

# R Markdown as an Authoring Tool in Linguistics

廖永賦\*

*September 13, 2018*

## **Abstract**

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\*國立臺灣大學心理學系

## Introduction

Authoring is a common task for all scholars and students in academia, from report preparation, teaching, journal submission to book writing. Yet many people in academia aren't familiar with using specialized tools and an integrated workflow for academic writing, especially in the fields of Social science.

Academic writing takes a great deal of time. However, much of the time spent isn't related to the *content* or the *idea the author wished to convey* but the chores regarding repetitive works such as manually combining results from different analysis tools or formatting the papers to suit the requirements of the journals. A great deal of time can be saved if there exists a recommended and integrated workflow for academic writing, either as a norm or a culture that encourages this. Currently, however, workflows for academic writing are a matter of tastes for different authors and are considered as personal skills. It should be argued that a workflow be proposed in a specific field of science, especially in the fields of Social science, where students often have no formal programming training allowing them to build custom programs that facilitate an integrated workflow.

An integrated workflow for academic writing is crucial in science. An example of a common, but not integrated, workflow is illustrated below:

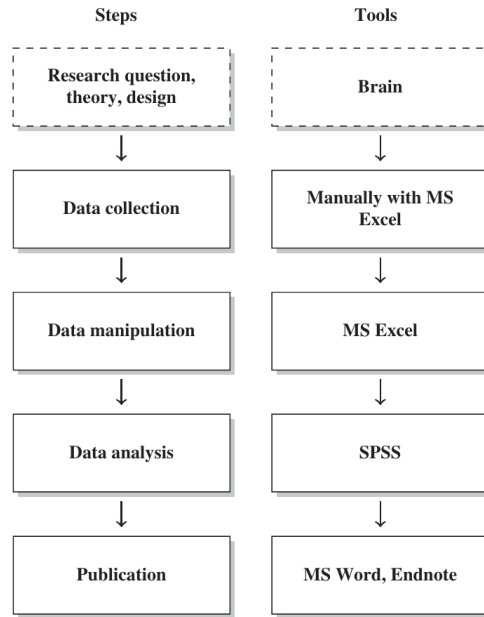


Figure 1: A common workflow (from Munzert, Rubba, Meißner, & Nyhuis, 2014, pp xviii)

One of the problem of this workflow is that authors have to manually copy-and-paste results from different sources, which is error-prone, and when errors are found, authors have to go through the process again, wasting a substantial time. An even more serious problem is that this workflow hinders the progress of science, since when errors occurred but are not found, erroneous results enter a published paper, in which subsequent researches would base on.

Facilitating an integrated workflow for academic writing is related to specific tasks a field often does. Hence, no preexisting tools exist. However, general frameworks exist and are extendable and customizable to fit in specific needs in a field. This article surveys the R Markdown ecosystem, and proposes R Markdown as an authoring tool in Linguistics.

## **R Markdown as an Authoring Tool**

### **Markdown**

## **A Proposed Workflow**

## **Discussion**

## References

Munzert, S., Rubba, C., Meißner, P., & Nyhuis, D. (2014). *Automated data collection with R: A practical guide to web scraping and text mining*. John Wiley & Sons.