Learning Journal for FOAR705

Week 1:
Objective: Restore a file from a 6 month old back up
Action: Search on Google Drive for "Knowledge of Self and Others" the Mind and World essay I wrote over a year ago
Error: None
Result: Success, document found and opened

Objective: Look at project management tools and form opinions
Action: Observe 'project management' I am currently doing for my wedding on shareable google sheets. Although the way it is formatted is useful for me to understand, it can be hard to communicate what I mean to other people. I briefly looked into Trello, Jira and Asana. The visual nature of Asana seems much clearer as a form of communication.
Error: None
Result: Asana definitely seems like a more useful project management tool than what I currently use.

Week 2:
Overall Objective: Figure out what LaTex is and how to use it.

Objective: Use LaTex
Action:

1. Create an overleaf Account
2. Create a "Test LaTex" file

Error: None
Result: Success

Objective: Play around with LaTex
Action:

1. Change "\author" to "Georgia Rutherford".
2. Delete \maketitle to see what happens

Error: Need to hit "recompile" for the example document to update.
Result: Apparently deleting \maketitle deletes the text that was above it in the document. I am unsure why.

Objective: See what happens if I put text above the \begin document
Action: Type \section{Hello World} above \begin document
Error: Using "/" instead of "\" makes it plain text instead of a section.
Using "()" instead of "{}" does not work (not entirely sure why but it looked weird).

Result: It made a page with that section before the other pages. This included the title even though the text for the title was above the "\section{Hello World}. This must be because of the "\maketitle" command

Objective: Make paragraphs
Action:

1. Press enter twice to change line
2. Write "\paragraph{}" on a new line and then continue text on the line below to add a larger break.

Error: Need to do two breaks to change the line of the text (otherwise the text is written next to the other text).
Doing three breaks doesn't change the line further (still just turns up underneath).
Writing "\paragraph" changes the text inside the "{}" into bold.
I don't like the indentations on the document, not sure how to change
Result: Not entirely sure if above is the proper way to make paragraphs, but it seems to work. Need to research further.

Overall Result: I have a much better idea on how to use LaTex and the process has been much more simple than I anticipated. However, there is still a lot I'm confused about. For example, I am not extremely fond of the formatting and would like to learn more about how to change that. At this stage I probably know enough to be able to complete the first assignment.

Overall Objective: Do Scoping exercise in LaTex

Objective: Create a LaTex document on overleaf
Actions:

1. Open a blank text
2. Name it Scoping Exercise
3. Change "\author" from my email address to "Georgia Rutherford"
4. Recompile

Error: none
Result: Successfully made document

Objective: Create a list of headings and subheadings on my document
Actions:

1. Write "\section{}" for A Day in the Life, Pains, and Gains
2. Write "\subsection{}" for Pains I Encounter, Pain Relievers, Gains I Would Like, and Gain Creators

3. Recompile

Error: realised after that I can use the "rich text" to put headings and subheadings in even quicker.
Result: Headings and subheadings created

Objective: Enter relevant information under each heading
Action: Entered in text
Error: I realised partway through that I can use "Rich Text" to very easily add bullet points and some formatting.
Tried to put in quotation marks and one of them came out backwards. Need to use ' ' and ` ` keys instead of "" in LaTeX
Result: Finished Exercise

Overall Result: Finished Scoping Exercise

Overall Objective: Complete Data Carpentry exercises

Objective: Identify what is wrong with this spreadsheet/the steps you would need to take to clean up the two tabs and put them together
Things that are wrong:

- Graph labeled Plots uses yes, y, no and N
- Uses a key that a computer won't be able to translate (yellow in first tab, asterisk in second)
- Some of the cells are left blank
- Page 2 title is not in the graph
- Asterisk used twice in the second tab (could be confusing as to which they refer to)
- Second tab has a mix of numbers and words in graph (1, yes, no, yes)
- Spelling errors (errth) and different ways of spelling (Mabati_sloping vs mabatisloping)
- Data errors (-99 rooms)
- Livestock owned and numbers should be separate

Steps needed to take to put them together:

- You would need to change so they are using all the same values (example: all yes/no or all numbers for livestock)
- You would need to correct spelling so there are no errors and everything matches
- Fix data errors
- Make changes on a separate document

Objective: make a list of some of the types of metadata that should be recorded about this dataset

- What counts as an item for items_owned
- Who was interviewed and how they were chosen
- What does no_meals mean (number of meals? Per day?)
- Wall type on what? (House?)
- What does no_members mean? (number of members? of household?)
- Location of villages
- Which year were the months_lack_food in?

Overall Results: I have read to the end of formatting problems. I was surprised to see that what I thought was a data error, the use of numbers like -99, was actually meant to convey a null value. This highlighted to me the issue of being incredibly clear with your data. I was also interested to read about how merging cells can be problematic for the computer seeing associations between data. Out of all the problems listed, merging cells is probably the one I would be most likely to commit.