

# Forking the Academy: What Scholars Can Learn About Collaboration From the Open Source World

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# **Collaboration among Scholars (Historians, for example)**

# Working Together in Teaching

# Working Together in Teams

(With relatively well-defined  
divisions of labor)

Working Together Directly  
in Writing

# Multi-Author Articles in Last 15 Years (1997-2012)

Three examples:

- American Historical Review: 13
- Past & Present: 21
- Journal of Asian Studies: 24

(less than 10% of articles in each case)

Collaboration without  
collaboration

**Writing Together**



# Microsoft Word

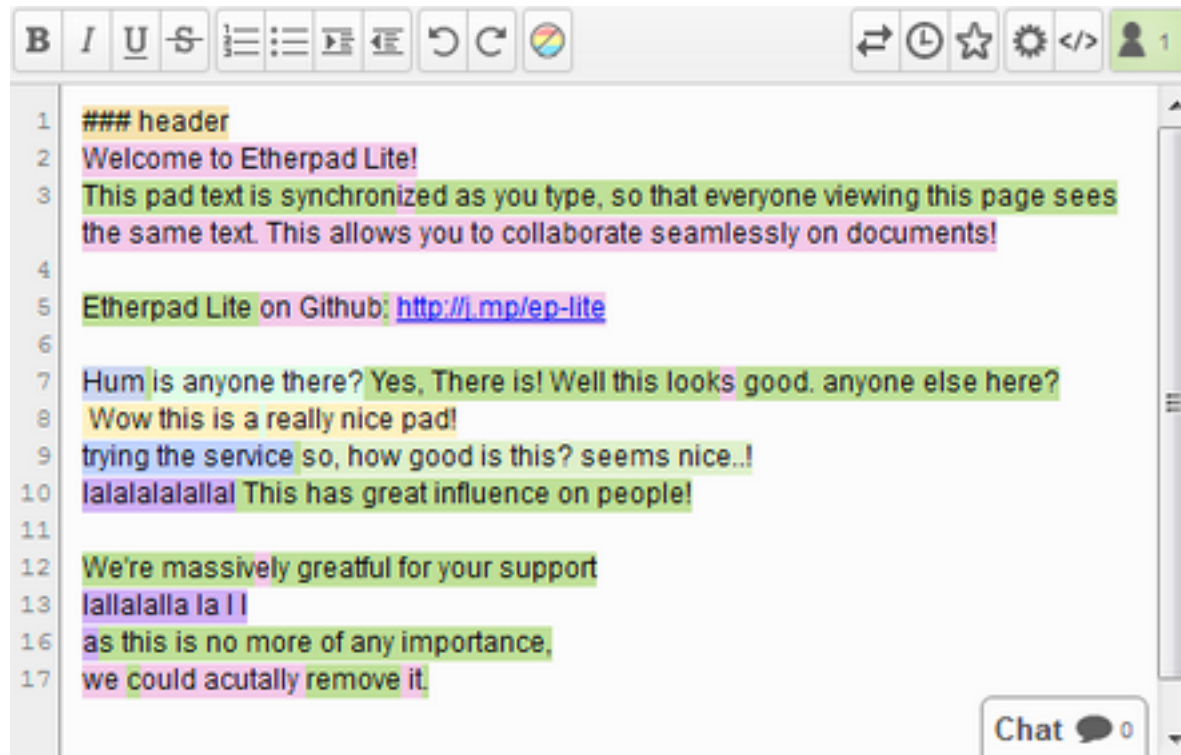


Track Changes

Google Docs

Wikis

# Etherpad



Canonical text

**Centralized**

Hosted

Free and open-source  
software

# **Open Access vs Free & Open Source**

Open **Access**



**Green vs. Gold**

**Free Software:** *the users  
have the freedom to run,  
copy, distribute, study,  
**change and improve**  
the software*

Gratis vs. Libre

# The Spectre of Libre in the UK

# Creative Commons Attribution License (CC-BY)

You are free:

- to **Share** — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- to **Remix** — to adapt the work
- to **make commercial use** of the work

On the condition:

You must **attribute** the work **in the manner specified by the author** or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).

# The Digital Archive of Japan's 2011 Disasters

<http://jdarchive.org/>

検索 コレクション

[ご意見・お問い合わせ](#) [アーカイブに情報を加える](#) [このアーカイブについて](#) [サインイン](#) 日本語 English

検索



**南三陸の漁業 >**  
この公開コレクションでは、2011年3月11日の震災によって被害を受けた南三陸町と気仙沼の漁業・水産養殖業の様子を記録した映像と文書が集められています。

2011年東日本大震災デジタルアーカイブは、皆様お一人おひとり、研究者、そして政策に携わる方が対話し、つながるための参加型空間であり、この震災によって大きな影響を受けた皆様にとって大切な記憶を共有する場所となることを願っています。 [続きを読む >](#)



**再建と移転 >**  
この公開コレクションでは、被災地の住民による地域経済の将来や再建の形を巡る極めて重要な議論に関する記事、計画案、そして映像が取り上げられています。



**福島と食糧 >**  
この公開コレクションでは、2011年に生じた福島原発の大惨事が引き起こした、食物の放射能汚染や地域農業の将来への不安に関する記録が収集されています。

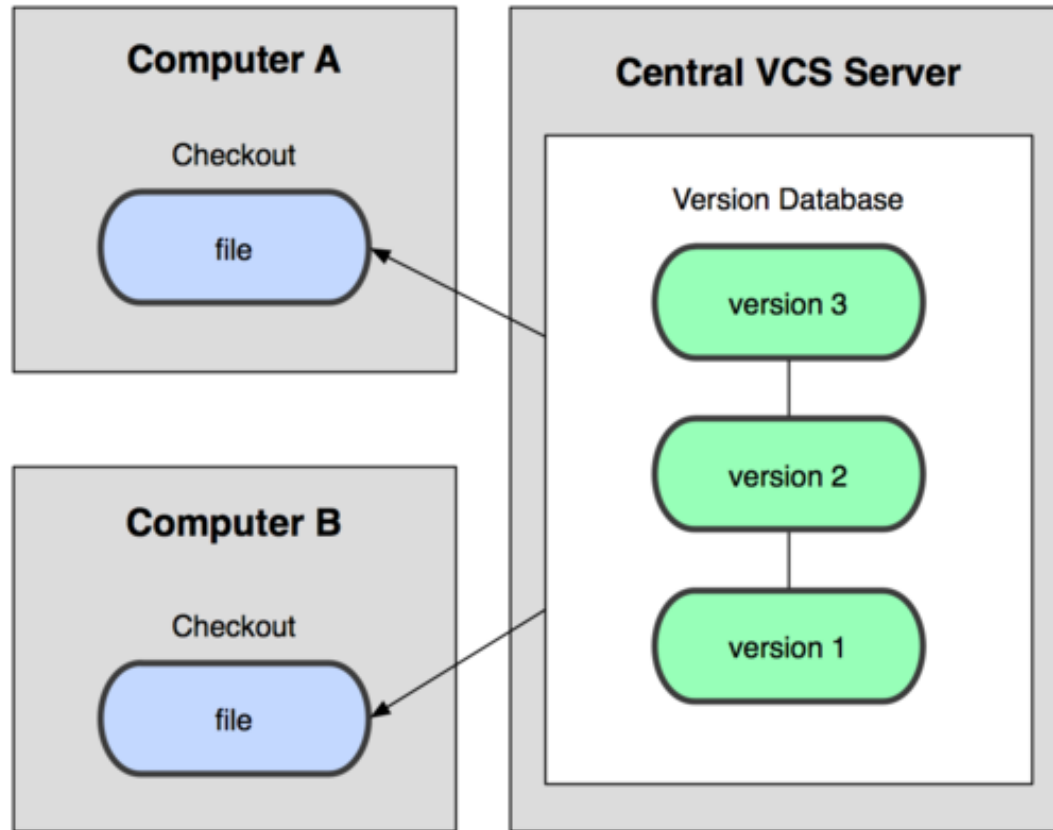
# Coding Together

Small teams with shared  
access to a central  
repository of files

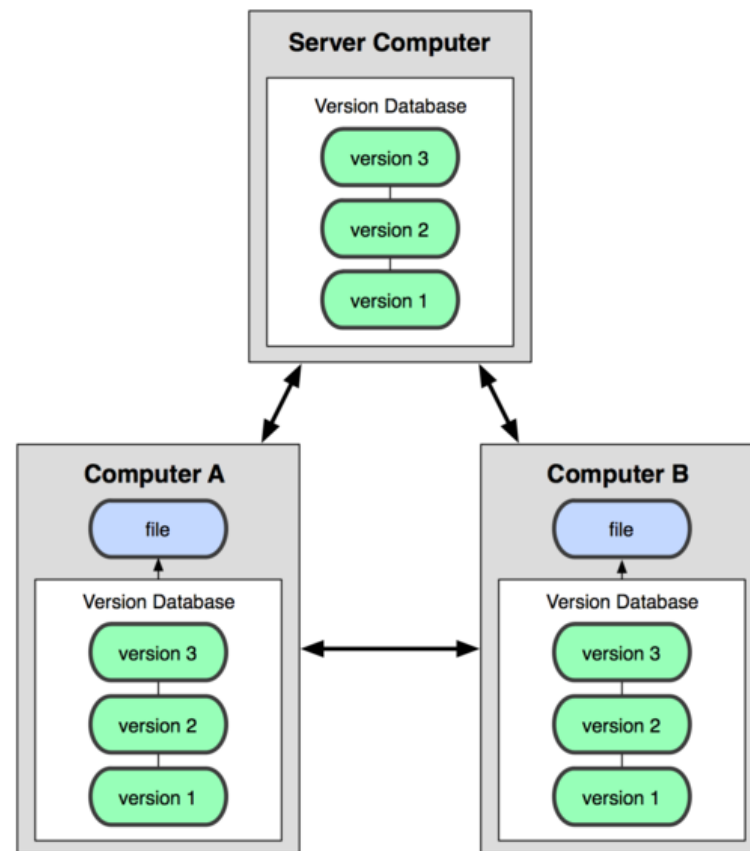


# Version Control System

# Centralized Version Control Systems



# Distributed Version Control Systems



git

# Other Collaborative Practices among Coders

# **GitHub, Forking & Pull Requests**

# Rise of GitHub

*Lord of the Files: How GitHub  
Tamed Free Software (And More)*

in *Wired* (Feb, 2012)

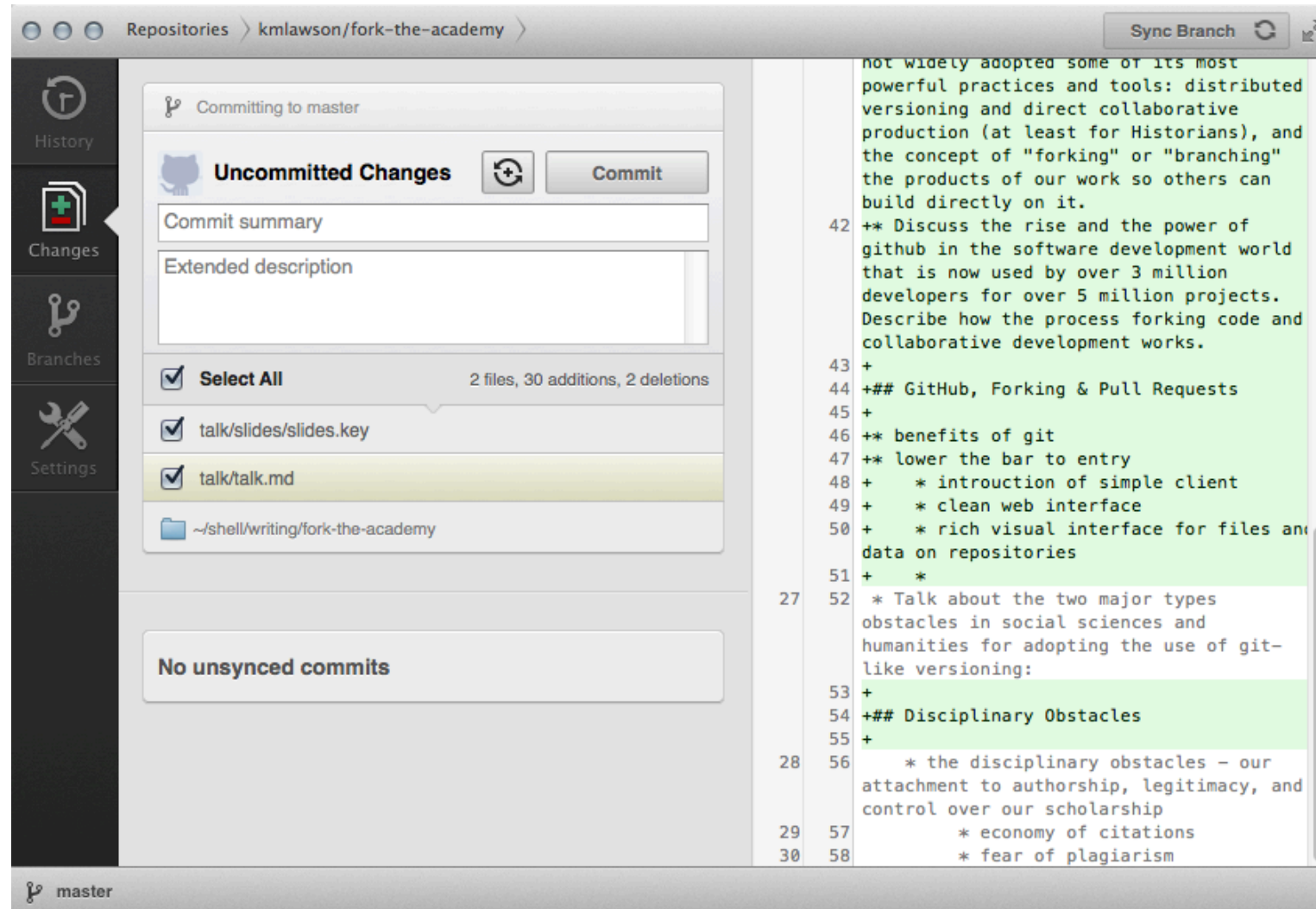
<http://www.wired.com/>

[wiredenterprise/2012/02/github/](http://www.wired.com/wiredenterprise/2012/02/github/)

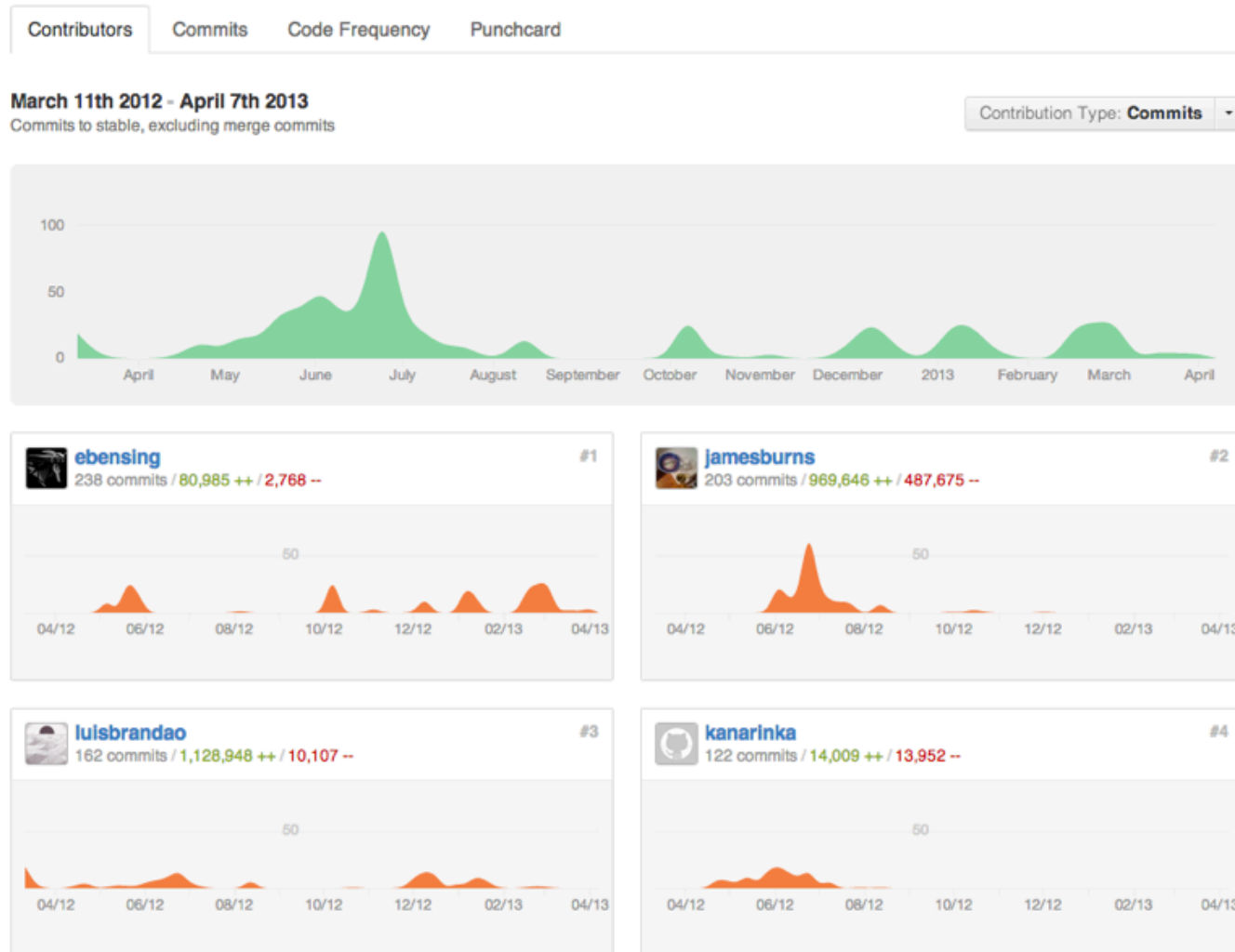
GitHub ([github.com](https://github.com)) All  
the benefits of a  
distributed version control



# Client Software



# Rich visual interface for files and repository information



# Rich visual interface for files and repository information

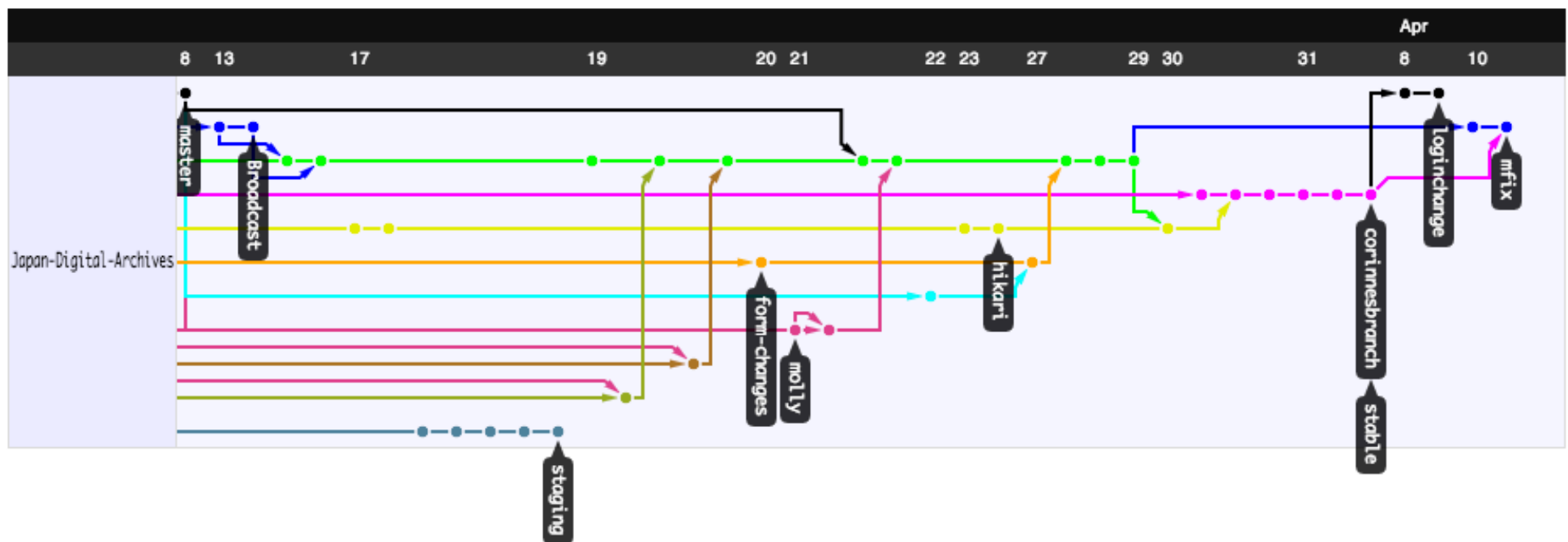
## The Japan-Digital-Archive network graph

Keyboard shortcuts available 

All branches in the network using Japan-Digital-Archives/Japan-Digital-Archive as the reference point. [Read our blog post about how it works.](#)

[Show Help](#)

Last updated: 2 minutes ago



# Rich interface for handling of “issues” - bug reports, feature requests, edits

PUBLIC Japan-Digital-Archives / Japan-Digital-Archive

Unwatch Unstar 5 Fork 1

Code Network Pull Requests 0 Issues 47 Wiki Graphs

Browse Issues Milestones Search: Issues & Milestones... New Issue

Everyone's Issues 47

Created by you 13

Mentioning you 0

No milestone selected

Labels

- bug 4
- data 1
- documentation 1
- feature request 10
- localization 3
- longterm 9
- low priority 2
- medium priority 2
- question 1
- styling 3
- API 0
- copy 0
- cross browser 0
- database 0
- feature in dev 0
- high priority 0
- requires additional info 0

47 Open 464 Closed Sort: Newest

1 2

- Map :: Map slider only goes up to February 24, 2012** #511  
Opened by nickapur 3 hours ago (updated 3 hours ago)
- User-entered tags do not save** bug #510  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 days ago (updated a day ago) 4 comments
- Logged in users not able to save new collections** bug #509  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 days ago (updated 3 hours ago) 1 comment
- Add documentation to Wiki of how to add a new item type to the application** documentation #508  
Opened by jhapins 13 days ago (updated 13 days ago)
- Testimonial data does not include titles or photos** data #504  
Opened by mollydesjardin a month ago (updated 13 days ago)
- change user profile description box to larger or arbitrary number of characters** feature request #495  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 months ago (updated 2 months ago)
- If a user makes a lot of collections, and some are not yet published, it becomes impossible to navigate to created but unpublished collections because the list runs off the page.** #494  
Opened by nickapur 2 months ago (updated 2 months ago)
- Images dragged to be cover image of collection is not saved** #492  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 months ago (updated 2 months ago)
- Zeega player: "testimonial" items display only "Text" instead of actual text of testimonial** #490  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 months ago (updated 2 months ago)
- Zeega player: slideshow does not start if collection begins with "document" or "article" item** #489  
Opened by mollydesjardin 2 months ago (updated 2 months ago)

# “Blame” - identifying authorship of any line of any file in the repository

	60	<code>Zotero.debug("JID found 1 " + jid);</code>
1807aea4 » adam3smith 2013-04-08 update JSTOR	61	<code>setupSets(allJids, host)</code>
458f5edd » mcburton 2009-01-14 cleaning up whitespace	62	<code>}</code>
9ed42169 » ajlyon 2011-01-22 Trans: Fix for DOI as JID ha...	63	<code>// Sometimes JSTOR uses DOIs as JID; here we exclude "?" characters, since</code>
f5953d81 » ajlyon 2011-02-12 Trans: Committing changes to...	64	<code>// And exclude TOC for journal issues that have their own DOI</code>
becdb63f » ajlyon 2011-09-22 Fix handling of DOIs as JIDs...	65	<code>else if ((?:pss stable)\\(10\\.d+\\/[^?]+)(?:\\.*)?/.test(url)</code>
f5953d81 » ajlyon 2011-02-12 Trans: Committing changes to...	66	<code>&amp;&amp; !doc.evaluate('//form[@id="toc"]', doc, nsResolver,</code>
	67	<code>XPathResult.FIRST_ORDERED_NODE_TYPE, null).singleNodeValue</code>
a5a15771 » simonster 2012-04-13 Fix saving some subset of it...	68	<code>Zotero.debug("URL " + url);</code>
	69	<code>jid = RegExp.\$1;</code>
	70	<code>allJids.push(jid);</code>
	71	<code>Zotero.debug("JID found 2 " + jid);</code>
1807aea4 » adam3smith 2013-04-08 update JSTOR	72	<code>setupSets(allJids, host)</code>
8da3aa88 » ajlyon 2011-01-13 Trans: Add support for DOIs ...	73	<code>}</code>
f5953d81 » ajlyon 2011-02-12 Trans: Committing changes to...	74	<code>else if ((?:pss stable)\\(\\d+\\/).test(url)</code>
	75	<code>&amp;&amp; !doc.evaluate('//form[@id="toc"]', doc, nsResolver,</code>
	76	<code>XPathResult.FIRST_ORDERED_NODE_TYPE, null).singleNodeValue</code>
a5a15771 » simonster 2012-04-13 Fix saving some subset of it...	77	<code>Zotero.debug("URL " + url);</code>
	78	<code>jid = RegExp.\$1;</code>
	79	<code>allJids.push(jid);</code>
	80	<code>Zotero.debug("JID found 3 " + jid);</code>
1807aea4 » adam3smith 2013-04-08 update JSTOR	81	<code>setupSets(allJids, host)</code>
f5953d81 » ajlyon		

# Forking

**GitHub Bootcamp** If you are still new to things, we've provided a few walkthroughs to get you started.



## Set Up Git

A quick guide to help you get started with Git.

1



## Create A Repository

Create the place where your commits will be stored.

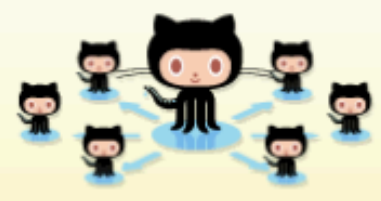
2



## Fork a Repository

Copy a repo to create a new, unique project from its contents.

3



## Be social

Follow a friend.  
Watch a project.

4

PUBLIC



**kmlawson / libZotero**

forked from fcheslack/libZotero

# Pull Requests

# Example: Syllabus for “Nineteenth-Century American Religion: A Digital History Seminar”

<https://github.com/Imullen/religion-19c-dh>

## Building

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Week 4, class 7 : Disestablishment

: *reading*: Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; correspondence between Newport synagogue and George Washington; John Leland, *The Rights of Conscience Inalienable*

Week 4, class 8 : The Second Great Awakening

: *reading*: Peter Cartwright, *Autobiography*

: *due*: revision of proposal/contract (if needed)

Week 5, class 9 : Catholic revivalism

: *reading*: Isaac T. Hecker, diary and letters; Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, letters

Week 5, class 10 : Cherokees and Moravians

: *reading*: John Howard Payne and Daniel Butrick, *Papers*; Rowena McClinton, ed., *Moravian Springplace Diary*

Week 6, class 11 : The Eliot School rebellion

: *reading*: *The Bible and Our School System*

Week 6, class 12 : Unitarianism and Transcendentalism

: *reading*: William Ellery Channing, "Christianity a Rational Religion"; Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Divinity School Address"

Week 7, class 13 : The moral establishment

: *reading*: *People v. Ruggles*; George Washington Bungay, *Temperance Anecdotes*

Week 7, class 14 : Women's religion

: *reading*: Hannah Adams, *Memoir*; Rebecca Gratz, selected letters; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *The Woman's Bible*



# **Imagining Scholarship with GitHub Approaches**

Needs Libre Open Access

Opens up Past  
Scholarship to Reuse and  
Adaptation

# Decentralize: Original Authors Retain their Copy

*But any forks live independently*

*No Canonical Text*

*No Centralized Distribution*

*Flexible “pull” or merging of differences*

# Attribution Embedded at Multiple Levels

# Direct Reuse and Adaptation as Alternative to Quotation and Citations

Scholars (I'm looking at you historians)  
can Remain Lone wolves  
if they wish

# **The Disciplinary Obstacles**



# The Economy of Citations

# The Taboo of Plagiarism

# The Cult of Originality

Fear of Transparency

# The Danger of Misuse

# The Distaste for Incompleteness

# The Technical Obstacles

Tools like git/GitHub work best with raw plain text (text markup like LaTeX and Markdown are fine)

Text is currently dominant even as scholarship is moving towards dynamic, multimedia and dynamic driven data

Lines and Files in version control systems designed for coders not academic writing

Need for more complex models of ancestry (not a single parent->fork relationship but multiple parents)

# Forking the Academy: What Scholars Can Learn About Collaboration From the Open Source World

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<https://github.com/kmlawson/fork-the-academy>

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