

MATH 230 WEBSITE: Creating a Distill Website

Overview:

This document provides support for the creation of a website using the R package `distill`. Much of what you find below comes from the following resources:

- <https://rstudio.github.io/distill/website.html>
- <https://www.apreshill.com/blog/2020-12-postcards-distill/>
- Example websites: <https://pkgs.rstudio.com/distill/articles/examples.html>

Draft Due: Monday, April 18th @ 2 pm

Initial Steps:

1. First in your Console, run `install.packages(distill)`.
2. Within your local RStudio, go to File → New Project → New Directory → Distill Website
3. See Figure 1.
 - Under ‘Directory name’, put something like: `myname.website`
NOTE: this will end up in the url of your website which will be something like: `github.username.github.io/directory_name` so keep this in mind when naming this folder.
 - Under ‘Create project as subdirectory of’ navigate to the location on your computer where you would like to place this folder. I would suggest creating a new folder just for your website files. Be sure to click the box that says Configure for GitHub Pages.

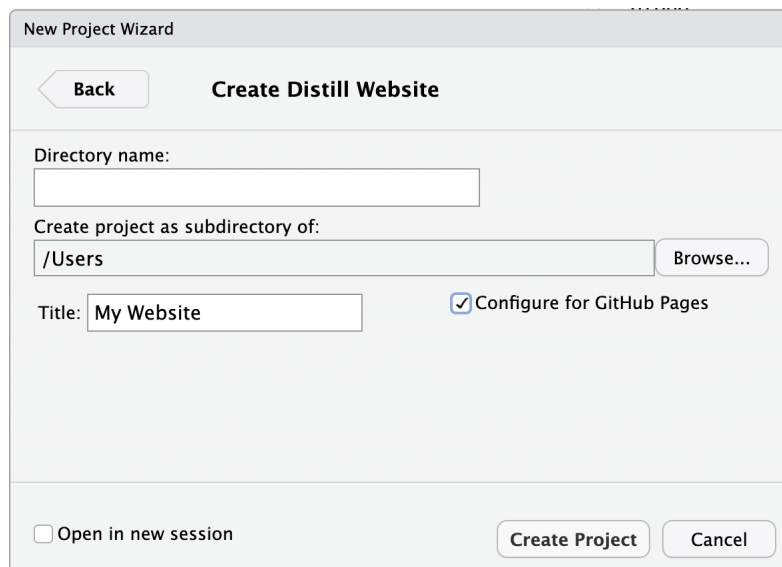


Figure 1: For Step 2

A new RStudio Project for the website will be created and opened. The website will include the following files:

Option	Description
<code>.site.yml</code>	Website configuration file
<code>index.Rmd</code>	Website home page
<code>about.Rmd</code>	Website about page

4. Open the `_site.yml` file and change the `output_dir` to "docs" *if it says something different*.
5. Now click on Build Website, and you will locally produce your website and also create a new folder in your directory.
Boom, you've got a website. Now to customize...

More Details:

- The `_site.yml` file.

This file provides the configuration of your website and lists each new page you create for the site (via a new `.Rmd`).

An example file might look like:

```
name: "aflynt_website"
title: "Abby Flynt"
description: |
  Abby Flynt, PhD
output_dir: "docs"
navbar:
  right:
    - text: "Home"
      href: index.html
    - text: "About Me"
      href: about.html
output: distill::distill_article
```

- The `index.Rmd` file.

This file has all the details of your homepage. You may want to customize your homepage using `postcards` package. If you want to use this package, you first need to install the package. Then you can create a new file/page by running the following:

```
library(postcards)
create_article(file = "index",      # name of new .Rmd file or .Rmd file to replace
               template = "onofre", # name of template
               package = "postcards") # package that includes the template
```

NOTES:

- The second url given discusses the `postcards` package in more detail.
- You can only use a postcard on your homepage.
- Your final project.
At a minimum, your `distill` webpage must include:
 - A customized homepage
 - A page for your past course visualizations
 - A page for your virtual art exhibit
 - A customized theme/look