
Default Question Block

Thank you for taking this brief survey about your usage of GitHub. Please read the information below.

Study Title: Evaluating GitHub as a Platform of Knowledge

**Principal Investigator: Lisa Spiro, Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services
Fondren Library, Rice University, 6100 Main, Houston, TX 77005.
713-348-2480 | lspiro@rice.edu**

Purpose of this Study

The purpose of the study is to understand how and why digital humanities researchers and developers use GitHub, a code repository service.

Procedures

To participate in this study, you must be a (digital) humanities researcher or developer with a GitHub repository. As part of this study, you will complete a survey that asks approximately fifteen questions about how you use GitHub and what its strengths and weaknesses are. We estimate that the survey will take around ten minutes to complete.

Risks and Benefits

The risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during a conversation with a colleague. There may be no personal benefit from your participation in the study but the knowledge received may be of value to humanity. There will be no cost to you if you participate in this study; no compensation will be provided.

Confidentiality

To protect your confidentiality, we are not capturing your name as part of the survey. We plan to share the data and survey results publicly through a repository such as GitHub. All data will be de-identified before it is made public (for example, personally identifiable information will be redacted).

Rights

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop your participation at any point. Refusal to participate or withdrawal of your consent or discontinued participation in the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Lisa Spiro by phone or e-mail. If you have questions pertaining to your rights as a research participant; or to report objections to this study, you should contact Melinda Cotten, Director of Office of Research Compliance, at Rice University. Email: cotten@rice.edu or Telephone: 713-348-6200

Voluntary Consent

By clicking YES you are verifying that you have read the explanation of the study, and that you agree to participate. You also understand that your participation in this study is strictly voluntary. Click the right double arrow at the bottom right to proceed with the survey.

I consent to participating in the survey.

- Yes
- No

Approximately how long have you used GitHub?

- Less than a year
- A year to two years
- Two to five years
- Over five years

In which country do you reside?

What gender do you identify with?

- Male
- Female
- Other

What is your position?

- developer
- graduate student
- information technologist
- librarian
- professor
- research staff
- other (please specify)

Do you consider yourself a digital humanist?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Years experience in your field:

- 0-1 year
- 1-7 years
- 8-15 years
- 15+ years

Why did you start using GitHub?

For what do you use GitHub? (check all that apply)

- Software development
- Writing projects, e.g. books and articles
- Documentation
- Websites
- Collections of online resources
- Datasets
- Course materials
- Syllabi
- Research notes
- Other (please specify)

Whom do you tend to follow on GitHub?

- Primarily users from digital humanities
- Primarily users from other communities
- A mix of users
- I don't follow many/any users

What are GitHub's strengths? (check all that apply)

- It provides free public repositories.
- Its version control features.
- Its collaboration features.
- It is widely used.
- Its distributed architecture.
- It supports the open source community.
- My collaborators use it.
- It enables reuse of code.
- It enhances the visibility of GitHub users.
- It allows GitHub users to connect with others.
- Other (please specify)

What are GitHub's limitations? (check all that apply)

- It is difficult to get started with (learning curve).
- It is owned by a for-profit company.
- It is not very easy to use.
- It does not provide for long-term preservation.
- It is best suited for text, not other formats.
- I am concerned about my work being forked and reused.
- I am reluctant to make my work openly available.
- Its terms of use and intellectual property policies.
- Its social features.
- The complexity of its design
- Other (please specify)

What improvements would you like to see to GitHub? (check all that apply)

- Better usability
- Improved support for preservation
- More direct collaboration with the digital humanities community
- Revisions to its intellectual property policy
- More support for non-textual formats
- Streamlining its code sharing
- Better issue/bug tracking
- Reducing social networking features
- Improving its social networking features
- Other (please specify)

What criteria would you recommend that digital humanists use in evaluating platforms such as GitHub?

How well does GitHub perform based on your criteria?

Any other comments?

If you would be willing to participate in a follow-up interview, please fill out this [brief form](#). Your information will not be associated with the survey results.

