

AM Unlocks Historic Archives for Research and Teaching



THE STARTING POINT

AM (formerly Adam Matthew Digital) is an **academic publisher** specializing in digitized primary sources for the humanities and social sciences. With more than 130 completed archive projects—each containing up to three million documents—AM connects libraries, archives, museums, and cultural heritage institutions worldwide with researchers, educators, and students.

Its core promise is bold and simple: make primary sources truly accessible, so historical research never fails because a document can't be read.

The challenges:

Historic collections are rarely “OCR-ready.” Handwritten manuscripts in varying styles, faded ink, damaged scans, complex layouts—what works on a printed page falls apart on centuries-old documents. Before partnering with PLANET AI, AM relied on a standard OCR engine built for machine-printed text. Anything beyond that required manual intervention. Editorial teams had to step in and **index documents by hand**.

The impact was significant: Users could not search the databases by keyword because the text simply was not machine-readable. **What began as an operational bottleneck quickly became a strategic constraint.** Without machine-readable text, AM couldn't fully deliver on its value proposition or scale its offerings.

THE SOLUTION

AM chose [IDA Recognition](#) by PLANET AI, a recognition technology built from the ground up for exactly these edge cases: historical scripts, challenging source material, complex layouts.

UNLOCKING HISTORIC ARCHIVES FOR AM

What sets it apart is PLANET AI's **patented PerceptionMatrix**. During the recognition process, it preserves all possible transcriptions of a text, without discarding information before evaluating the full context. The result is **market-leading quality** robust enough to power full-text search—even for demanding historical documents.

AM integrated IDA Recognition into its proprietary platform. Today, the system automatically transcribes **between 15,000 and 18,000 documents per day**. Documents that previously required manual indexing can now be found via keyword search, with highlights directly in the text. This fundamentally changes the user experience: researchers navigate collections instead of searching through them.

As the first academic publisher to offer searchable databases of historical primary sources at this level of quality, AM gained a competitive advantage that is directly reflected in its product portfolio.

“Harnessing the latest technologies to enhance discoverability is at the heart of AM's mission. The integration of PLANET AI's IDA into our platforms marked a key turning point in the landscape of teaching and research, transforming the possibilities of digital humanities and unlocking hidden narratives within handwritten manuscripts for cutting edge future scholarship.”

Glyn Porritt, Technical Services Manager AM



Ready to automate?

Show us your most challenging documents.

Schedule your exclusive IDA demo today.

[Book now](#)

ABOUT PLANET AI

PLANET AI pioneers automation for document-driven business processes using German AI technology. Its core solutions include IDA for high-precision document capture and JAIDE, an AI assistant. Together, they ensure end-to-end data quality from initial capture through decision-making. Since 2023, PLANET AI has been part of Bechtle AG's portfolio and serves scanning service providers, software manufacturers, and document-intensive industries ranging from insurance and banking to public administration. The solutions combine modular architecture and flexible deployment models with strict adherence to European data protection standards. Founded in Rostock in 2015, PLANET AI employs around 60 professionals.