Tech Tools for Writing

Mike Waugh, LOUIS Libraries
Trello - for storyboarding

- Use Trello to storyboard a long article, book, or newsletter
- Use columns for sections or chapters
- Use cards for paragraphs or subsections
- Use attachments for images or charts
- Move them around
- Assign cards to different authors
- Example: https://trello.com/b/k3uoyRPm/storyboard-example
Freemind

- Mind mapping software
- Brainstorming
- Outlining
- Taking notes where the content may not be in order
Abstract for Increasing Effectiveness

Purpose
- Conceptual paper
  - Literature review
    - Use of Scrum and related Agile software development project management frameworks in libraries
  - Explanation of Scrum
  - Difficulties of project management in libraries
  - Explanation of ScrumMaster certification process
  - Advantages of ScrumMaster certification for library professionals
  - Disadvantages and alternatives
    - Library organizations lack project management expertise.

Methodology

Findings
- Scrum project management framework is a lightweight project management framework
- ScrumMaster certification is an easy way to learn and implement the process
- Also offers professional advantages.

Originality/Value
- The author could not find instances in the library literature of ScrumMaster certification for library professionals.
Evernote

- Available on Desktop and Mobile - synced
- Organize by Notebooks and Tags
- Insert and caption/draw on images
- Clip from web
Mixed berry mead

1 minute ago mead

From Drink the Harvest (p. 153) 1 gallon filtered water...

Muscadine pymeent

Yesterday 7:10 AM September 9, 2018 On 9/8 we went up to Casa De Sue winery in Clinton and picked nearly a 5 gallon bucket f...

Perry mead (pear melomel)

9/9/2018 August 4, 2018 had a 5 pounds of keeller peas left over after canning juiced them in juicer with 2 apples. then squeezed...

Strawberry vanilla mead - failed

9/9/2018 Roughly following recipe for Medium sweet mead from Schramm p 163. Started it off as a straight mead. 1 quart of h...

Cysar

9/5/2018 mead July 27, 2018 2/3 quart of honey, more or less, some boiled water to help dissolve the crystallized honey marneel...

Mixed berry melomel mead - take two

9/5/2018 mead August 25, 2018 cooking mead and baking bread while Charity’s away at Lockin festival 3 quarts of water 1.5 pound...

Cherry melomel

6/9/2018 mead Following recipe from Schramm p.165 for Cherry Melomel adjusted to 1 gallon started 7/5/18 1 quart + 1/4 pint ...

Lemon ginger mead

6/4/2018 mead June 5, 2018 1 quart honey Heated 1 quart of honey in wide mouth...

By May 31 - it's stopped bubbling - over a minute to burp. Here it is on June 15. It looks like it has settled enough.
Mendeley

- Save pdfs and full text documents
- Sync across multiple devices
- Organize by project or subject
- Manage citations
- Take notes and annotate in the pdf
5/31/2017

The Code4Lib Journal – How We Went from Worst Practices to Good Practices, and Became Happier in the Process

There was initially no source control, but this was set up soon by a systems administrator after the developer arrived.

The developer was the only person on the VTechWorks team with access to read or change the source control, and the developer handled all deployments to test and production systems.

When Francis (our systems administrator) arrived, he made great strides in our systems that ultimately helped with our workflow. Our source control was moved to GitHub, the standard site for open source software development, based on the Git version control system. All team members now have read and write access to the code. Additionally, it is easier for us to collaborate with other organizations using DSpace. Shortly after the source code was migrated to GitHub, we also began tracking active issues with the GitHub issues tool built into the project.

We do have some files stored in a locally hosted instance of GitLab, an open source alternative to GitHub, due to security concerns, including a new system for quickly provisioning test instances of DSpace. Francis created our Local Development Environment (LDE) infrastructure so that all team members have a VTechWorks development environment running on machines in a VirtualBox VM. The LDE system is based on the Vagrant + DSpace project, but uses Ansible instead.

VirtualBox allows us to run virtual machines, which in our case emulate servers, within our standard Mac system already using throughout some team members with older systems needed to upgrade to at least 8GB of RAM. We use vagrant in our project to configure and deploy the virtual box machine. For our Local Development Environments, the work that vagrant performs includes provisioning a virtual machine with 4GB of RAM that runs Ubuntu Linux, setting up a private network so that we can connect to the virtual machine from the host machine, granting access to the DSpace source code folder, and running an Ansible playbook.

Ansible, a deployment and configuration automation tool, allows us to perform further configuration on the virtual machines. First, Ansible installs all of the software prerequisites for building and running DSpace, including Java, Apache Tomcat, Ant, PostgreSQL, and others. Ansible then configures PostgreSQL and initializes the DSpace database. Finally, Ansible performs the DSpace install process and starts the Tomcat application server when the install is completed.

The Local Development Environment System has worked well for us. Now, every team member has a place to experiment and unuttered, unhindered access to look at and modify the source code. Each person can do this at any time, even when the official development environment is not ready.
Text editors

- Notepad
- Notepad ++
- SublimeText
- Atom
- Vim/Emacs
Advantages

- Distraction free interface
- Text is primary
- Two-hands on keyboard
- Your text is in a non-proprietary format
Markdown

- Markdown is a lightweight markup language with plain text formatting syntax.
- It is designed to be easily converted to HTML
  - Used a lot for Readme files in code repositories
- But it can be converted easily to other formats
  - Microsoft Word
  - Rich Text Format (RTF)
  - Adobe PDF
  - Others
Markdown Advantages

- Text is separate from the formatting
- Formatting is clear
  - “The goal is readability”
- Perfect for situations where your writing may end up in multiple formats
  - Documentation
  - Policies
  - Resume or CV
using microsoft word

*moves an image 1 mm to the left*

all text and images shift. 4 new pages appear. in the distance, sirens.

25/03/2016, 18:02

34.1K RETWEETS 44.7K LIKES
Time Spent Authoring Report in Microsoft Word

- Writing
- Editing
- Proofreading
- Fixing automatic formatting you didn’t want in the first place
Markdown - basics

- Headlines
- Bulleted lists
- Ordered lists
- Emphasis/strong (italics/bold)
- Links
- Block quotes/ code blocks
Mike Waugh

Technology Initiatives Development and Management Librarian, LSU Libraries

[mwaugh2@lsu.edu](mailto:mwaugh2@lsu.edu)
Office (225) 578-3330 | Cell (225) 573-1550

---

### Technical and Project Management Skills

* Library Systems
  * ILS Software: Symphony (SirsiDynix), V-Smart (Infor)
  * Discovery: EBSCO Discovery Service, Curriculum Builder, WorldCat Discovery Service, EZproxy
  * Digital Repository/Special Collections Software: Islandora, ArchivesSpace, Aeon, Digital Commons
  * Data Transformation: OpenRefine, MarcEdit, Microsoft Excel, Connexion
  * XML Technology: XSLT, XProc, Oxygen
  * Library data formats: MARC, MARCXML, MODS, Dublin Core, EAD

* Project Management
  * Certified ScrumMaster
  * Agile Software Development and project portfolio planning
  * Project management software: JIRA, Microsoft Project, SharePoint, GanttProject, Trello
  * Trouble ticket systems: osTicket, Footprints

* Programming
  * Python
  * Git, GitHub
  * SirsiDynix Symphony APIs: Webservices and "SelTools"

* Web Development
  * HTML, CSS
  * Markdown, Pandoc
  * CMS software: SharePoint, Drupal, WordPress, Cascade Server, Joomla, Movable Type

### Experience

* LSU Libraries, Technology Initiatives Development and Management Librarian/Systems Librarian, May 2012 to present
  * Responsible for management of LSU Libraries' ILS and Web OPAC (SirsiDynix Symphony) and discovery service, (EBSCO Discovery Service). Tested upgrades, customized, and
Examples

- https://github.com/myqua/myqua.github.io
- Resume as Markdown: https://github.com/myqua/myqua.github.io/edit/master/README.md
Google Docs

- Real time collaboration
- Version control
- Commenting/issue tracking

Etherpad is a nice alternative

http://etherpad.org/
Git and GitHub

- Version control
- Ability to branch
- Great for collision resistant collaboration
- View differences/changes
- Use GitHub for small websites
  - Write in Markdown and it’s automatically converted to HTML
GitHub basic commands

- Fork: make a copy of a repository
- Branch: a version of the repository
- Commit: encapsulate your changes
- Pull: get a current copy of a repository
- Push: move changes to the repository
- Issue tracking