

## ABBYY® FotoReader

*Teach your camera to read!*

### Tips & Tricks for capturing text with a digital camera

Have you ever thought that you can transfer text to a computer using your digital camera? **ABBYY FotoReader** makes it easy.

Use your camera as a "portable scanner" to capture text from hardcopy documents, books, newspapers, as well as from banners, posters and other media. Then convert your images with ABBYY FotoReader into electronic text files for editing, archiving and re-purposing. Special algorithms correct image distortions and curved text lines typically associated with photos and improve the quality of the resulting document. The underlying technology used in professional OCR products allows text on photos to be read.

To achieve the best results, please follow the recommendations below when taking photos.

### Your Digital Camera

Use a digital camera with 4-megapixel resolution or higher, ideally equipped with the following features:

- Flash disable mode
- Optical zoom
- Anti-shake feature
- Auto-focus assist beam or manual focusing
- Manual aperture control or aperture priority mode

### Camera Positioning and Focus

Take 2-3 shots of the same document to make sure your hands are stable and image doesn't come out blurry or a corner of the document isn't cut off. Use the "close-up" or "macro" mode. In most cameras, it is indicated by a flower icon.

- Position the lens parallel to the plane of the document.
- Fit the entire document in the frame.
- Point the lens at the centre of the page.
- Use the optical zoom to zoom in on the document so that it fills the entire frame.

### Lighting and Flash

- Make sure there is sufficient lighting. Natural light is the best.
- Disable the flash (in most point-and-shoot digital cameras, the flash is in auto mode by default).
- If you have to take a picture of a document in poor lighting and need the flash, try to use the flash from 20 inches away and try to find additional light sources.
- Don't use the flash on glossy paper.

### Extra Tips

- Use the "white balance" feature. If your camera has manual white balance, use a white sheet of paper to set the white balance. Otherwise, select the appropriate balance mode for your lighting conditions.
- Enable the anti-shake setting or use a tripod.

### In poor lighting conditions

- Auto-focus may function incorrectly: therefore, you should switch to manual focus.
- Use the maximum aperture allowed by the camera (2.3 or 4.5). In bright daylight, use smaller apertures: this will produce sharper images.
- If your camera gives you more than one choice of ISO speed, select the highest ISO setting.

