

Introduction to Markdown digital workflows

UBC Research Commons Digital Scholarship Core Skills Workshop

- [Introduction](#)
- [Resources](#)
 - [Online Markdown editors](#)
 - [Input](#)
 - [Output](#)
 - [Complex documents](#)
 - [Statistics & analysis](#)

Introduction

Plain text formats have been described as among some of the best ways to store knowledge persistently. There are a wide variety of benefits to using plain text files and simple markup formats to create flexible, robust, and future-proof workflows for digital scholarship, research, and knowledge. With the use of a few simple tools a Markdown document can be converted into a website, dynamic slideshow presentation, PDF, or even a formatted PhD thesis. Below are some collected resources for working with plain text Markdown files, converting them into other formats, and importing “closed” file formats like Word documents and PowerPoint presentations into more accessible Markdown (or similar formats like AsciiDoc), for archival, collaboration, version control, and other purposes.

Resources

Online Markdown editors

- [Dillinger](#) - The online editor used during the session

Other online Markdown editors:

- [Editor.md](#) - Open source online Markdown editor
- [Markdown Editor](#)
- [Markdown Plus](#) - Markdown editor with extra features
- [MarkdownApp](#)
- [Marxico](#) - Markdown Editor for Evernote
- [Mathdown](#) - Has support for math and updates in editor window
- [Notedown](#) - Distraction-free offline markdown editor for the web
- [Overleaf](#) - Online collaborative LaTeX editor
- [SimpleMDE](#) - JavaScript Markdown Editor
- [Write.md](#)

Input

Getting documents and content into Markdown format:

- [Pandoc](#) - “Swiss-army knife” for converting from one markup format to another
 - [Try it online here](#)
- [Paste-to-Markdown](#) - Paste in rich text and immediately get the equivalent plain text Markdown
- [Word-to-Markdown](#) - Convert all your Word documents to Markdown

Output

Convert plain text Markdown files into:

- PhD Thesis Dissertations: [phd_thesis_markdown](#)
 - [Example PDF](#)
- Slideshow Presentations: [reveal-ck](#) (Reveal.js Construction Kit)
 - [Reveal.js](#) - official homepage
- Table of Contents: [tocdown](#)

- HTML: [remarkable](#)
- Documentation: [Just the Docs](#)
- Websites: See the [Intro to Jekyll](#) workshop
 - [Jekyll](#) - official homepage
- Nicely formatted email: [Markdown-here](#)

Complex documents

For more complex formatting needs (e.g., academic papers, journal articles etc.), use something like [AsciiDoc](#), which is designed for formal publishing.

Examples:

- [Letter](#) ([Source](#), [HTML version](#))
- [Resume](#) ([Source](#), [HTML version](#))
- [Book](#) ([Source](#))
- [Cheatsheet](#) ([Source](#))

Statistics & analysis

For data science you can use RMarkdown (Markdown with working program code mixed in):

- [RStudio](#) - an Integrated Development Environment for statistical computing that supports RMarkdown