

Github pages for open and FAIR teaching material

Geert van Geest

Open and FAIR teaching material

- Open:
 - Transparency
 - Reproducibility
- FAIR:
 - Findable
 - Accessible
 - Interoperable
 - Reusable

Findable material

- Assigned to a unique and persistent identifier
- Searchable resource
- **Persistence and searchability are hard to accomplish even by a large organization**

Accessible material

- Standardized communications protocol
- Open and free
- **Proprietary/in-house developed tools can limit availability**

Interoperable material

- Broadly applicable language
- **The language/format of e.g. pdfs/word files is not easy to modularize**

Reusable

- Clear and accesible license
- Domain-relevant standards
- **Where to communicate licenses, and how to re-use course material?**

Other issues

- Co-development of course material, independent of individuals
- Maintaining versions and releases
- Store and document code/material in one place
- Reporting mistakes/issues by the community

A set of solutions

- Exercises and text material written in a universal mark up language (i.e. plain text) [**markdown**]
- Use version control [**git**]
- Store course material in a single repository [**github**]
- Make use of resources that are there for persistence and identity [**Zenodo**]

Github pages + mkdocs

- Directly deploy a website from a repository containing structured markdown files
- Functional and esthetic

The tools

- markdown: unified markup language for texts
- mkdocs: render a set of structured markdown files into a website
- git: version control
- github: remote storage of a git repository + website hosting
- zenodo: persistent storage