

## OCR DOCUMENTS WITH A CAMERA

What does OCR stand for? OCR is **O**ptical **C**haracter **R**ecognition. OCR is the conversion of images of text, e.g. a scanned document, into plain text, like you get from typing in a word processor. Document imaging is often enhanced by optical character recognition, allowing documents to be searched and more.

You need an OCR program to perform OCR on images. You can try PhotoNote for free. OCR software is sensitive to the quality of the source image. Here we'll discuss the major issues and ways to improve your images for OCR quality.

### LIGHTING

One of the key elements for all of photography is lighting. This is especially true when you with to OCR your images. Take the picture of the document from an angle to avoid flash glare.

### IMAGE IS BLURRY

Reduce blur with a tripod. Alternately, brace the camera on a table, a stack of books, or whatever is around. Using a flash will help, but make sure it doesn't produce a glare. Finally, image sharpening may help if unable to reduce blur in the original images.

### PERSPECTIVE

The image of the document will be skewed (called keystoneing), when the image is taken from an angle. Perspective correction will make the document look flat, like it was scanned.

### OCR ENGINE

PhotoNote uses Tesseract OCR. Google supports current development on Tesseract, we have high hopes for ongoing improvements in OCR performance. Tesseract currently outperforms free ocr programs.