

commit -ment issues with Git: investigating & archiving y'all's work

Sarah Nguyen, Vicky Steeves (Presenting)
& Genevieve Milliken

csv,conf,v5 | 2020.05.14



Slides: osf.io/uftkn

#IASGE

About IASGE (ice-age)



Who are we?

New York University, Division of Libraries!

In addition to the core team (below), this project wouldn't be possible without the time and efforts of colleagues in [Digital Library Technology Services](#)



Vicky Steeves
Project Lead



Genevieve Milliken
Research Scientist



Sarah Nguyen
Research Scientist

Project overview

An Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded project, IASGE (pronounced *ice-age*) has two main streams of work:

- 1) Study how academics/folks in academia are using Git and Git hosting platforms and how these tools could be better aligned with their needs
- 2) Evaluate the extent to which the scholarship on Git hosting platforms is being preserved by professionals, and write an archival spec

The results of this project aim to inform the way code and annotations on Git hosting platforms move from a phase where they are highly active and collaborative, to a state where they are stable, permanently citable, and under **active, professional preservation**.

What is Git?



- Git is a revision control system, a program to manage your source code history
- It is strictly a command-line tool
- Revision control systems let us compare, restore, and merge changes to our [plain-text] stuff

This is hugely important for collaboration and transparency!

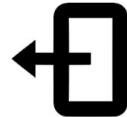
In case of fire



1. `git commit`



2. `git push`



3. `leave building`

What are “Git Hosting Platforms”

Literally, places that host git repositories on the web

They are NOT the same as Git, but rather are places where you can upload Git repositories with some additional features

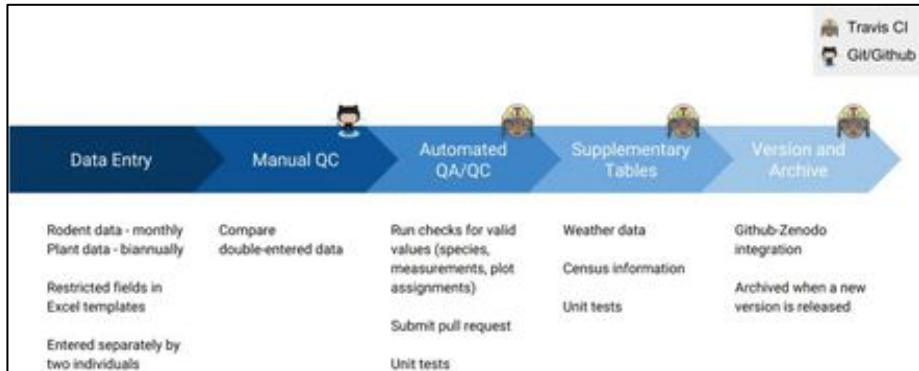
The most popular include:

1. GitHub
2. GitLab
3. Bitbucket
4. Sourceforge

Name ↕	Manager ↕	Established ↕	Server side: all free software ↕	Client side: all-free JS code ↕
Assembla	Assembla, Inc	2005	No	Unknown
Azure DevOps Services	Microsoft	2012 ^[11]	No	No
Bitbucket	Atlassian	2008	No	No
Buddy	Buddy, LLC.	2015	No	No
CloudForge	CollabNet	2012	No	Unknown
Gitea	Gitea organization (open source community) ^[4]	2016	Yes	Yes
GForge	The GForge Group, Inc. ^[5]	2006	Partial	Yes
GitHub	GitHub, Inc	2008-04	No	No
GitLab	GitLab Inc.	2011-09 ^[6]	Partial ^[7]	Yes ^[8]
GNU Savannah	Savannah Administration	2001-01	Yes	Yes
Helix TeamHub	Perforce Software	1995	No	No
Launchpad	Canonical	2004	Yes	No
OSDN	OSDN K.K. (O11237954)	2002-04	Unknown	Yes
Ourproject.org	Comunes Collective	2002	Yes	Yes
OW2 Consortium	OW2 Consortium	Unknown	Unknown	No
Phabricator	Phacility, Inc	2010	Yes	Yes
Rosetta Code	Unknown	2007	Unknown	Unknown
SEUL	Unknown	1997-05	Unknown	No
SourceForge	BizX LLC	1999-11	Yes ^{[14][15]}	Yes

Examples of “scholarly Git” usage

1. Publishing code and data as supplementary materials
2. Quality assurance workflows for data analysis
3. Journal infrastructure with peer review



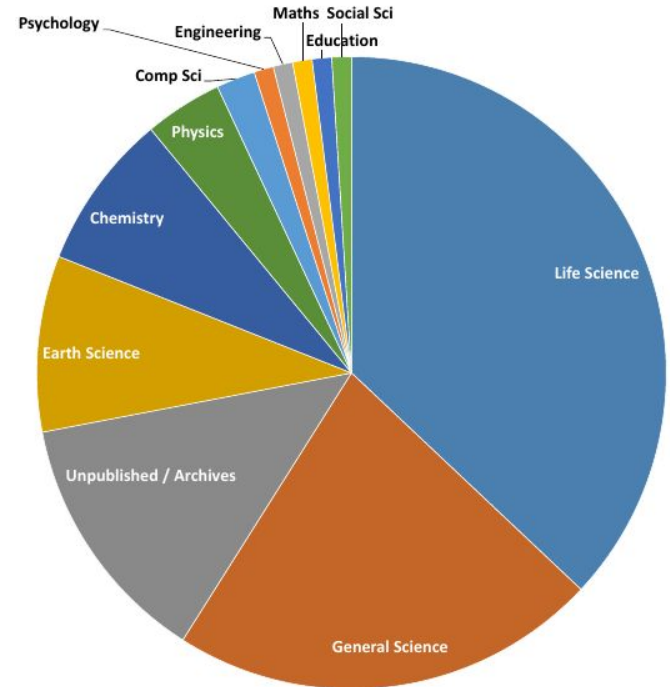
The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'openjournals / joss-reviews'. Key elements include:

- Repository name: openjournals / joss-reviews
- Actions: Sponsor, Watch (69), Star (226), Fork (13)
- Navigation: Code, Issues (113), Pull requests (0), Projects (0), Security, Insights
- Repository description: Reviews for the Journal of Open Source Software
- Stats: 11 commits, 1 branch, 0 packages, 0 releases, 2 contributors, CC0-1.0
- Branch: master (New pull request)
- Files list:
 - arlon Update FUNDING.yml (Latest commit 4bc0a99 6 days ago)
 - .github Update FUNDING.yml (6 days ago)
 - LICENSE Initial commit (4 years ago)
 - README.md CoC (3 years ago)
 - issue_template.md Improved issue template to stop issues here (5 months ago)
- Warning: Please don't submit bug reports for JOSS here. Instead please submit them to the JOSS repo
- Repository name: Reviews for the Journal of Open Source Software

Estimated scope of scholarship in GHPs

“Over 5,000 Github software repositories have been identified as research software according to the criteria explained previously: either a research publication referenced the software repository, or the software repository referenced a research publication.”

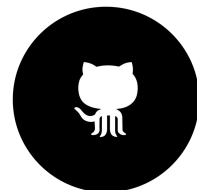
-- Hasselbring, Wilhelm, et al. “FAIR and Open Computer Science Research Software.” ArXiv:1908.05986 [Cs], Aug. 2019. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1908.05986>.



Research areas of publications cited from Github repositories from arXiv: [1909.05986](https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.05986)

What's the problem we want to solve

- Researchers use a variety of scholarly tools on the web during the research process, which includes designing, developing, and refining (through versioning) source code
- This source code is contextualized by the “scholarly ephemera” associated with it (e.g. issue disc.)
- No project currently captures both source code and scholarly ephemera





in the room: GitHub's Archiving Program

There are a lot of open questions about GitHub's Archive Program which are probably shared by people in this room

The fact remains that none of the partners or solutions here capture the ephemera + source code reliably together, which we posit as important for usability in the long-term

Also, read DSHR's takedown:

blog.dshr.org/2019/11/seeds-or-code.html

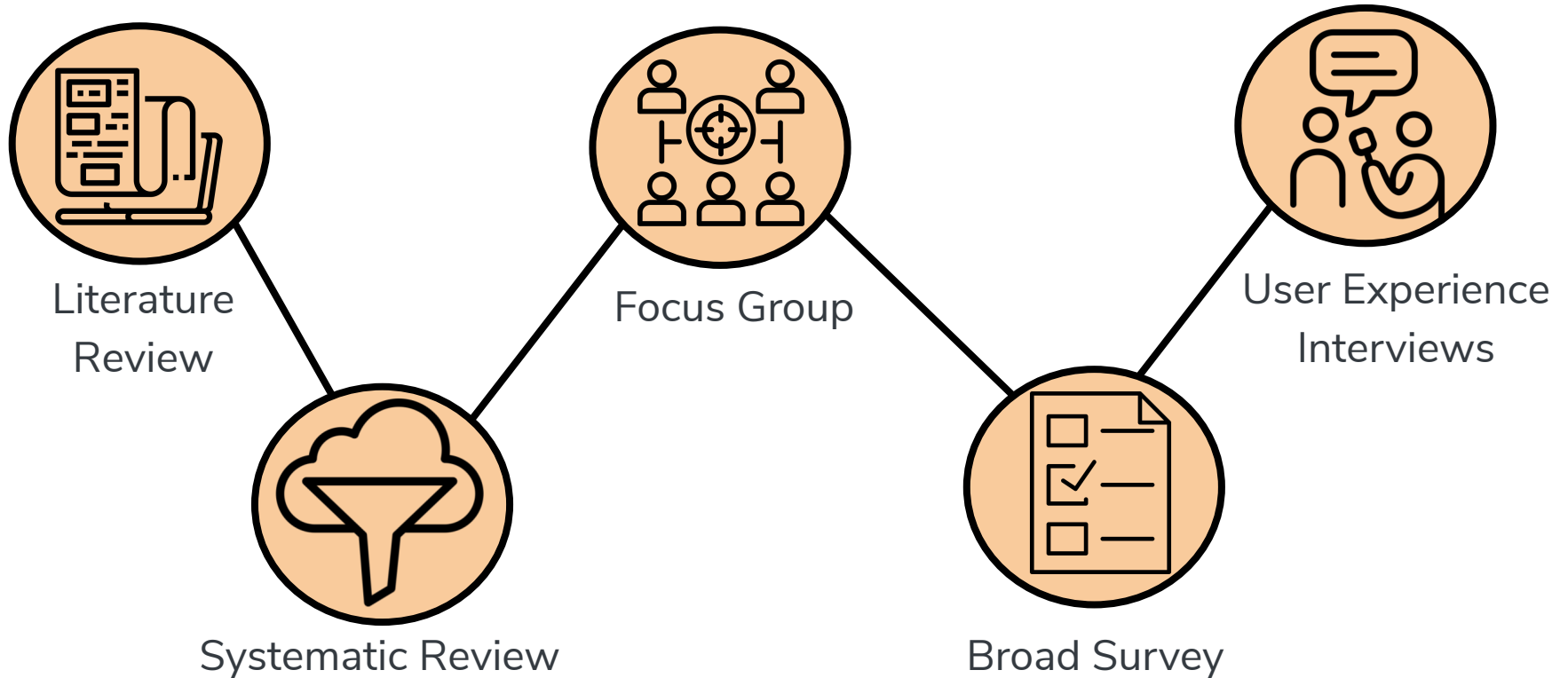
Hot: Near real-time Warm: Updated monthly to yearly Cold: Updated every 5+ years

- GIT HUB**
On every push to GitHub, we replicate your Git data to multiple datacenters around the world. Additionally, we store backups of Git data, Issues, Pull Requests, and all of your data on GitHub in multiple locations. All of this data is available live via the GitHub API.
- GHTORRENT**
GHTorrent monitors the GitHub public event timeline, archives those events, and recursively crawls and archives their contents and dependencies. Those archives are made available for download on a daily or monthly basis.
- GH ARCHIVE**
GH Archive monitors the GitHub public event timeline, archives those events, and makes them queryable using BigQuery. You can also download snapshots by hour, day, or month.
- INTERNET ARCHIVE**
The Internet Archive's well-known Wayback Machine will crawl GitHub's public repositories—including new repositories, issues, pull requests, wikis, and more—and store copies on hard drives in San Francisco and other locations. These archives will be publicly available via git and https.
- SOFTWARE HERITAGE FOUNDATION**
The Software Heritage Foundation will crawl GitHub on a regular basis and add its public repos to their archive, to which they provide public API access.
- BODLEIAN LIBRARY**
Oxford University's Bodleian Library will provide redundancy for the Arctic Code Vault by keeping GitHub's 10,000 most-starred and most-depended-upon repositories in their depository as duplicate Piq film reels.
- ARCTIC WORLD ARCHIVE**
On February 2, 2020, GitHub will capture a snapshot of every active public repository, to be preserved in the GitHub Arctic Code Vault. This data will be stored on 3,500-foot film reels, provided and encoded by Piq, a Norwegian company that specializes in very-long-term data storage. The film technology relies on silver halides on polyester. This medium has a lifespan of 500 years as measured by the ISO; simulated aging tests indicate Piq's film will last twice as long.
- PROJECT SILICA FROM MICROSOFT RESEARCH**
The GitHub Archive Program is partnering with Microsoft's Project Silica to ultimately archive all active public repositories for over 10,000 years, by writing them into quartz glass platters using a femtosecond laser.

Gap Analysis to Understand Scholars Using Git



Researching the Scholarly Git Experience



Research Questions

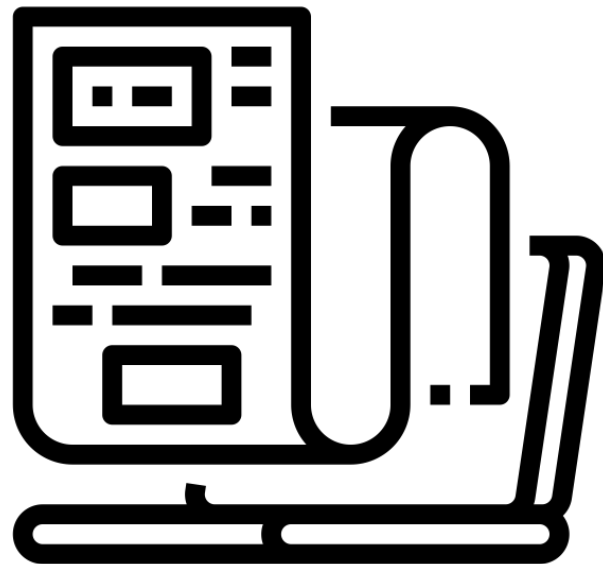
How are scholars currently using this toolkit of Git + GHPs?

How can features in Git + GHPs serve scholarship?

How can we improve teaching Git for minimal users?

Follow our IASGE blog for updates

investigating-archiving-git.gitlab.io/updates/



Examples of scholarly Git* usage

Git Experiences	Related GHP Feature	Related Git Commands
Version control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Commit logs- Branches	<pre>git log git diff</pre>
Community & collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Issue Tracker- Pull requests	<pre>git add <files> git commit -m "[message]" git push</pre>
Method tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- README- Wiki- Posts- Commit logs	<pre>git commit logs</pre>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- README- Wiki- Issue Tracker- Pull requests	<pre>open-issues close-issues list-issues check-review</pre>
Data processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuous integration	(various)
Reproducibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- README- Continuous integration	<pre>git clone git pull</pre>
Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pages services- README	(various)




DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2019-0020>

A graduate student perspective on overcoming barriers to interacting with open-source software

Published Online: 7 May 2020 | Views: 858

Oihane Cereceda , Danielle E.A. Quinn 

 PDF  Citation (RIS)  Citation (BibTeX)

Abstract

Computational methods, coding, and software are important tools for conducting research. In both academic and industry data analytics, open-source software (OSS) has gained massive popularity. Collaborative source



Perspective

Integrative Sciences

Science and Society

Science Education

open-source software

graduate students

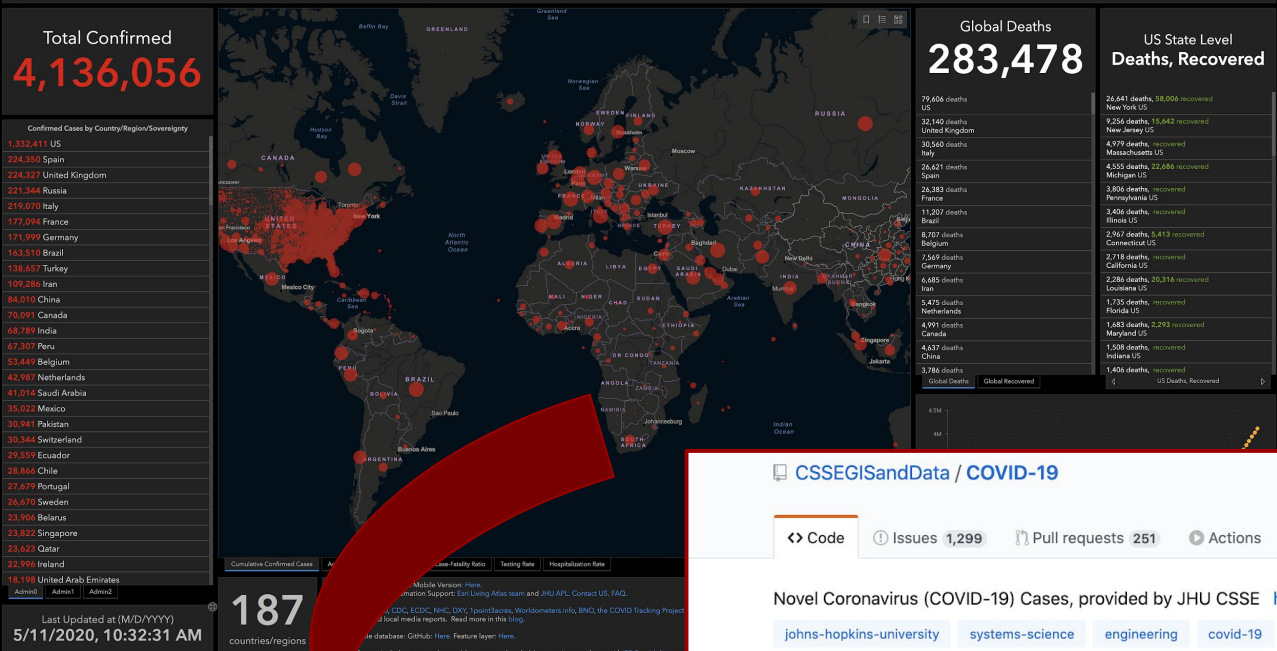
computational research

academic culture

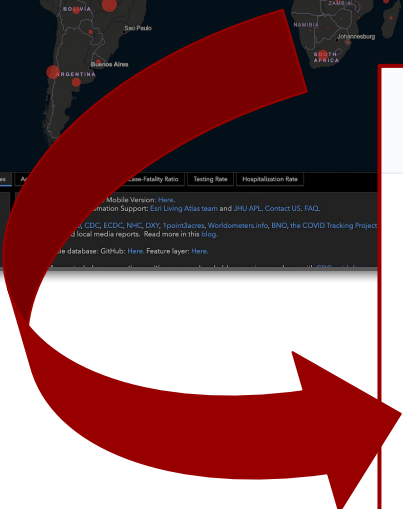
Abstract

Introduction

Barriers to learning computational skills



Many academic institutions are using GitHub to share COVID-19 Data



CSSEGI SandData / COVID-19 Watch 938 Star 22k Fork 12.9k

Code Issues 1,299 Pull requests 251 Actions Projects 0 Wiki Security 0 Insights

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases, provided by JHU CSSE <https://systems.jhu.edu/research/publ...>

johns-hopkins-university systems-science engineering covid-19 2019-ncov coronavirus csse jhu

804 commits 3 branches 0 packages 0 releases 5 contributors

Branch: master New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download

CSSEGI SandData Update Spain 01/05/20	Latest commit 5184bec 39 minutes ago
archived_data	archived_0325 2 months ago
csse_covid_19_data	Update Spain 01/05/20 39 minutes ago
who_covid_19_situation_reports	Add files via upload 17 days ago
.gitignore	update 3 months ago
README.md	Add more sources 3 days ago

Johns Hopkins University's Center for Systems Science & Engineering

Academic institutions are using GitHub to share COVID-19 models

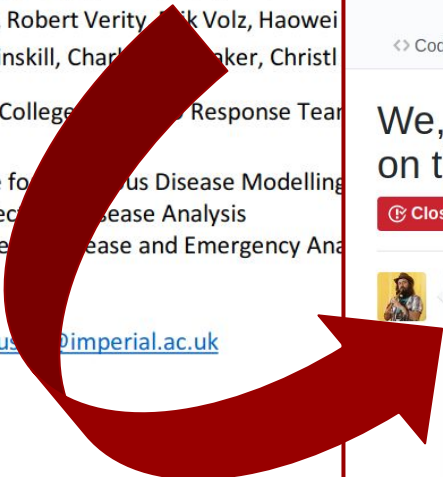
Report 9: Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand

Neil M Ferguson, Daniel Laydon, Gemma Nedjati-Gilani, Natsuko Imai, Kylie Ainslie, Marc Baguelin, Sangeeta Bhatia, Adhiratha Boonyasiri, Zulma Cucunubá, G Dorigatti, Han Fu, Katy Gaythorpe, Will Green, Arran Hamer, Elsie Isom, Hayley Thompson, Robert Verity, Mark Volz, Haowei Wu, Caroline Walters, Peter Winskill, Charles Young, and Christopher J Linton

On behalf of the Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team
WHO Collaborating Centre for Coronavirus Disease Modelling
MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis
Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics
Imperial College London

Correspondence: neil.ferguson@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College of London's
MRC Centre for Global Infectious
Disease Analysis (MRC GIDA)



mrc-ide / covid-sim

Watch 75 Star 823 Fork 163

Code Issues 29 Pull requests 8 Actions Security 0 Insights

We, the undersigned software engineers, call for any papers based on this codebase to be immediately retracted. #165

Closed jMyles opened this issue 5 days ago · 43 comments

jMyles commented 5 days ago · edited

The tests in this project, being limited to broad, "smoke test"-style assertions, do not support an assurance that the equations are being executed faithfully in discrete units of logic, nor that they are integrated into the application in such a way that the accepted practices of epidemiology are being modeled in accordance with the standards of that profession.

Billions of lives have been disrupted worldwide on the basis that the study produced by the logic contained in this codebase is accurate, and since there are no tests to show that, the findings of this study (and any others based on this codebase) are not a sound basis for public policy at this time.

I want to be clear that this Issue is not meant to denigrate the authors of this code - we've all written code that isn't our best work and code that is untested. But when a codebase is used to craft scholarly publications that are in turn used to influence public policy, the authors of those publications (and ultimately policy) need to ensure that the science is verifiable in a public sense. The lack of tests makes that an impossibility. So closure of this Issue, by retraction of studies based on it, is meant as a critique of the publication and policy authors, not the contributors to this repo.

Assignees: No one assigned

Labels: None yet

Projects: None yet

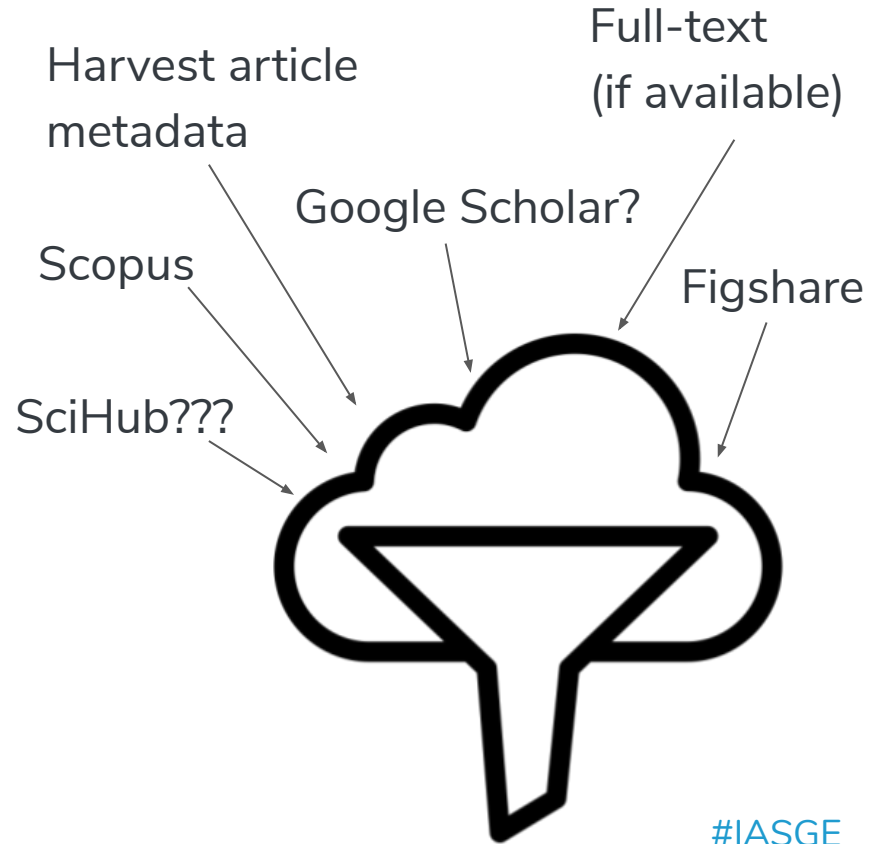
Milestone: No milestone

Linked pull requests

Part I: Systematic Review (Quant)

An approach to understand the landscape of published scholarly articles that reference Git repositories.

“All our source code is available on [GitLab], to allow community to reproduce our results, from the training of the networks, until the statistical analyses.” (Perez, 2019)

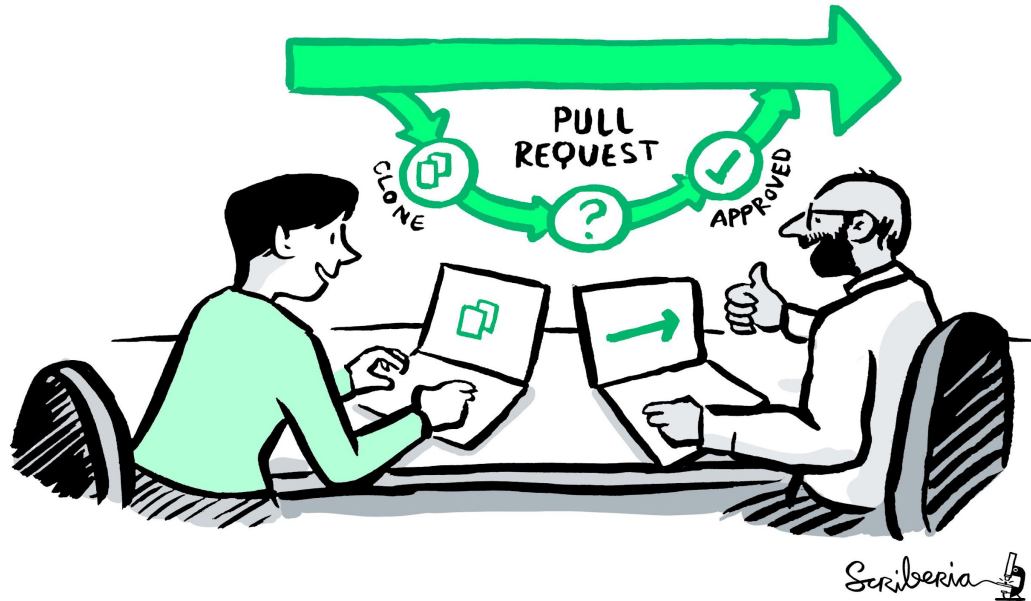


Part II: Focus Group (Qual)

... teachers were surprised by how overwhelming the student enthusiasm is for adopting VCS, [but] they also discovered that they lacked understanding about the system or having confidence in their ability to use it effectively beyond the course.

The screenshot shows the NYU Libraries website for an event titled "Introduction to Git and GitHub". The page features a purple header with the NYU Libraries logo and navigation links. The event details are listed in a light green box: Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020; Time: 3:00pm - 4:30pm; Location: Dibner Library, LC 433; Campus: Bern Dibner Library; Categories: Data Services classes. A light blue box indicates that registrations open at 3:00pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. A text box at the bottom provides a description of the workshop, stating it covers basic Git and GitHub concepts and workflows. On the right side, there is an "Event Organizer" section with the NYU Data Services logo and the text "NYU LIBRARIES & IT" and "NYU Data Services". A circular diagram on the left side of the event details shows the "DATA MANAGEMENT" cycle with arrows labeled "create", "share", "archive", and "distribute".

—Glasse, R. (2019). Adopting Git/Github Within Teaching: A Survey of Tool Support. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Global Computing Education*, 143–149. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3300115.3309518>




Kirstie Whitaker @kirstie_j · 2h

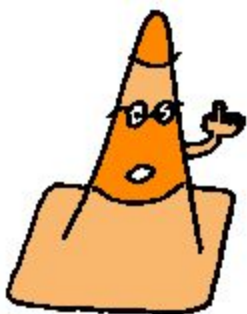
I've done this a few times in the last month and it really makes me happy. A GitHub pull request is truly one of the biggest barriers to more folks working collaboratively online. We have these great tools, but we don't teach them often or compassionately enough.



Part II: Survey (Quant)

 Target population:
Scholars who use Git across all disciplines & statuses

 Goal:
To gather a wide-ranging & comparable census



Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3a00ykQ

****Closes June 22nd****

Themes

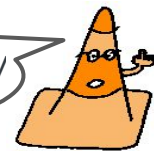
- Learning Git
- Teaching Others
- Daily Use
- Features on hosting platforms
- Scholarship
- Follow-up



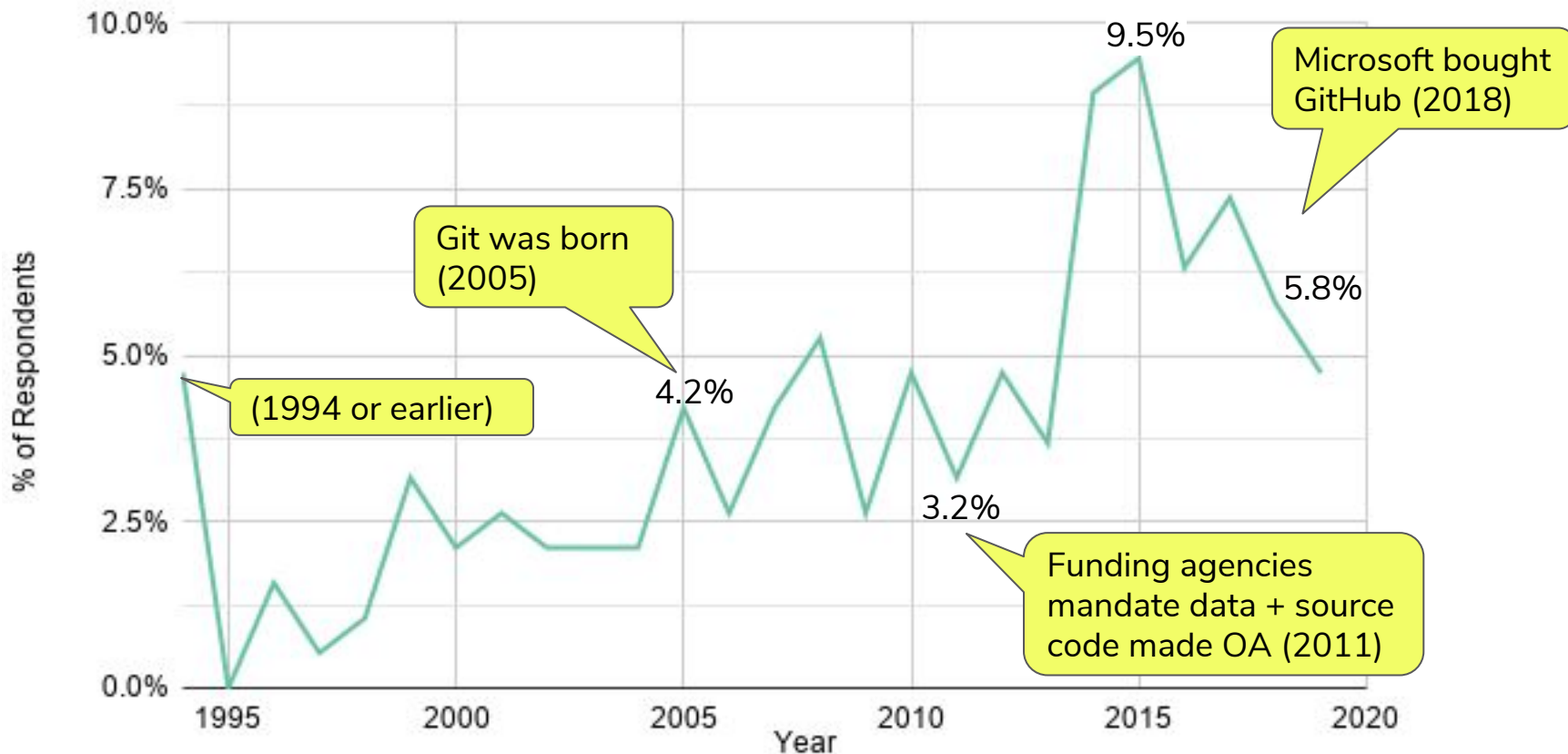
Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely

bit.ly/3a00ykQ



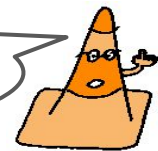
Q: When did you first start using a version control system?



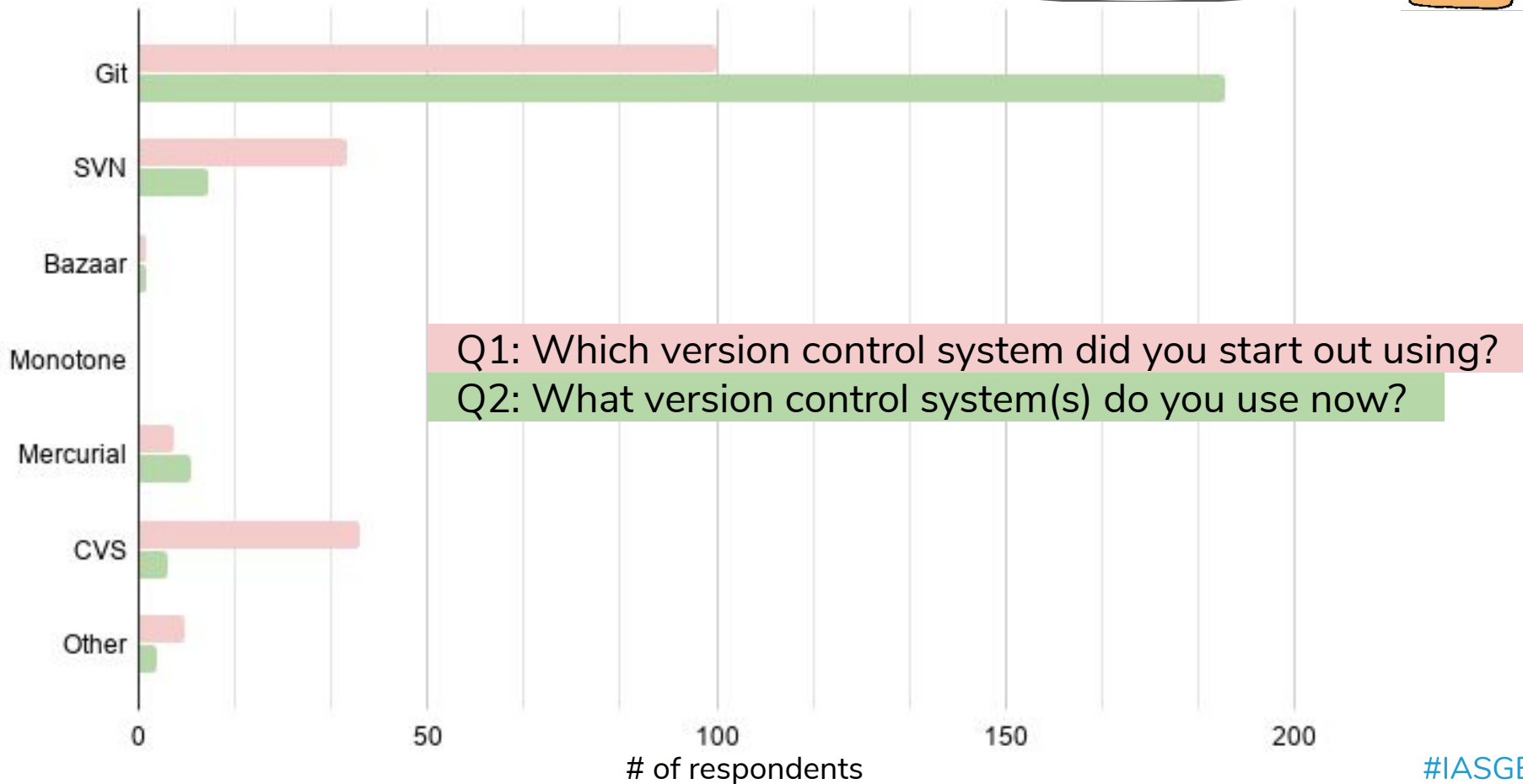
Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3a00ykQ



Version control system



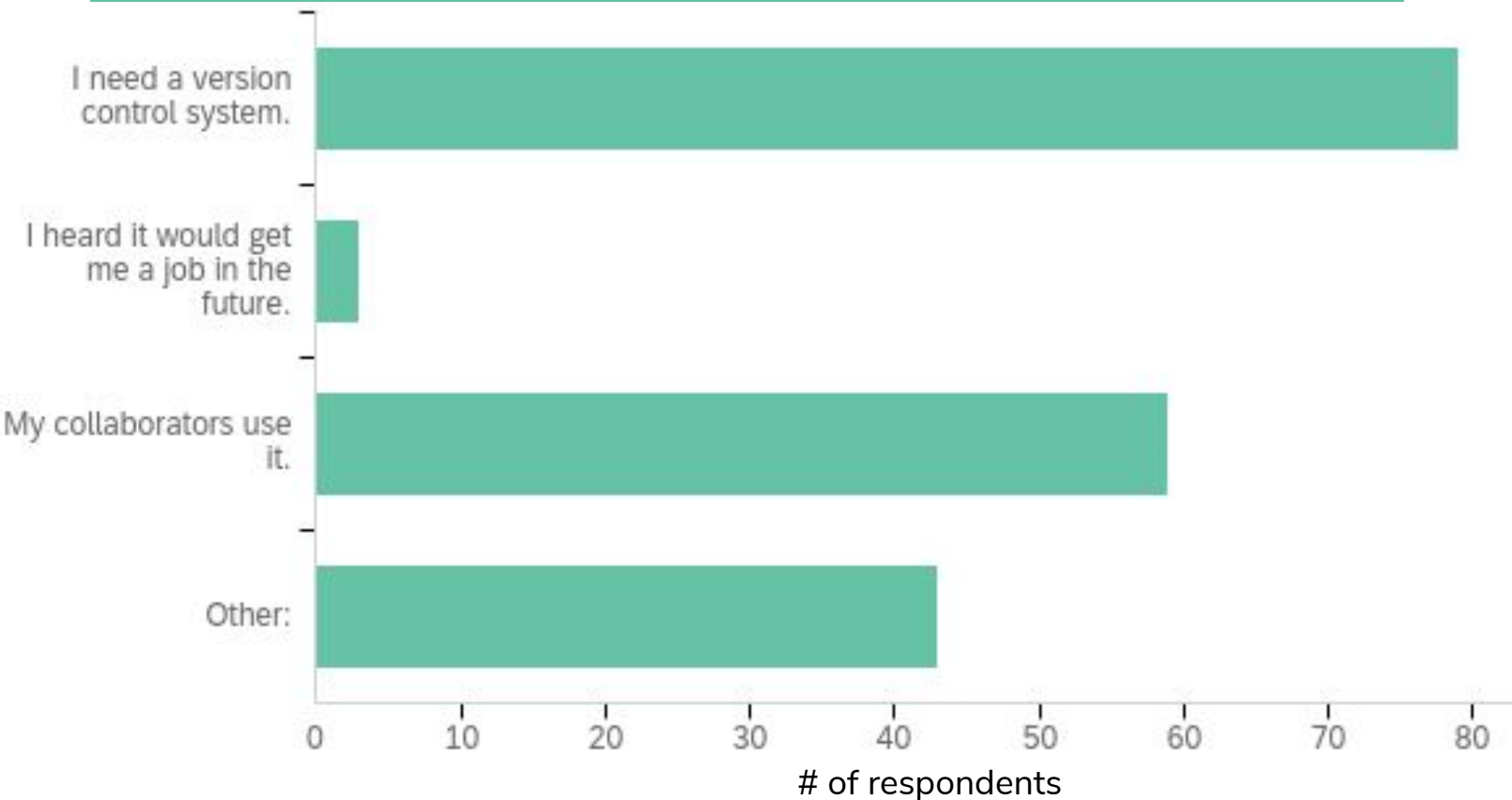
Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3a00ykQ



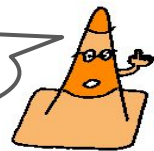
Q: Why did you first enter the world of git and version control?



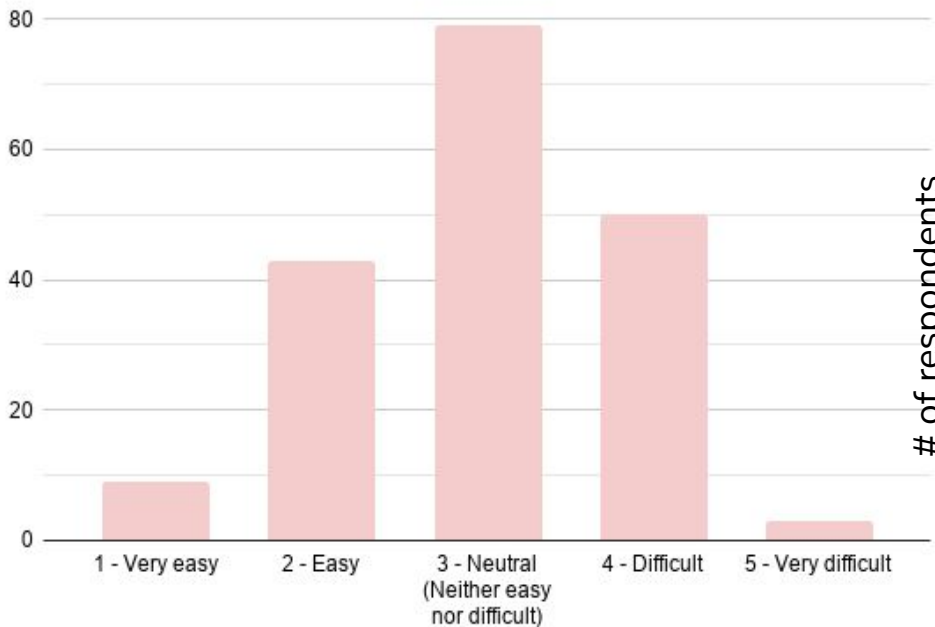
Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3aO0ykQ

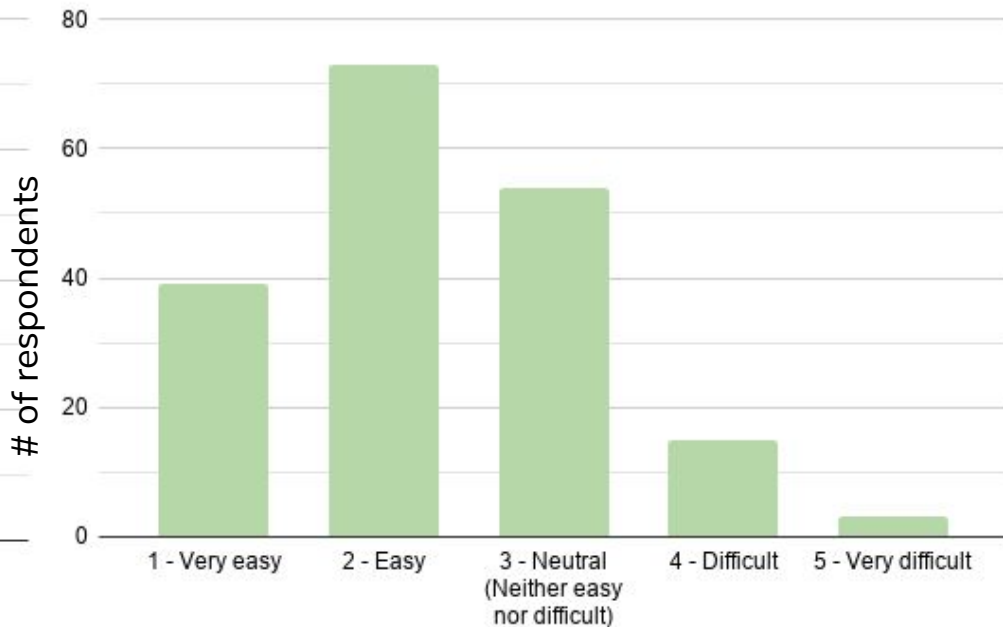


Q1: How difficult was it for you to learn how to use git on your local computer?



Difficulty Scale

Q2: How difficult was it for you to learn how to use the git hosting platform?

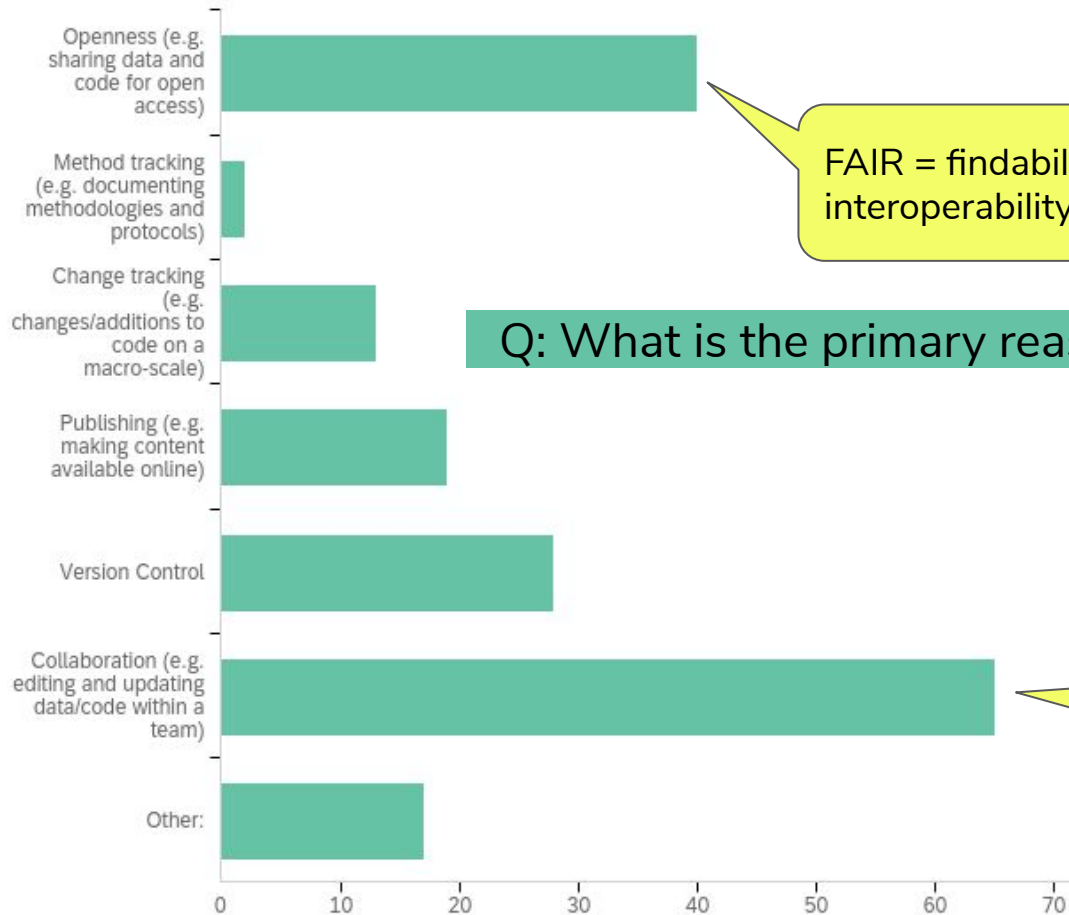
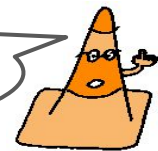


Difficulty Scale

Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3aO0ykQ



FAIR = findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability

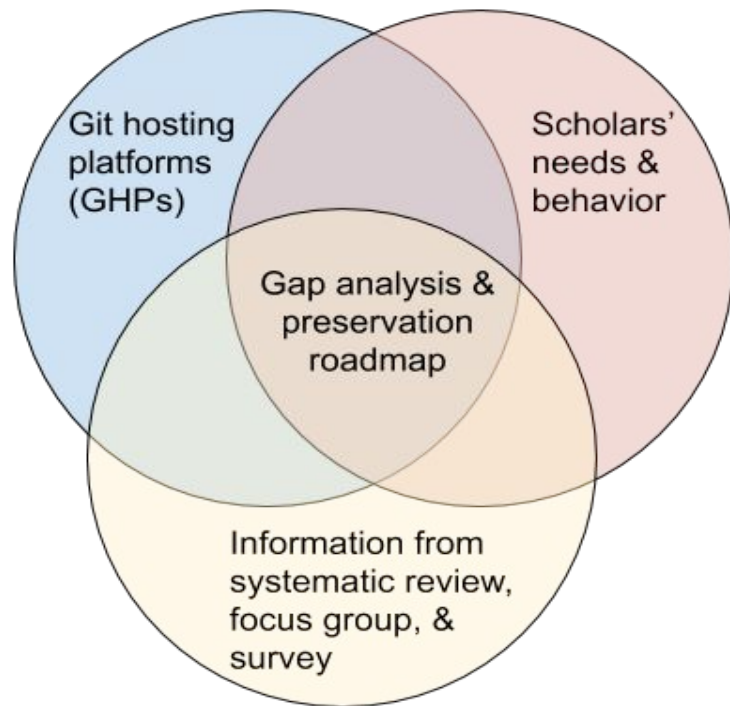
Q: What is the primary reason you use git hosting platforms?

Community, collaboration, & peer production

Part IV: User Experience Interviews (Qual)

Semi-structured interviews with 50 scholars to understand their behaviours

- Why did folks stop using Git & GHPs?
- If/how are they versioning their work without these toolkits?
- What features & workflows are in practice that we have not heard of before?



Current Archival Approaches



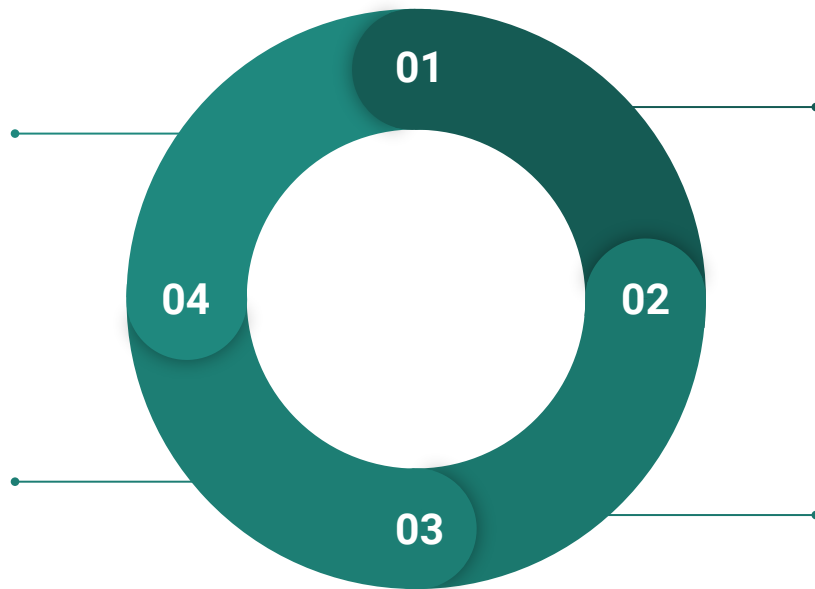
IASGE Environmental Scan

Software Preservation

Best practices, software curation and description

Programmatic Captures

large-scale archiving of GitHub API data; large-scale archiving of source code from Git hosting platforms; select archiving of repos



Web Archiving

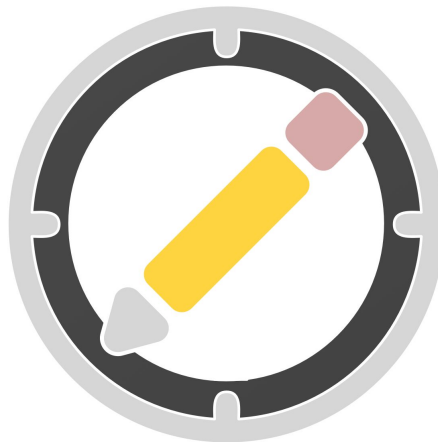
State-of-the-art web archiving tools and technologies; Could they be used for software capture?

Self-Archiving

Motivations to self-archive; appeal of general repositories vs. institutional repositories

Web Archiving

- The use of web crawlers/software to capture web-based content
- Understand who, if anyone, is currently using this technology for code repositories
- Projects of Interest:
 - Archive-It
 - Webrecorder
 - Memento Tracer



Self-Archiving

1. Identify motivations for self-archiving in general repositories
2. Identify gaps regarding IRs and hosting/describing software
3. Understand platform integration (GitHub <> Zenodo)
4. Should we keep rehabbing IRs or move to more flexible models?

zenodo Search Upload Communities

February 6, 2019 Software Open Access

ReproZip: 1.0.16

Remi Rampin; Fernando Chirigati; Vicky Steeves; Juliana Freire; Dennis Shasha
(reprozip-jupyter and reprozip-vagrant didn't change)

Bugfixes:

- Fixed input/output file filter on Python 3 (to omit `.so`, `.pyc` etc files)
- Fixed fetching updated parameters on Python 3 (to get the correct Docker and Vagrant base images, a small JSON file is downloaded from reprozip.org)
- Fixed `--port` option of reprozip-docker

Enhancements:

- Use the `distro` module instead of the deprecated `platform.linux_distribution()` function to detect the distribution (the latter will be removed in Python 3.8).
- Use `dpkg-query` to identify Linux packages instead of reading `dpkg/info/*.List`

Downloads:

- reprozip (tarball)
- reprozip (wheel, tarball)
- reprozip-docker (wheel, tarball)
- reprozip-vagrant 1.0.13 (wheel, tarball)
- reprozip-vistrails (wheel, tarball)
- reprozip-jupyter 1.0.14 (wheel, tarball)
- reprozip-qt (wheel, tarball)

Preview

reprozip-1.0.16.zip

- VIDA-NYU-reprozip-efd4822
 - `.gitignore` 559 Bytes
 - `.travis`
 - `finish.sh` 475 Bytes
 - `install.sh` 1.2 kB
 - `test.sh` 1.5 kB
 - `.travis.yml` 480 Bytes
 - `CHANGELOG.md` 18.1 kB
 - `CITATION.txt` 857 Bytes
 - `CODE_OF_CONDUCT.md` 3.2 kB
 - `CONTRIBUTING.md` 5.3 kB
 - `LICENSE.txt` 1.5 kB
 - `README.md` 8.0 kB
 - `Vagrantfile` 857 Bytes
 - `allsetups.sh` 792 Bytes
 - `docs`
 - `Makefile` 7.6 kB
 - `conf.py` 10.0 kB
 - `developmentguide.rst` 8.0 kB

Software in Zenodo with Integrations with GitHub and indexed by OpenAIRE

Programmatic Captures

1. Software to capture software
2. The use of indexing, cloning, and APIs to capture software and contextual information
3. Scholarly ephemera in one place, software in another
4. Projects of interest
 - a. [Software Heritage](#)
 - b. [GHTorrent](#) and [GH Archive](#)
 - c. [SARA](#)



GH Archive



The GHTorrent project

Software Preservation

1. Understanding current communities of practice
2. Software metadata & citation
3. Software curation
4. Projects of interest
 - a. [Software Preservation Network](#)
 - b. Software Emulation (e.g. [EaaS](#))
 - c. [Software Sustainability Institute](#)
 - d. [US Research Software Sustainability Institute](#)



Software
Sustainability
Institute



Towards an Archival Spec

Culmination of this research will be an archival spec that can be used by institutions.

Details will include:

1. The capture of both source code and its ephemera (commit messages, merge requests, issues, wikis)
2. Description and curation
3. Sample preservation workflows



WA Tool Testing Phase - Preliminary Findings

Archive-It

- Test crawl four git repositories using the standard crawler and Brozzler
- Found issues with capturing GitLab (rendering issues) and Bitbucket (only got a white page!)
- Promising results with standard crawler on GitHub
- Limitations: patch crawling issues, time needed, and “uncharted territory” using this method

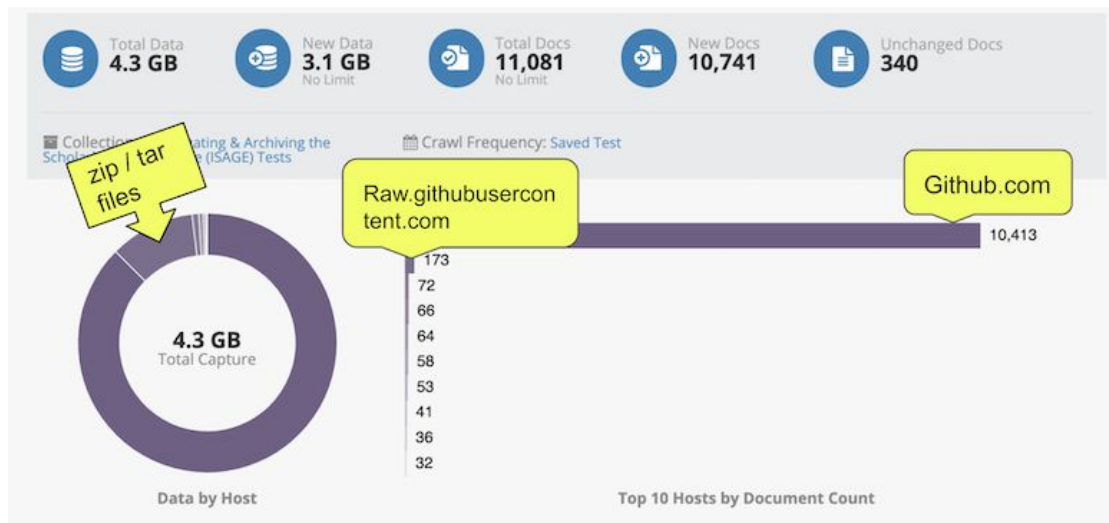
The screenshot shows the GitHub page for the BioSimSpace repository. At the top, a yellow banner indicates the page was captured by Archive-It on April 13, 2020. The repository page displays the latest release, BioSimSpace 2019.3.0, released on November 22, 2019. Below this, the 2019.2.0 release is shown. Annotations include a starburst labeled 'Download!' pointing to the 2019.3.0 release, and two blue arrows labeled 'Previous Version' pointing to the 2019.2.0 release. A blue callout box in the top right corner points to the Archive-It banner with the text 'Banner indicating archived page'.

Read more: Lab Notes detailing Archive-it testing:
investigating-archiving-git.gitlab.io/updates/lab-notes-archive-it

WA Tool Testing Phase - Preliminary Findings

What was captured:

- Zip of source code with past versions
- 23 open issues (at time of capture) and 111 closed issues, and their labels.
- PRs and messages were also captured, except for indiv. Commit messages
- 4 pages of commits were saved, but older commit messages were missing



Screenshot of Archive-It crawl report using Standard crawler for single GitHub repository link from: investigating-archiving-git.gitlab.io/updates/lab-notes-archive-it/

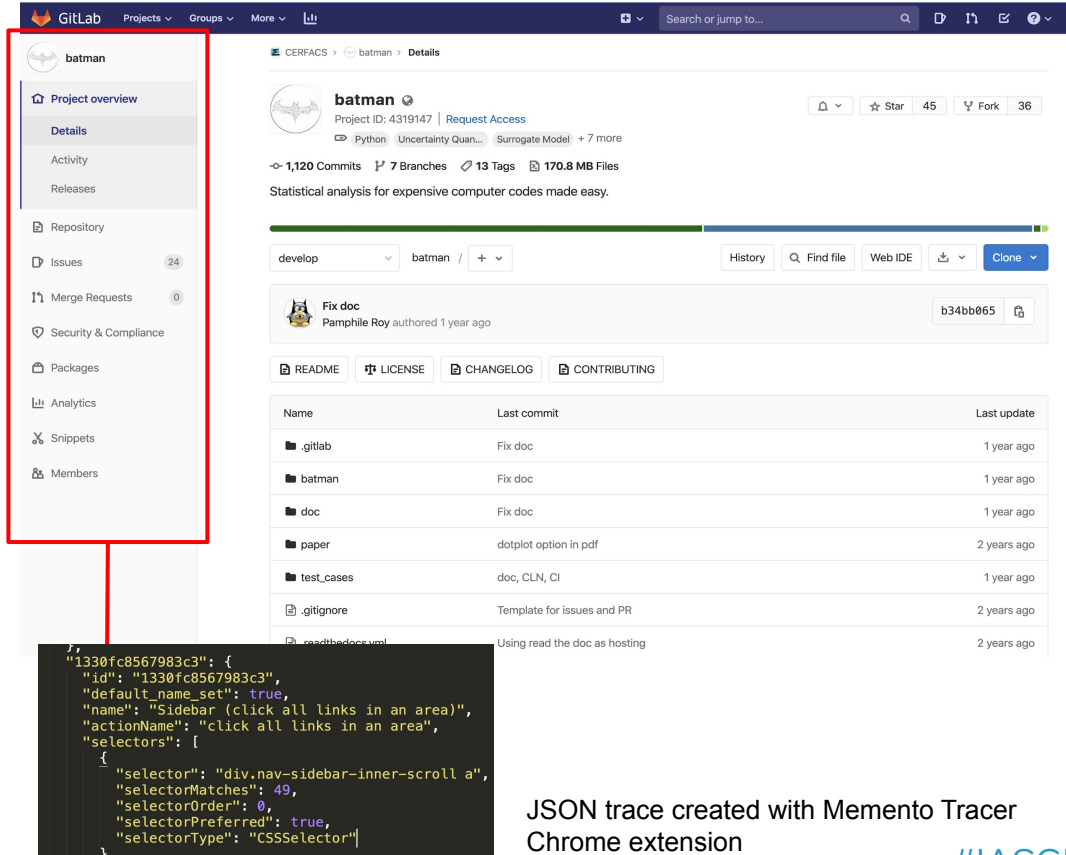
What's next? Further testing!

● Memento Tracer

- JSON traces serve as “instructions” for the crawler, which can be shared and reused
- JSON file can be applied to any repositories on that domain (i.e. any repository on GitHub).
- <http://tracer.mementoweb.org/>

● Webrecorder

- Uses user interactions (clicking, scrolling) to create high quality captures
- Limited scalability
- Potential to create an Autopilot behaviors for GitHub? feature request ;-)
- <https://webrecorder.io/>



The screenshot shows the GitLab interface for the 'batman' repository. The left sidebar is highlighted with a red box. A red line connects the sidebar to a JSON trace snippet below. The trace snippet is as follows:

```
},
  "1330fc8567983c3": {
    "id": "1330fc8567983c3",
    "default_name_set": true,
    "name": "Sidebar (click all links in an area)",
    "actionName": "click all links in an area",
    "selectors": [
      {
        "selector": "div.nav-sidebar-inner-scroll a",
        "selectorMatches": 49,
        "selectorOrder": 0,
        "selectorPreferred": true,
        "selectorType": "CSSSelector"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

JSON trace created with Memento Tracer
Chrome extension

Summary, calls to action, & all our contact info!

- Code/software and the contextual ephemera are worth saving
- Scholarship in Git format & in Git hosting platforms is at risk because there is no preservation plan
- Understanding behaviour patterns of academics using GHPs will help in T&L and archiving work
- Be on the lookout for research-centered blog posts
- Send us feedback on posts and/or resources you think we should know about!

Project website:

<https://investigating-archiving-git.gitlab.io>

GitLab repo:

gitlab.com/investigating-archiving-git

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Survey - Preliminary Findings

Please participate & share widely!

bit.ly/3aO0ykQ



Summary

Q33 - Do you use git hosting platforms as a storage place to backup your code?

- % said Yes

Q37 - How is your research or scholarship funded? Check all that apply.

- Mostly public

Q42 - How often do you use git to collaborate on authoring code?

- Mostly daily

Q43 - When a new collaborator joins your team, is there an onboarding process or protocol specifically for introducing them to your coding practices and use of version control?

- Mostly No

Q47 - Do you copy your repositories to external long-term storage services or platforms (e.g. Zenodo, OSF, institutional repository)?

- Mostly No