

Crowdsourced online eBook creator Distributed Proofreaders celebrates creating its 44,000th ebook

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Dr. Greg Newby is enthusiastic about the years of positive collaboration with Distributed Proofreaders. Newby is the CEO of the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation, which operates Project Gutenberg. "Distributed Proofreaders was a very early innovator in what we now call crowdsourcing," he said. "Distributed Proofreaders is the single largest source of new Project Gutenberg eBooks, and it is where volunteers from all over are able to contribute their efforts to make a new eBook. Each new eBook is a gift that will keep giving throughout the ages."

Once the images of the pages of a book have been scanned into a computer, those scans are converted to text by optical character recognition programs. Then the volunteers proofread and correct the computer text page by page using a specially-created web-based interface that divides the workload into individual pages so that many volunteers can work on a book at the same time. This process significantly speeds up the digitizing process, and, since the volunteers are situated in different countries, the work goes on round the clock.

Distributed Proofreaders has many different types of volunteers: some scan books and prepare them for proofreading, some proofread page by page, some format page by page (marking text that is italicized or bolded, etc.), some prepare the final full book, and some carefully read the ready-to-be submitted book to make sure that we haven't missed anything.

Our work won't stop at 44,000 books -- we'll continue to work together to digitize copyright-free eBooks. And we welcome new volunteers!

For more information, please contact:

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