

Digital Methods: Learning Journal Template

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Autumn 2019

- 1 Learning journal over final project in digital methods for historians 2019**

2 06/11/2019

2.1 Trying out overleaf:

12:55pm: I'm trying to do the regex exercises 3 and 4 for this week. However I started out unsure about the task description as I couldn't find it anywhere and I was too quick to rely on my memory in class. I asked fellow classmates and found that they were unsure as well. In the meantime I've decided to read through the regular expressions one more time.

13:07pm: Found out from a friend that my memory is fine and that exercise 3 is supposed to look like exercise 4 and vice versa.

13:22am: Plotted the data from exercise 3 into regex and found that if I type "\n" (after playing around with different expressions) all spaces and empty lines will be removed but that doesn't solve all my problems.

13:27pm: Having trouble with Overleaf now. Can't type backslash without it disappearing in the PDF version. Got help from my fellow students using the slack coding forum. Found that when typing "\" you need to type textbackslash after the \

20:33pm: Got help from a friend - again - and solved the puzzle!

2.2 How to:

Exercise 3

- Step one: type `(.+)` into regular expression
- Step two: type "dollar sign" 1 into substitution
- Step three: add `\n` after `(.+)` in regular expression
- Done! The stop word list is now separated by " and , and the words are no longer separated

Exercise 4

- Step one: type 2 into regular expression
- Step two: copy the new version from substitution into the text string
- Step three: type `,` into regular expression
- Step four: copy the new version from substitution into the text string
- Step five: type `()` into regular expression (remember the space between the parenthesis')
- Step six: type `\n` into substitution
- Done! The words from the stop word list is now separated by new lines without " and ,

3 FINAL PROJECT

4 7/11/2019

4.1 Thoughts and intentions - final project

Around 10:00 am: On the hunt for a data set. Remembered one of my friends sent me an article from Edinburgh University earlier this year about new data in a research about Scottish witch trials. I tracked down the article and located the data they've collected so far. Found a web side from which I was able to download the data.

11:15 am: The data is a MDB file format. I'm not able to open the file on my mac. Tried downloading a new app called "open any file" but it didn't work. Googled but could only find expensive apps which would allow me to open the MDB file. Decided to write Max.

15:15 pm: Went to Max' office after telling him about my problem via mail. He had some trouble with it as well. He promised to look into it and I went home.

Around 17.00 pm: Received an email from Max. He cracked the code! Told me he would send me the instructions and to write him if I had any trouble. He also told me to wait until we've had an introduction to R.

5 27/11/2019

5.1 Final Project

10.00 am: Had a talk with Max about doing my project in R. After the introduction to R in class I had some trouble with uploading my data set. Max also had some trouble with working with my data set. I googled in search for an answer and got it! **10.30 am:** Decided my final project is to find the most frequent torture method during the witch trials in Scotland. After finding the most frequent torture methods I intend to look for a change in the torture methods during the time span the data set provides. **11.00 am:** Started working on my final project and proof of concept by my self. **12.26 pm:** I have become familiar with R. Project is coming along. I have collected the packages needed for my project and loaded the database into R. By using some helpful "cheatsheets" I have managed to create a visualisation of the most frequent torture methods. **16.30 pm:** Want to clean up my dataset. Tried the commands we learned in class a couple of weeks ago but I could not make it work. Found out I needed to separate the values in order to replace them. Dataset is now clean by using following commands:

- Click the arrow on the column you want to edit
- Click "edit cells"
- Click "transform"

- Use regular expression "value.replace" - in my case: "value.replace("00","").replace(":",")"
- You have now removed 00 and : from the chosen columns

6 28/11/2019

6.1 Final Project

08.00 am: Had some trouble with visualising the clean dataset in R. Petra helped me before class. Had some typos in the command. **10.30 am:** Been working on how to visualize the development in torture methods through the time period provided by the dataset. My idea was to visualize it the same way I did with frequency of torture methods but with torture date on the x axis and torture methods on the y axis. However it does not go as planned. I copied the command I used earlier and planned to adjust the axis. I tried to adjust the command by myself but somehow it did not work. Asked Petra for help. She too found it a bit difficult. After playing around with it I found a way to plot the data I wanted into the x and y axis. The visualization however is not great. I will work on it later.

7 08/12/2019

7.1 Final Project

11.45 am: Tried to adjust the x and y axis to make a better visualisation. Still does not work out as I want it to. Made an appointment to see Adela tomorrow. Maybe she will know what to do. Started writing an introduction to the project as I need help to move forward with the coding.

8 09/12/2019

8.1 Final Project

(all day:) Got advice from both Adela and Max on how to visualize the data. Looks great. I've done a facet wrap which allows me to look at the torture methods compared to the years in question. Ready to explain data further now.

9 20/12/2019

9.1 Final project

09.00 am: met up with some fellow students to discuss our projects. Been working on the free text.

10 04/01/2020

10.1 Final Project

09.00 am: Met with Camilla to get advise on the project. Finished free text for the project. Ran dataset through a couple of times to see if it worked perfectly - everything works. Started uploading datasets etc. to github.

11 06/01/2020

11.1 Final Project

09.30 am: Went to uni to check datasets with Rikke. Read through my own a couple of times again. Checked to see if the coding would run from 3 different computers. Worked fine as long as you install the packages as explained.