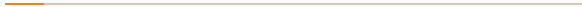


BEST PRACTICES FOR THE POLITICAL SCIENTIST

J. Alexander Branham

Fall 2016

INTRO



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- How are you going to organize and manage your work?
- Academic writing is messy
 - Keep track of the paper, figures, tables, references, cross-references, analysis, appendix, etc

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- We'll focus on free, open-source tools that enable this behavior and work on Linux, Mac, and Windows

RECORD

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- git is the best version-control system - it combines the benefits of "track changes" with that of backups

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- ((show example git history))

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- When you return to your code six months from now, you won't have to wonder what it is or what you were thinking

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 - Feel free to fork-edit-pull request any changes!

EDIT TEXT



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- Non-plain text files may be unusable 20 years from now
- Bonus: plain text files are usually *much* smaller than their Word/pdf counterparts

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- Other alternatives:
 - Sublime Text
 - Vim
 - RStudio (for R analysis)

Markdown

You can use markdown to write plain text that [contain links](<https://google.com>). Markdown can also manage your references and bibliography [wlezien1995].

As a quick aside, we can also write really nice math in markdown. Inline math goes between single dollar signs: ($\beta = 3$) and display math uses double dollar signs:

$$\frac{1}{3} x = \pi$$

REPRODUCE



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- Solution: Integrate code and paper with rmarkdown

Rmarkdown lets you put code inside your markdown document like so:

```
```{r}  
x <- c(1, 2, 3)
mean(x)
```
```

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- Your work can be done in a portable, documented, reproducible way
- These programs work well with each other

How to install and setup this stuff?

How to draw an owl

1.



2.



How to install and setup this stuff?

1. Draw some circles

2. Draw the rest of the fucking owl