opendataformat

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Introducing the opendata format package

Tired of struggling to convert open data formats into R dataframes? Look no further and welcome the opendataformat package.

With just a few lines of code, you can convert a data package specified as opendataformat into an R dataframe (read_opendf()) or convert an R dataframe into a data package specified in the opendataformat (write_opendf()).

But wait, there's more! Our package goes beyond parsing. Accessing metadata has never been easier. Dive into the treasure trove of information stored in your R dataframes. Explore dataset labels, descriptions, and valuable details about variables such as labels and value labels with the docu_opendf() function and the labels_opendf() function.

This vignette will guide you through a series of examples that demonstrate the possibilities of these functions. Let's get started!

Installation

You can install and update the package from gitlab using the install_git()-function from the devtools-library.

```
library(opendataformat)

#> Lade nötiges Paket: crayon

#> Lade nötiges Paket: magrittr

#> Lade nötiges Paket: xml2

#> Lade nötiges Paket: data.table
```

Functions in the openmetadata Package

Read the Open Data Format: read_opendf()

The opendataformat package provides example data that is specified as 'Open Data Format'. Data in the open data format is a ZIP file containing a csv-file and a xml-file. The example data contains the datacsv (data.csv) with 20 rows and 7 columns and the metadata-XML (metadata.xml). The metadata file describes the dataset and its variables. If you are interested in what these files look like, you can find an example in the Open Data Format git repository: https://git.soep.de/opendata/specification/-/tree/main/external/example To load the data, we need to specify the path to the zip-file. Here the example data is loaded using read_opendf() Alternatively, you can set file to a zip-file in the working directory.

```
path <- system.file("extdata", "data.zip", package="opendataformat")
df <- read_opendf(file = path)
#df <- read_opendf(file = "../my_data.zip")</pre>
```

The output of the read_opendf() function is an R-data.frame object, that has the additional class opendf. It has additional metadata stored in the attributes of the dataframe and the variables/columns. These include the languages of the metadata, labels, descriptions, urls, variable types, and value labels.

```
df
   bap87 bap9201 bap9001 bap9002 bap9003 bap96
                                                                name
                 -2
                                     -1
                                                2 -2.00
        4
                            1
1
                                                               Jakob
2
        3
                  5
                           <del>-</del>2
                                      1
                                                   1.57
                                                                Luca
                                      2
3
                           -1
       NA
                 -1
                                               -1
                                                   1.92
                                                              Emilia
                                      2
4
        1
                  9
                           -2
                                                4
                                                   1.85
                                                                   -1
5
       -1
                  4
                            2
                                      3
                                                1
                                                   1.91
                                                             Johanna
6
        3
                  4
                           -1
                                      4
                                               -2
                                                   1.80
                                                                Paul
7
                            2
                  9
        1
                                     -1
                                               -1
                                                    1.80
8
        5
                  6
                            1
                                     -1
                                                1
                                                    1.96
                                                                 Mia
9
        5
                  5
                            5
                                      3
                                                1
                                                    1.64
                                                                 Ben
10
       -2
                  4
                            4
                                               -2
                                                   1.93
                                                               Jakob
                                     -1
                            2
11
       -1
                  4
                                      1
                                                5
                                                    1.93
                                                               Anton
12
       -2
                  5
                            3
                                     -2
                                                4
                                                      NA Charlotte
                            2
13
        3
                 -1
                                      1
                                                2
                                                   1.74
                                                                Luca
        2
                 -2
                           -2
14
                                      4
                                                    1.65
                                               -1
                                                               Maria
15
        5
                 -1
                           -2
                                     -1
                                               -1
                                                   1.80
                                                             Johanna
16
        4
                  5
                            1
                                      3
                                               -1
                                                   1.58
                                                                Emma
17
        3
                  7
                            1
                                      2
                                               -2
                                                   1.95
                                                               Felix
        3
                            5
                                      3
18
                 NA
                                               -2
                                                   1.98
                                                               David
                            1
                                                5
19
       -2
                  8
                                      4
                                                   1.61
                                                                   -2
        2
                  8
                                                2
20
                                                    1.83
                                                               Anton
```

If you load the haven package, you see the variable labels in the active language.

```
#library(haven)
#View(df)
```

If you want to import a dataset with metadata only in one or several languages. You can use the languages-argument. To load the example data only with english labels and descriptions, set languages="en":

```
df_en <- read_opendf(file = path, languages="en")</pre>
```

By default languages="all":

```
df_en <- read_opendf(file = path, languages="all")</pre>
```

You can also give a list of languages::

```
df_en <- read_opendf(file = path, languages=c("en", "de"))</pre>
```

Explore Dataset Information: docu_opendf()

Display Medatata

You can explore dataset information using two methods. Firstly, you can browse metadata at the record level, providing an overview of the dataset. Alternatively, you have the option to examine specific variable details, allowing you to gain insights into selected data attributes.

By default, when using the docu_opendf() function, dataset-level information is presented through the console and an HTML page. If you're utilizing RStudio, this html-page will be displayed within the RStudio viewer.

```
docu_opendf(df)
```

To display the metadata only in the console, utilize the style argument with the value set to print (or console). This ensures that the information is conveniently displayed on the R console, serving our specific demonstration purposes. To display metadata information only in the viewer, set style="viewer" or style="html". By default style="both".

```
docu_opendf(df, style = "print")
#> Dataset: bap
#> Label:
#> [en]Data from individual questionnaires 2010
#> Description:
#> [en]The data were collected as part of the SOEP-Core study using the questionnaire "Living in German #> languages:
#> en de (active: en)
#> url:
#> https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap
```

To obtain a comprehensive overview of all variables within the dataset, simply set the agrument variables="yes".

```
docu_opendf(df, variables="yes", style="print")
Dataset: bap
Label:
[en]Data from individual questionnaires 2010
Description:
[en] The data were collected as part of the SOEP-Core study using the questionnaire "Living in Germany -
languages:
    en de (active: en)
url:
    https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap
Variables:
  Variable
                                   Label en
    bap87
                              Current Health
2 bap9201 hours of sleep, normal workday
3 bap9001
             Pressed For Time Last 4 Weeks
4 bap9002 Run-down, Melancholy Last 4 Weeks
5 bap9003
                 Well-balanced Last 4 Weeks
6
  bap96
                                     Height
7 name
                                   Firstname
```

If you are interested in just one specific variable, you can do this:

```
docu_opendf(df$bap9001, style = "print")
#> Variable: bap9001
#> Label:
#> [en]Pressed For Time Last 4 Weeks
#> Description:
#> [en]Frequency of feeling time pressure in the past 4 weeks
#> type:
#>
      numeric
#> url:
    https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap9001
#> Value Labels:
                 Value
#> Does not apply -2 Does not apply
#> No Answer
                    -1 No Answer
#> Always
                   1
                              Always
#> Often
                   2
                               Often
                         Sometimes
#> Sometimes
                  3 Sometimes
4 Almost Never
#> Almost Never
#> Never
                               Never
```

Display Metadata in a Specific Language

Certain datasets offer metadata such as labels, descriptions, or value labels in multiple languages. To display the metadata in all languages supported by your dataset, you can simply set the languages argument to all. This setting enables you to identify the range of languages available for accessing the relevant metadata within your dataset.

```
docu_opendf(df$bap9001, style = "print", variables="yes", languages = "all")
```

If you have a specific language of interest, you can easily display it by utilizing the corresponding language code. Simply specify the desired language code to retrieve the metadata in the language of your choice.

This enables you to access the specific language variant of variable labels, value labels. In this example, we display the German version:

```
docu_opendf(df$bap9001, style = "print", languages = "de")
#> Variable: bap9001
#> Label:
#> [de]Eile, Zeitdruck letzten 4 Wochen
#> Description:
#> [de]Häufiqkeit des Gefühls von Zeitdruck in den letzten 4 Wochen
#> type:
#>
       numeric
#> url:
      https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap9001
#> Value Labels:
#>
                   Value
#> trifft nicht zu
                      -2 trifft nicht zu
#> keine Angabe
                      -1
                          keine Angabe
#> Immer
                      1
                                   Immer
#> Oft
                      2
                                     Oft
                      3
#> Manchmal
                                Manchmal
#> Fast nie
                       4
                                Fast nie
#> Nie
                       5
                                     Nie
```

You can apply this function to the entire dataset, allowing you to access the desired information across all variables.

```
docu_opendf(df, style = "print", variables="yes", languages = "de")
```

If you prefer another display style, you can use the datasets' metadata directly from the attributes and write your own code:

```
for (i in names(df)) {
   cat(
     paste0(attributes(df[[i]])$name, ": ", attributes(df[[i]])$label_de, "\n")
   )
}
bap87: Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig
bap9201: Stunden Schlaf, normaler Werktag
bap9001: Eile, Zeitdruck letzten 4 Wochen
bap9002: Niedergeschlagen letzten 4 Wochen
bap9003: Ausgeglichen letzten 4 Wochen
bap96: Körpergröße
name: Vorname
```

You can also use the labels_opendf() function to retrieve labels and other metadata for the variables:

```
labels_opendf(df)

bap87 bap9201

"Current Health" "hours of sleep, normal workday"
bap9001 bap9002

"Pressed For Time Last 4 Weeks" "Run-down, Melancholy Last 4 Weeks"
bap9003 bap96

"Well-balanced Last 4 Weeks" "Height"
```

```
name
"Firstname"
```

or the value labels:

Set the Active Language of a Data Frame: setLanguage_opendf()

Alternatively, you can set the current (active) language for a dataset-object. (This function tries to copy the label language function from Stata.)

```
df<-setLanguage_opendf(df, language="de")
docu_opendf(df$bap9001, style = "print")</pre>
```

To display which languages are available for the dataset metadata, display the languages attribute:

```
attributes(df)$languages
#> [1] "en" "de"
attr(df, "languages")
#> [1] "en" "de"
```

Access Metadata: labels_opendf() and attributes()

Browsing through datasets' metadata provides a valuable initial overview. However, when it comes time to dive into the analysis work, questions arise regarding the storage location of the metadata and the process of accessing and utilizing it. Let's explore how and where the metadata is stored, and how we can effectively access and leverage it for analysis purposes.

A easy way to retrieve metadata is to use the labels_opendf() function to get labels and other metadata.

Retrieve the Attributes with attributes() and attr()

Another way is to retrieve metadata directly from the attributes. The metadata imported from the Open Data Format file into an R dataframe is stored as R attributes. By using the base R functions attributes() and attr(), you can easily access this metadata. When providing the entire dataset to the function, R will display all the metadata describing the dataset as a whole in your console.

```
attributes(df)

$names
[1] "bap87" "bap9201" "bap9001" "bap9002" "bap9003" "bap96" "name"

$row.names
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
```

```
$name
[1] "bap"
$description_en
[1] "The data were collected as part of the SOEP-Core study using the questionnaire \"Living in Germany
$description_de
[1] "Die Daten wurden im Rahmen der Studie SOEP-Core mittels des Fragebogens "Leben in Deutschland - Be
$label_en
[1] "Data from individual questionnaires 2010"
$label_de
[1] "Daten vom Personenfragebogen 2010"
$url
[1] "https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap"
$languages
[1] "en" "de"
$lang
[1] "en"
$label
[1] "Data from individual questionnaires 2010"
$class
[1] "data.frame" "opendf"
```

If you provide a specific variable to the function, only the corresponding metadata for that variable will be printed.

```
attributes(df$bap87)

$name
[1] "bap87"

$label_en
[1] "Current Health"

$label_de
[1] "Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig"

$description_en
[1] "Question: How would you describe your current health?"

$description_de
[1] "Frage: Wie würden Sie Ihren gegenwärtigen Gesundheitszustand beschreiben?"

$type
[1] "numeric"

$url
```

```
[1] "https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap87"
$labels_en
Does not apply
                     No Answer
                                      Very good
                                                            Good
                                                                    Satisfactory
                             -1
             <del>-</del>2
                                               1
                                                               2
                            Bad
          Poor
              4
                              5
$labels_de
  trifft nicht zu
                         keine Angabe
                                                 Sehr gut
                                                                          Gut
Zufriedenstellend
                                                 Schlecht
                          Weniger gut
                                                        5
$languages
[1] "en" "de"
$lang
[1] "en"
$label
[1] "Current Health"
```

If you're interested in a particular attribute, you can access it using the dollar sign followed by the attribute name. For instance, let's consider accessing a variable label in German (language code: de) as an example.

```
attributes(df$bap87)$label_de
[1] "Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig"
```

Alternatively, you can use the attr() function to get the same result:

```
attr(df$bap87, "label_de")
```

Moreover, you have the flexibility to copy, remove, and modify these attributes to suit your needs.

```
attributes(df$bap87)$description_de<-NULL
attributes(df$bap87)$description_de
NULL</pre>
```

Retrieve Metadata with labels_opendf()

You can also use the labels_opendf() function to retrieve labels and other metadata for the variables. By default, the function will return the variable labels for a dataset:

```
labels_opendf(df)

bap87 bap9201

"Current Health" "hours of sleep, normal workday"
bap9001 bap9002

"Pressed For Time Last 4 Weeks" "Run-down, Melancholy Last 4 Weeks"
bap9003 bap96

"Well-balanced Last 4 Weeks" "Height"
name
"Firstname"
```

or for a specific variable::

```
labels_opendf(df$bap96)
  bap96
"Height"
```

To retrieve labels in a specific language, use the language parameter:

```
labels_opendf(df, language="en")
```

Or set the active language of the dataset using the setLanguage_opendf() function:

```
df<-setLanguage_opendf(df, language="en")
labels_opendf(df)</pre>
```

You can also use the labels_opendf() function to retrieve value labels for a specific variable by setting the argument valuelabels=TRUE:

Alternatively, you can set the argument retrieve="valuelabels":

```
labels_opendf(df$bap9001, retrieve="valuelabels")
```

The value labels for each value are stored in the namespace:

```
names(labels_opendf(df$bap9001, valuelabels=T))
[1] "Does not apply" "No Answer" "Always" "Often"
[5] "Sometimes" "Almost Never" "Never"
```

You can use the labels_opendf() function to return descriptions, urls, variable types and metadata languages as well:

To retrieve variable description(s), set the argument retrieve="description":

```
labels_opendf(df, retrieve="description")

bap87

"Question: How would you describe your current health?"

bap9201

"Sleep hours per weekday"

bap9001

"Frequency of feeling time pressure in the past 4 weeks"

bap9002

"Frequency of feeling a sad and depressed state"

bap9003

"Frequency of feeling balance"

bap96

"Body size"

name

"Firstname"
```

To retrieve variable url(s), set the argument retrieve="url":

```
labels_opendf(df, retrieve="url")
```

To retrieve variable type(s), set the argument retrieve="type":

```
labels_opendf(df, retrieve="type")
```

Export to the Open Data Format: write_opendf()

To save a dataset as opendf-file, we can use the write_opendf() function. Let's assume we want to save the first four columns of our dataset as a new opendf-file. We use the write_opendf() function and indicate the r-dataframe and the file name (and location if it).

```
write_opendf(
    x = df[,1:4],
    file = "../df_1_4.zip"
)

#or :
df_14<-df[,1:4]
write_opendf(
    x = df[,1:4],
    file = "df_1_4.zip"
)</pre>
```

The XML file metadata.xml and the CSV file data.csv are saved within the directory 'data_rec', as well as within the ZIP file 'data_rec.zip. The dataset looks the same as before, just with fewer variables:

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?>
<codeBook xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:schemaLocation="ddi:codebook:2_5 ht</pre>
    <fileDscr>
        <fileTxt>
            <fileName>bap</fileName>
            <fileCont xml:lang="en">The data were collected as part of the SOEP-Core study using the qu
            <fileCont xml:lang="de">Die Daten wurden im Rahmen der Studie SOEP-Core mittels des Fragebo
            <fileCitation>
                <titlStmt>
                    <titl xml:lang="en">Data from individual questionnaires 2010</titl>
                    <titl xml:lang="de">Daten vom Personenfragebogen 2010</titl>
                </titlStmt>
            </fileCitation>
        </fileTxt>
        <notes>
            <ExtLink URI="https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap" />
        </notes>
    </fileDscr>
    <dataDscr>
        <var name="bap87">
            <labl xml:lang="en">Current Health</labl>
            <labl xml:lang="de">Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig</labl>
            <txt xml:lang="en">Question: How would you describe your current health?</txt>
```

```
<txt xml:lang="de">Frage: Wie würden Sie Ihren gegenwärtigen Gesundheitszustand beschreiben
<notes>
    <ExtLink URI="https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap87" />
</notes>
<varFormat type="numeric" />
<catgry>
    <catValu>-2</catValu>
    <labl xml:lang="en">Does not apply</labl>
    <labl xml:lang="de">trifft nicht zu</labl>
</catgry>
<catgry>
    <catValu>-1</catValu>
    <labl xml:lang="en">No Answer</labl>
    <labl xml:lang="de">keine Angabe</labl>
</catgry>
<catgry>
    <catValu>1</catValu>
    <labl xml:lang="en">Very good</labl>
    <labl xml:lang="de">Sehr gut</labl>
```

The data.csv file now includes just four columns:

```
"bap87", "bap9201", "bap9001", "bap9002"
4,-2,1,-1
3,5,-2,1
,-1,-1,2
1,9,-2,2
-1,4,2,3
3,4,-1,4
1,9,2,-1
...
```

If you wish to export only the metadata for documentation or archiving purposes, you can achieve this by setting the argument export_data="no". By doing so, the resulting directory or zip file will solely contain the metadata XML file, excluding the data CSV file. This allows you to specifically capture and preserve the metadata without including the actual data, providing a solution for documentation or archiving needs.

```
write_opendf(
  x=df,
  file = "../df_metadata.zip",
  export_data = FALSE
)
```

If you wish to export the dataset with the metadata only in one or some languages, set the languages argument to languages=c("en"). Default: languages="all"

```
write_opendf(
  x=df,
  file = "../df_en.zip",
  languages = "en"
)
```

By default, languages is set tolanguages="all". You can also define a list of languages to be exported:

```
write_opendf(
  x=df,
  file = "../df_en_de.zip",
  languages = c("en","de")
)
```

Let's Analyse and Make Use of the Metadata

Now let's see how we can use the metadata to better understand the data and make more informative plots.

Frequency Table

Zufriedenstellend

As expected, the frequency table displays the occurrence count of each variable value. Now, let's enhance the convenience of the frequency table by utilizing the value labels associated with the variables. To access the value labels, as explained in the preceding section, you can utilize the base R function attributes(). Let's proceed to examine them now:

```
attributes(df$bap87)$labels_en

Does not apply No Answer Very good Good Satisfactory

-2 -1 1 2 3

Poor Bad
4 5

attributes(df$bap87)$labels_de
trifft nicht zu keine Angabe Sehr gut Gut
```

Schlecht

Alternatively you can use the labels_opendf()-function to get the value labels:

Weniger gut

```
table(
  factor(
    df$bap87, labels = names(labels_opendf(df$bap87, valuelabels=T))
    )
)
```

To display the data in a language other than the default one, let's try German by appending the respective language code to the attribute name. For example, you can use \$labels_de to access the German language labels and present the information accordingly.

Or using labels $_$ opendf()-function:

Recoding a Variable

We want to display the table with only valid answers. Therefore, we set the values -2 and -1 to NA. Because we do not want to overwrite the original variable, we generate a new one:

```
bap87_rec <- df$bap87</pre>
```

We check the attributes of the metadata and notice they are also copied from the original variable to the new one:

```
attributes(bap87_rec)

$name
[1] "bap87"

$label_en
```

```
[1] "Current Health"
$label_de
[1] "Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig"
$description_en
[1] "Question: How would you describe your current health?"
$type
[1] "numeric"
[1] "https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap87"
$labels_en
Does not apply
                    No Answer
                                    Very good
                                                         Good
                                                                Satisfactory
                           -1
                                            1
                          Bad
          Poor
                             5
$labels_de
 trifft nicht zu
                       keine Angabe
                                              Sehr gut
                                                                      Gut
                                                                        2
Zufriedenstellend
                                              Schlecht
                        Weniger gut
                                                     5
$languages
[1] "en" "de"
$lang
[1] "en"
$label
[1] "Current Health"
```

Now we can set the negative values to NA:

We notice that the copied values and value labels do not fit anymore:

```
attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en

Does not apply No Answer Very good Good Satisfactory

-2 -1 1 2 3
```

```
Poor Bad
4 5
```

To change that, we'll copy positions 3 to 7, retaining the desired range of values and their respective value labels.

```
attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en <- unname(attributes(df$bap87)$labels_en)[3:7] # values
names(attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en) <- names(attributes(df$bap87)$labels_en)[3:7] # labels
attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en

Very good Good Satisfactory Poor Bad

1 2 3 4 5
```

Do the same for the other language versions of the new recoded variable:

```
attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_de <- unname(attributes(df$bap87)$labels_de)[3:7] # values
names(attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_de) <- names(attributes(df$bap87)$labels_de)[3:7] # labels
```

We do also notice that the variable name is not adequate. We replace the name copied from the original variable with the new name bap87_rec.

```
attributes(bap87_rec)$name <- "bap87_rec"
attributes(bap87_rec)$name
[1] "bap87_rec"</pre>
```

Now we generate the frequency table by using the variable as a factor variable.

```
table(
  factor(
    bap87_rec,
    labels=names(attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en)
  )
)

Very good    Good Satisfactory    Poor    Bad
    2     2     5     2     3
```

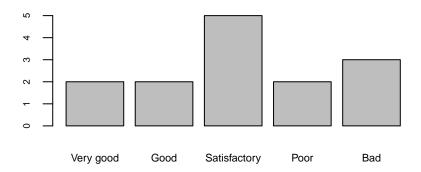
Barplot

To create a barplot, we will utilize the recoded variable from the previous section. This example will demonstrate how to leverage metadata to create a more convenient and informative graph. By incorporating the metadata into the visualization, we can enhance the graph's interpretability and provide a clearer understanding of the data.

```
barplot(
  table(
  factor(
    bap87_rec,
       labels=names(attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_en)
  )
),
```

```
main = attributes(bap87_rec)$description_en, # title
xlab = paste0(
   attributes(bap87_rec)$name,": ", attributes(bap87_rec)$label), # label
sub = attributes(bap87_rec)$url, # subtitle
cex.main = 0.9, cex.names = 0.7, cex.sub = 0.8, cex.axis = 0.6, cex.lab = 0.7 # font sizes
)
```

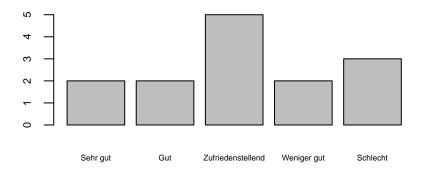
Question: How would you describe your current health?



bap87_rec: Current Health
https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap87

Drawing a barplot with the German description becomes effortless when dealing with dates that have multiple language versions of labels and descriptions. Simply append the language code to the end of the label attributes, and you'll be able to generate the desired barplot with the German description:

```
barplot(
  table(
  factor(
    bap87_rec,
       labels=names(attributes(bap87_rec)$labels_de)
   )
),
main = attributes(bap87_rec)$description_de, # title
  xlab = paste0(
    attributes(bap87_rec)$name,": ", attributes(bap87_rec)$label_de), # label
  sub = attributes(bap87_rec)$url, # subtitle
  cex.main = 0.7, cex.names = 0.5, cex.sub = 0.8, cex.axis = 0.7, cex.lab = 0.7 # font sizes
)
```



bap87_rec: Gesundheitszustand gegenwärtig https://paneldata.org/soep-core/data/bap/bap87