

Using Markdown

1. One starting point: the relationship between *documents* and *files*
2. Much student work is generated as files in Microsoft Word
3. Though information about **Word files is encoded in XML**, it remains a format in which content is subordinated to its presentation, typically in the form of a printed file or a surrogate printed document displayed on screen
4. One way of drawing practical conclusions regarding one's own work from what we will learn in this module, and from what we have learnt about the development of data for communication and interchange via the web, is to turn to a plain text format
5. Thus, in Markdown, all content and encoding is directly visible, as in this file

6. By definition, Markdown is designed for writing structured documents and, like markup languages, makes use of a distinct set of formatting conventions
7. Because information on style is encoded, like content, in plain text, content is not subordinated to presentation, meaning inter alia that Markdown files are smaller in size
8. Markdown files can incorporate *metadata*, again in plain text
9. A variety of forms of Markdown exist, with work being undertaken at the moment to develop a common standard, namely **CommonMark**
10. Code can be incorporated into Markdown files, using Markdown syntax or by inserting elements in other markup languages, e.g. HTML
11. Content in WordPress can be **written in Markdown**
12. Markdown is both a plain text format and a format that can readily be converted to other formats, including binary ones

13. These factors testify to the *accessibility* and to the *flexibility* of Markdown
14. An editor like **Brackets** allows you to write and to edit documents in Markdown, and to preview the content as it would appear in print
15. Other tools, like **Marked2** also allow you to preview a file and to export it for printing as a PDF; you can also write your own CSS files to control the formatting of Markdown elements (e.g. headings, lists) in PDF files
16. Other tools, like **Markdown Plus**, allow you to combine several of these functions (there are versions for Windows and Mac)
17. There are other tools that use Markdown as a common standard from which files in other formats (including binary formats, like Word) can be generated, notably **pandoc** and **gitit**
18. Markdown can also be used in conjunction with **reference and research management tools**, like **Zotero**, many of which are open source

19. Markdown, and many of the tools you might use with it, is open source (subject to a [Creative Commons license](#))
20. The recent development of Markdown has witnessed efforts to support semantic data (e.g. by using [HTML5](#) elements or by using [extensions](#) of pandoc)
21. This file was generated using pandoc by means of the following command in the [terminal](#), where a [L^AT_EX](#) file controls the style of typesetting (see the [user's guide](#)):

```
pandoc -s -H fiches.tex -f markdown+smart --pdf-engine=lualatex -V fontsize=11pt markdown.md -o markdown.pdf
```

22. The Word file is generated using this command:

```
pandoc -s -f markdown+smart markdown.md -o markdown.docx
```