



## Young Investigator brings WWII documents to life

**A** Salford scientist has been awarded the title of Outstanding Young Investigator for his groundbreaking work providing instant access to digitally restored archives – including those from Second World War Nazi concentration camps.

The Informatics Research Institute's Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulos created the latest digital technology to analyse paperwork from the Polish Stutthof concentration camp, extract historical data and create a 'virtual archive' – so archivists can access information at the click of a button. The project is the outcome of €2m EU funding.

Apostolos was awarded the prize at the 8th International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR) in Seoul, South Korea, and is the first UK researcher to have won the title.

He said: "Previously, archivists have had to search through mountains of paperwork



to retrieve information. Our technology allows them to retrieve this information electronically in a fraction of the time.

"In this case, the data includes personal records of the concentration camp victims – so their families and historians have instant

access to accurate information. I feel honoured to have won this award."

Stutthof was one of the few concentration camps whose paper records were not destroyed by the SS. The number of victims is estimated at 85,000.