# Library Carpentry Week One: Some Basics

### Schedule

1800-1845 Jargon Busting

1845-1930 Foundations

1930-2015 Regular Expressions

### Regular Expressions

[] define a list or range of characters to be found

. matches any character at all

\d matches any single digit

\w matches and part of word character (equivalent to [A-Za-z0-9\_] )

\s matches any space, tab, or newline

^ defines the start of the string

$ defines the end of the string

\* matches when the proceeding character appears any number of times including zero

+ matches when the proceeding character appears any number of times excluding zero

? matches when the proceeding character appears one or zero times

{VALUE} matches the proceeding character the number of times define by VALUE; ranges can be specified with the syntax {VALUE,VALUE}

| simply means or

*Check you regex with regex101: https://regex101.com/*

#### Exercise

What does Fr[ea]nc[eh] match?

What does Fr[ea]nc[eh]$ match?

What would match strings that begin with French and France only?

How do you match the words 'colour' and 'color' (case insensitive)?

How would you find 'headrest' and 'head rest' but not 'head rest'?

How would you find a 4 letter word that begins a string and is preceded by at least one zero?

How do you match any 4 digit string?

How would you match the date format 'dd-MM-yyyy'?

How would you match the date format 'dd-MM-yyyy' or 'dd-MM-yy' at the end of a string only?

How would you match a thirteen digital ISBN?

How would you match publication formats such as 'British Library : London, 2015' and 'Manchester University Press : Manchester, 1999'?

### Next Week

#### Installation (to be completed before the session)

Windows users, see the section entitled 'Installing Git Bash' in the Programming Historian lesson [*Introduction to the Bash Command Line*](http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/intro-to-bash). OS X and Linux users, simply make sure you know how to find your 'Terminal'.

#### Where to go for help

Raise an issue on the Library Carpentry Week Two GitHub page https://github.com/LibraryCarpentry/week-two-library-carpentry/issues (note: you'll need to sign-up to GitHub to do this. As you'll need a GitHub account for week three, there is value in doing this now)

### References

James Baker, "Preserving Your Research Data," *Programming Historian* (30 April 2014), [http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/preserving-your-research-data.html](http://melbourne.resbaz.edu.au/post/95320810834/why-code). The sub-sections 'Plain text formats are your friend' and 'Naming files sensible things is good for you and for your computers' are reworked from this lesson.

Owen Stephens, "Working with Data using OpenRefine", \*Overdue Ideas" (19 November 2014), <http://www.meanboyfriend.com/overdue_ideas/2014/11/working-with-data-using-openrefine/>. The section on 'Regular Expressions' is reworked from this lesson developed by Owen Stephens on behalf of the British Library.

Andromeda Yelton, "Coding for Librarians: Learning by Example", *Library Technology Reports* 51:3 (April 2015), doi: [10.5860/ltr.51n3](http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/ltr.51n3)

Fiona Tweedie, "Why Code?", *The Research Bazaar* (October 2014), <http://melbourne.resbaz.edu.au/post/95320810834/why-code>