer a range of customized services and solutions that allow our customers to reduce operational costs substantially while accelerating the growth of their businesses.

From which images the related data has to be

- SBL'S quick turnaround time Service benefited the client to publish the Parish data records online, much ahead of their publishing date.
- SBL processed more than 1842462 Parish records including the most complex records of 15th to 18th century, which contain the oldest Latin and Welsh handwritten languages.

Customer feedback

The client has considered SBL as one their most preferred and trusted offshore team.





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