

LAST TWO WOMEN STANDING

CODE CLUB AND WHAT IT CAN BECOME

Melanie Polutta and Bobbi Fox

WHO ARE WE?

Melanie Polutta

A cataloging policy specialist at the Library of Congress who works with metadata at the policy level and who **really** wants the power of computers to make her job easier

Bobbi Fox

A software developer who has worked in the Library/ Archives domain for more than 15 years

How Did It Start?

The initial call for CodeClub came in late 2014 over the *libtechwomen* mailing list

Level Up Your Coding with Code Club (yes, you can talk about it)

Dec 5, 2014

• Coral Sheldon-Hess, coral@sheldon-hess.org

Reading code is a necessary part of becoming a better developer. It gives you more experience and more insight into How Things Are (or Aren't) Done; it builds your intuition about how to solve problems with code; and it increases your confidence that you, too, can tackle whatever technological problems you're facing.

But you don't have to read code alone! (Which is good. It's really not fun to read code alone.)

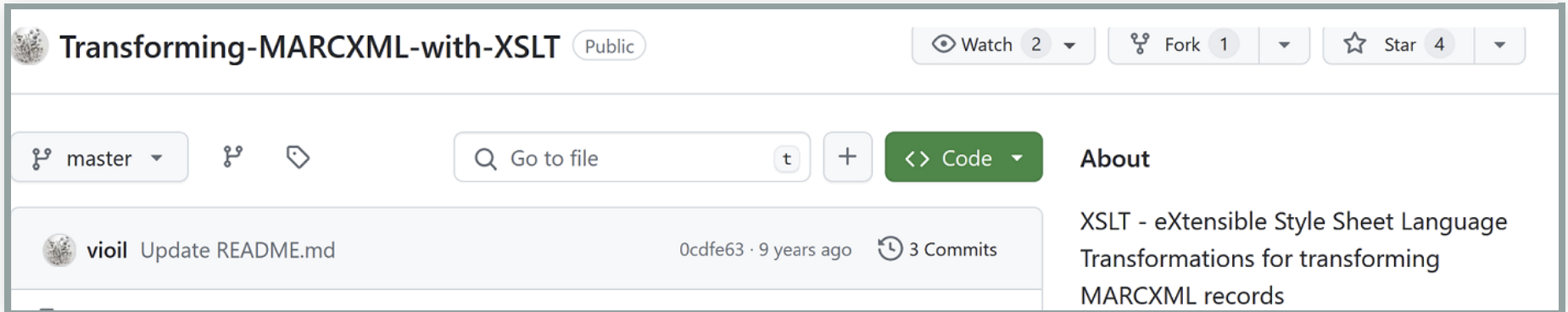
In late 2014, a group of librarians formed two Code Clubs, inspired by [this talk by Saron](#) (of Bloggytoon fame). I'd like to tell you about how we've structured our Code Clubs, what has gone well, what we've learned, and what you need to do to form your own Code Club. I'll share a list of the codebases we've looked at, too, to help you get your own Code Club off the ground!

<https://code4lib.org/conference/2015/sheldon-hess/>

**Ultimately, there were three groups of
5-6 meeting weekly over "Zoom"**

Melanie and Bobbi started in a group of 6
Initially, we each took a turn finding code written by
others to review

Code Review



This screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'Transforming-MARCXML-with-XSLT' by user 'vioil'. The repository is public. At the top, there are buttons for 'Watch' (2), 'Fork' (1), and 'Star' (4). Below the repository name, there are buttons for 'master', a search bar 'Go to file', a '+', and a 'Code' button. The commit history shows a commit by 'vioil' titled 'Update README.md' with hash '0cdf63', made 9 years ago, with 3 commits. The 'About' section describes the project as 'XSLT - eXtensible Style Sheet Language Transformations for transforming MARCXML records'.

Transforming-MARCXML-with-XSLT Public

Watch 2 Fork 1 Star 4

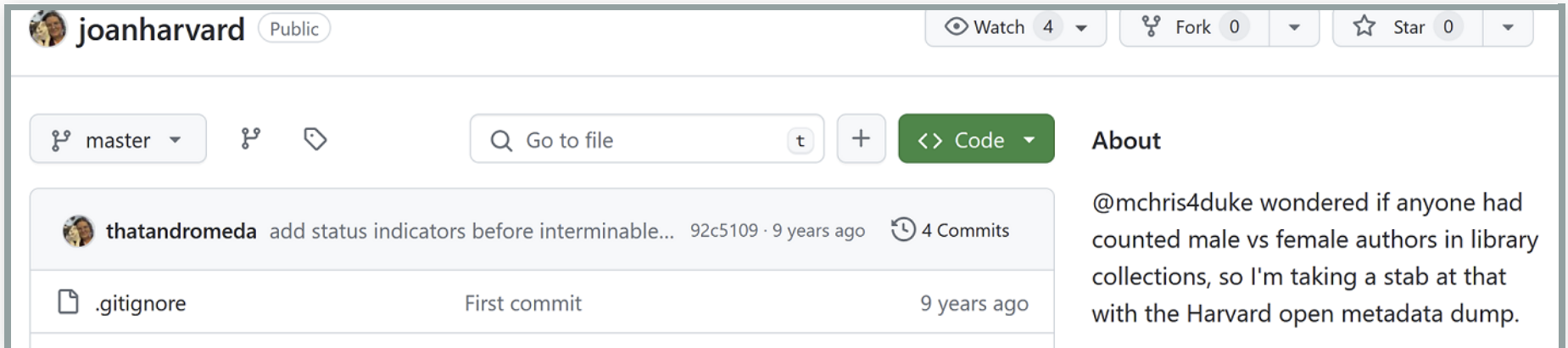
master Go to file + <> Code

About

XSLT - eXtensible Style Sheet Language Transformations for transforming MARCXML records

vioil Update README.md 0cdf63 · 9 years ago 3 Commits

<https://github.com/vioil/Transforming-MARCXML-with-XSLT>



This screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'joanharvard' by user 'thatandromeda'. The repository is public. At the top, there are buttons for 'Watch' (4), 'Fork' (0), and 'Star' (0). Below the repository name, there are buttons for 'master', a search bar 'Go to file', a '+', and a 'Code' button. The commit history shows a commit by 'thatandromeda' titled 'add status indicators before interminable...' with hash '92c5109', made 9 years ago, with 4 commits. The 'About' section describes the project as '@mchris4duke wondered if anyone had counted male vs female authors in library collections, so I'm taking a stab at that with the Harvard open metadata dump.'.

joanharvard Public

Watch 4 Fork 0 Star 0

master Go to file + <> Code

About

@mchris4duke wondered if anyone had counted male vs female authors in library collections, so I'm taking a stab at that with the Harvard open metadata dump.

thatandromeda add status indicators before interminable... 92c5109 · 9 years ago 4 Commits

.gitignore First commit 9 years ago

<https://github.com/thatandromeda/joanharvard>

The Years Pass...
... we keep meeting



And then there were two...

Exploring SPARQL capabilities

Focused on Python learning, doing many free sites training exercises

Started writing code (usually based on Melanie's questions)

Learning sites

Easy Hands-On Experience with Basic SQL
Querying | Ruth Kitchen Tillman (ruthkitchintillman.com)
SPARQL Explorer for <https://dbpedia.org/sparql>
CodingBat
Practice Python
Python Exercises, Practice, Challenges – PYNative
Python for Librarians (librarycarpentry.org)
Learn Python 2 | Codecademy

- Compiling spreadsheets of RDA elements to unconstrained elements
- Classification Cuttering correction program (still unfinished)
- Authority file extraction
<https://github.com/bibliotecaria/AuthorityFiles>

Benefits! What we got out of it

Melanie learned about software development:

- How to think in code
- What a software developer needs
- Where coding can benefit you vs. where you need a human being

Benefits! What we got out of it

Bobbi learned more about how librarians think

- Especially Catalogers
- ...And that she hates SPARQL

Benefits! What we got out of it

Both of us learned:

- Text normalization matters
- Exception handling and error testing needs to happen early and often
- Friendship and mentoring

THANK YOU!

**And THANK YOU to Coral Sheldon-Hess for
kicking off CodeClub. And to the many
women of *libtechwomen*.**

Melanie Polutta bibliotecaria.mel@gmail.com

Bobbi Fox bobbi@bobbifox.net

This presentation can be viewed on the web at
bobbi-smr.github.io/lasttwowomen/lastwomen
(Created using [reveal-js](#))