Readiris 10

ASIAN OCR ADD-ON FOR READIRIS



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OCR technology by I.R.I.S. Connectionist and Linguistic technology by I.R.I.S.

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Introducing the Asian OCR Add-on

Congratulations on acquiring the Asian OCR add-on!

By installing it, Readiris offers the recognition of four extra **Asian languages**: Japanese, Simplified and Traditional Chinese and Korean. (It goes without saying that a large number of Asian languages such as Malay, Tagalog etc. are supported by the "standard" Readiris software because they use the Latin alphabet.)

This extra CD-ROM "Asian OCR Add-On" complements your installed Readiris license - the "add-on" only works on version 10 and later of the Readiris software. This technical note explains all you need to know to successfully recognize Asian documents.

A WORD ABOUT THESE ASIAN LANGUAGES

Contrary to the Latin, Greek and Cyrillic alphabets, these languages use small icons ("ideograms"), not letters, to represent reality.

Japanese

The Japanese writing system actually uses a mix of alphabets: the phonetic character sets are called Hiragana and Katakana, and the ideograms, Chinese in origin, are called Kanji. In normal Japanese writing, Hiragana and Kanji are used, while Katakana is used for words borrowed from the (non-Chinese) foreign languages.

すべての人間は、生まれながらにして自由であり、かつ、尊厳と権利と について平等である。人間は、理性と良心とを授けられており、互いに同 胞の精神をもって行動しなければならない。

An educated person can read about 10,000 Kanji symbols; the government has published a list of some 2,000 symbols that it considers basic.



Japanese is generally written vertically beginning on the right, but many texts today are written horizontally to permit the inclusion of English words, Arabic numerals and mathematical and chemical formulae.

Simplified and Traditional Chinese

As a script, Chinese is derived from picture writing. It is written with thousands of distinctive characters called "ideograms" or "pictograms" which have no relation to the sound of a word. The earliest Chinese characters were pictographs, such as a crescent for the moon, or a circle with a dot in the center to represent the sun. Gradually, these gave way to non-pictorial ideographs which, in addition to standing for tangible objects, also represented abstract concepts.

The majority of Chinese characters consist of two elements: a "signific", which indicates the meaning of a word, and a "phonetic", which indicates the sound.

In a large dictionary there are 40,000 to 50,000 characters (many of which are archaic or obscure), while the telegraphic code book contains nearly 10,000 symbols. Some 3,000 symbols are used on a daily basis.

Simplified Chinese is a simplified version of the "traditional" Chinese; the 500 most common symbols were simplified. Simplified Chinese is used on China's mainland and in Singapore, **Traditional Chinese** is used by Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and the overseas Chinese communities.

貝見門馬體豐龍龜贝见门马体丰龙龟

Every character has exactly the same amount of space, no matter what its shape may be. There are no spaces between characters; the characters which make up multi-syllable words are not grouped together. When reading Chinese, you have to work out which characters belong together!

Chinese can be written vertically and from right to left or horizontally from left to right.



Korean

Korean is not related to Chinese, although it has used the Chinese characters, together with the Korean alphabet, for many centuries. The Korean alphabet, the "Hangul" script, invented in the years 1443-46, is the only true alphabet native to the Far East.

모든 개인과 사회 각 기관이 이 선언을 항상 유념하면서 학습 및 교육을 통하여 이러한 권리와 자유에 대한 존중을 증진하기 위하여 노력하며, 국내적 그리고 국제적인 점진적 조치를 통하여 회원국 국민들 자신과 그 관할 영토의 국민들 사이에서 이러한 권리와 자유가 보편적이고 효과적으로 인식되고 준수되도록 노력하도록 하기 위하여, 모든 사람과 국가가 성취하여야 할 공통의 기준으로서 이 세계인권선언을 선포한다.

System Requirements

The Asian OCR "add-on" does not modify the system requirements of Readiris.

It complements version 10 and later of the Readiris software - it does not work on *earlier* versions.

This extra module takes about 50 MB of hard disk space.

However, you will need a localized Asian version of the Windows **operating system** to make good use of the Asian texts. Alternatively, you can use Word 2003, Word 2002 and Word 2000 to view and edit such documents: Microsoft Office 2003 System, Office XP and Office 2000 were specifically designed to cope with documents in many different languages.

Use an Asian version of the Adobe Reader software to view and edit **Asian PDF documents**. Know above all that the Asian versions of Adobe Reader can be found on the Readiris CD-ROM!

Installing the Asian OCR "Add-on"

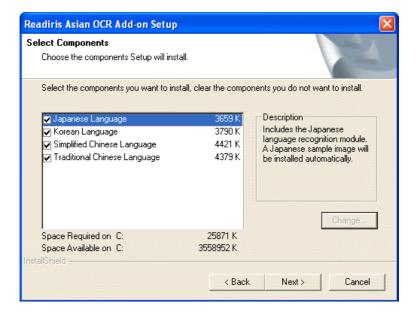
As is the "basic" software Readiris, the Asian OCR "add-on" software is delivered exclusively on an **autorunning CD-ROM**. To install, simply insert the

CD-ROM in your CD-ROM drive and wait for the installation program to start running.

Should the installation not begin to run when the CD-ROM is inserted in your CD-ROM drive, run the setup program SETUP.EXE to install the software.

Users of Windows XP, Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4.0 must ensure that they have the necessary **access rights** - contact the system administrator if necessary.

Follow the on-screen instructions. The installer detects automatically where your Readiris software is installed - the software will only install if Readiris 10 is present on your PC -, but some installation **options** are offered: you can limit the installation to specific languages. A sample image is installed automatically for the selected languages.





As this "add-on" software smoothly complements your installed Readiris software, no new submenu or application is added by the installation program. But you will find a shortcut to this electronic document added to the submenu "I.R.I.S. Applications - Readiris".

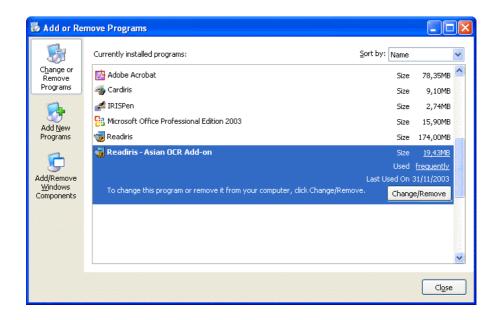


Uninstalling the Asian OCR "Add-on"

There's only one correct way of uninstalling Readiris - by using the Windows (un)install wizard. You are strongly recommended *not* to uninstall this Readiris software module by manually erasing the program files.

Execute the following steps to make use of the Windows (un)install wizard.

- ☐ Click "Settings" under the "Start" menu of Windows and go to the "Control Panel".
- ☐ Click the icon "Add/Remove Programs" under the control panel.



☐ Follow the on-screen instructions to remove the Asian OCR "add-on" module.

CONFIGURING AN "ASIAN" WORKING ENVIRONMENT

So much for the installation of the Asian OCR software. But we must also ensure that your computer system handles the ideograms of these Asian languages correctly.

It is not necessary to install a localized Asian version of the **Windows** operating system to make good use of such recognized texts. You can also use **Word 2003**, **Word 2002** and **Word 2000** to view and edit such documents: Microsoft Office 2003 System, Office XP and 2000 were specifically designed to cope with documents in many different languages.



Refer to the documentation supplied with your Windows or Office software to learn how to set up and use your Asian-enabled environment.

Use an Asian version of the Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat software to view and edit **Asian PDF documents**. (The Asian versions of Adobe Reader can be found on the Readiris CD-ROM!)

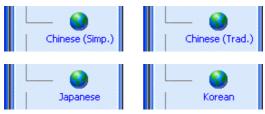
Taking these steps ensures that your computer system copes with the symbols ("ideograms") of these Asian languages. If your operating system is not "Asian-enabled", you will inevitably generate illegible output whenever you try to display text in one of these languages. This phenomenon is not caused by the Readiris software, but by the setup of Windows and Adobe Acrobat: Readiris does recognize the ideograms of these Asian languages, but when you open the text file with your wordprocessor or with Adobe Reader, your computer system does not *represent* them correctly on your computer screen.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN DOCUMENTS

Assuming that your environment is set up correctly, we will now turn to the recognition of these languages.

When you start up your Readiris software, there are but few new elements in the user interface. We'll study these in detail.

Evidently, you can now select the languages Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Korean with the "Language" button on the main toolbar.



The language setting influences the **page analysis**. In other words, indicate the language *before* you execute the page analysis! (Should you have forgotten

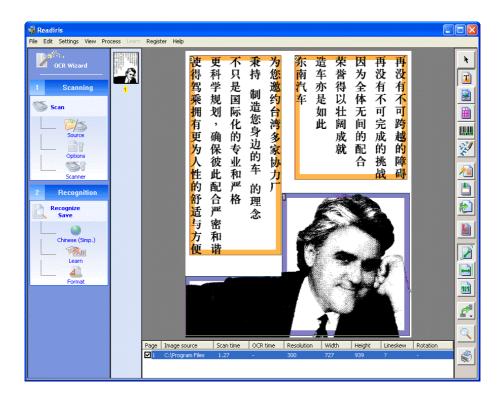
this, select the appropriate language afterwards and the page analysis is re-executed automatically...)



Specialized analysis routines are used for these languages. The interline spacing is in most cases bigger than with Western texts, and the text is less "dense": the words are made up of small icons ("ideograms") that could be seen as graphic zones in Western documents. (The maximal character size of 72 points also holds for the Asian languages.)



Thirdly, the text orientation may be different: the text may run from top to bottom, from right to left. Readiris adapts itself by sorting the text blocks from right to left!

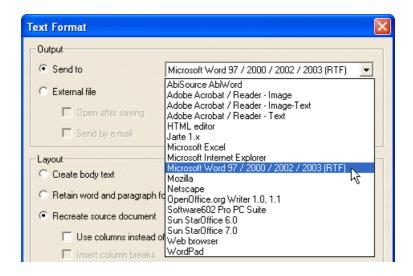


Proceed as usual by clicking the button "Recognize-Save" on the main toolbar. Don't try to set the document characteristics such as font type or character pitch - these don't apply to Asian documents anyway.

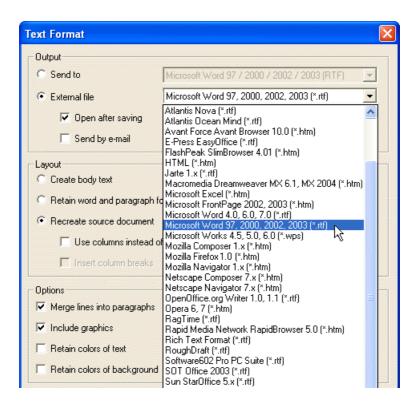
Indicate the **formatting** options before you execute the OCR. Similar to Western documents, you can apply "autoformatting" and recognize tables! How-

ever, the number of text filters adapted to the Asian alphabets is somewhat smaller than the text formats available for Western documents.

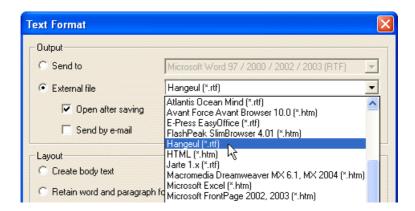
Generally speaking, the formatting options shouldn't bother you: if an unavailable option is currently enabled and you enable an Asian language, Readiris prompts you to select an available option first.







Also note that support of a special application for **Korean** documents, the Hanguel wordprocessor, was added!



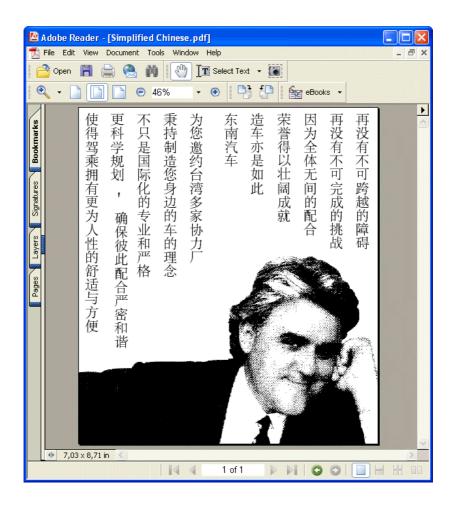
Learning is disabled as soon as you activate an Asian language, so you'll never enter the interactive phase at the end of the recognition. Learning hardly makes sense for these languages which use thousands of different symbols, and you'd have to be able to enter the ideograms, not an easy task when using a Western keyboard!

Let's see what our Japanese text looks like.





The orientation as applied to your source document is maintained across the recognition.



Also notice that these Asian texts may contain Western symbols - numbers, untranscribable proper names etc. As with Greek-English and the Cyrillic-En-



glish language settings, Readiris in fact uses a mixed alphabet to encode these documents.

