

Information is Power

Client:

Robert Pollard, founder of Climate Change 2.0

Document Type:

information on sustainable development and climate change

Business Goal:

Create an open-source, public/private network where information can be readily shared between individuals and organizations.

Product of Use:

ABBYY FineReader and PDF Transformer

Results:

The organization has been using FineReader for nearly three years and now has more than one thousand documents scanned and put in the WordPerfect format to allow easy access.

Web Site:

www.climate-change-two.net

Climate Change 2.0 Adopts FineReader to Make Data Available

Global warming and other topics around the changing climate have grabbed headlines and the attention of people all over the world. With the help of ABBYY FineReader, Climate Change 2.0 (www.climate-change-two.net) is working to make information and thought on sustainable development and climate change widely available in order to allow for collaboration and change.

“Unfortunately, information has been locked up and frozen and needs to be released and allowed to flow freely,” said Robert Pollard, founder of Climate Change 2.0, chairman of the Information and Communications Sub-Committee of the NGO Committee on Education and founder & professor of Information Ecology of Information Habitat: Where Information Lives. “The ability to move the dynamics of information is one of the most important tools we have in terms of countering the effects of climate change.”

The organization, which is working to make information on these topics available to a broad range of web sites, is using ABBYY FineReader’s Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to quickly and accurately translate the documents that it is sharing into formats that can be readily shared and accessed online. In addition, the company uses ABBYY PDF Transformer to convert files from the PDF format to Rich Text Format (RTF), HTML, and other formats.

“The whole combination of FineReader and Transformer is a wonderful way of being able to free up information that is locked up,” said Pollard. “There are some important United Nations documents that haven’t been available until now.” Among the many documents that have been restored through the use of ABBYY Fine Reader is *Our Common Future - the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development* - the document that placed the issue of Sustainable Development on the map.

By combining information and information and communications technology (ICT), Climate Change hopes to bring people together so that they can study the available data and work to address the growing concern around the changing climate and explore ways to move into a more sustainable future. The goal of the organization is to create an open-source, public/private network where information can be readily shared between individuals and organizations.

“I’m working to build a toolbox of digital tools that can be used to move into a broader understanding of the available information and ABBYY is a featured application in that effort,” said Pollard.

The organization has been using FineReader for nearly three years and now has more than one thousand documents scanned and put in the WordPerfect format to allow easy access. “I started to gather available documents, and as I searched for the originals, I came across other files that were just scanned from prints,” said Pollard. “ABBYY makes it possible to make that set of documents available. Most UN documents refer to other documents and now there is a way to get to them.”

In the future, the organization hopes to leverage ABBYY technology to boost its document reference base to 12,000 documents or more. In addition, Pollard hopes to work with students and interns to use ABBYY FineReader to scan PDF-based documents to allow them to be added to the growing collection of documents on environmental topics that can be viewed and searched online.