

Summary by Richard Aude about markdown

Lisa, Julia and me had a presentation about markdown on May 30, 2018, in the 9¹⁵ seminar. Additionally, each of us three produced a 4-page markdown document, as our task demanded. You will find our slides in the document called 'slides_Markdown.pdf'. Our formatted markdown documents are named after our full names, so that you can easily distinguish our pieces of work.

I am now going to summarise my part of our seminar paper:

Regarding the presentation, my part was to talk about the history and motivation of markdown, and to provide some examples of the usage of markdown in modern media. There I strongly emphasised my presentation on the persons who invented markdown, because I thought the best way to explain the character of markdown was e.g. to go via the blogposts of John Gruber. And to mention Aaron Swartz was a good way to make people more interested in this, because he was a very diverse figure and has done some impressive things, like inventing the markdown syntax and getting involved in politics, Creative Commons, etc.

To choose Github as an example of the usage of markdown was rather obvious, but the point is, that it actually *is* the most prominent example. I found it important to mention that the dpa wanted to use markdown as well (to show that even media which were there before the digital age use markdown), but the sources on this information were not that good, so this might be an unnecessary thing to say, because it is unclear if they actually did it.

I chose Reddit and StackOverflow as further examples, just because I thought these were the platforms, most of the people would know, that implement markdown.

Now let's get to my markdown formatted text:

There I basically wanted to use as many features of markdown as possible. I wrote in bold and italic letters, embedded pictures and links, used bullet point lists and indented bullet point lists, different sized headers, made a quote ("Ten things you can do with aluminium foil"), included a python code block, and I even had to use the escape sign \ when writing 'AT&T', because otherwise the amp; would just vanish, which would contradict the point I was trying to make there.

The idea of including my code came to my mind later on, after I wrote about my ideas for potential digital humanities projects, so I got five pages instead of four, but I think that's okay. But anyway, the purpose of markdown isn't to write in a format which counts pages, after all.