

Markdown, LaTeX, and Harvard Referencing starter template

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1 Introduction

This Markdown file is the first file referenced in the *main.tex* file. Overleaf reads *main.tex*, loading the appropriate LaTeX packages for your document class, which in this template is the Koma-Script article class **scartcl**, which defines how the finished PDF looks. The template uses the **agsm** bibliography command, which provides a Harvard referencing style. You can read more Harvard referencing with LaTeX at this link.¹

These packages are responsible for defining the look of your document, which leaves you to concentrate on the important stuff: the text, the images, and the figures.

1.1 This is a sub-heading

As you can see, the chapter/section heading **Introduction** has been generated through the use of a single '#' symbol, which is referred to as a **h1** heading within Markdown. The sub-heading for this section is a **h2**, which is the equivalent of two hash symbols, '##', in Markdown.

Accordingly, '###' will give you a **h3** sub-sub-heading, and '####' will give you a **h4** sub-sub-sub-heading.

2 This is the second section

This section lives in its own file. Using the '\markdownInput{...}' command you can insert multiple Markdown-formatted documents into the main body of the document.

This is useful for breaking up big chunks of text into single files should you prefer to concentrate on smaller blocks of text. You can of course write your entire report as a single Markdown document if that is more to your taste.

2.1 Handy Markdown tips

You can create unordered lists by using a single hyphen at the start of a sentence.

- This is the first item
- This is the second

¹<http://tex.loria.fr/bibdex/harvard.pdf>

- This is the third

Ordered lists work the same way, just start a new sentence with a number, followed by a full stop, then a space, then the item text.

1. First item
2. Second item
3. Third item

3 Images

Walls of text can be boring, particularly if you can explain a point better with a referenced image called a figure.

The standard Markdown command for inserting an image is:

```
![Image caption](path/to/image/imagename.jpg)
```

However, Markdown on Overleaf works slightly differently. The caption section in the square brackets is actually used as a name to insert the image into figure table. To add a caption (and you should *always* add a caption), add the caption after the file location between speech marks like this:

```
![imagereference](path/to/image/imagename.jpg "Image caption")
```

To insert the file `img/mendeley.png` into this document with the caption 'Mendeley reference manager' and the figure reference 'mendeley', I would type the following:

```
![mendeley](img/mendeley.png "Mendeley reference manager.")
```

At the end of this sentence I insert the image using the above command. However, you are unlikely to see it exactly where you insert it, as LaTeX places it in a place appropriate to the document format that you are using.

This is why it is important to give your images a proper reference name in the square brackets. Once you have done so, you can refer to the image in the body text by using the LaTeX command `\ref{fig:imagereference}`, which auto-generates a link to the figure number for that image.

For example, the phrase **Figure 1** is autogenerated by the code `**Figure \ref{fig:mendeley}**`:

- The two asterisks are Markdown code for *Bold text*

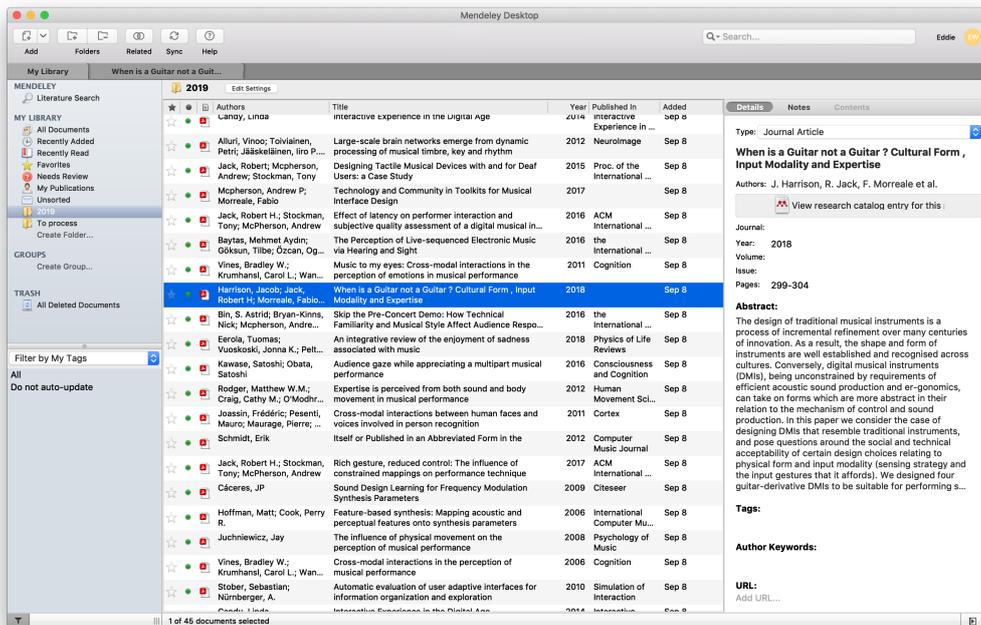


Figure 1: Mendeley reference manager.

- 'Figure' is just normal text
- The 1 code auto-generates the link to the image as a numerical reference.
- the two final asterisks turn off the bold text.

The full details of how Markdown works on Overleaf can be found online here: [How to write in Markdown on Overleaf²](https://www.overleaf.com/learn/latex/Articles/How_to_write_in_Markdown_on_Overleaf)

3.1 A note about the file structure of this Overleaf document

In this template I have created a sub-folder on the file system called `img`. I prefer to have my images in a sub-folder to keep the main folder tidy. You can see the folder structure to the left in Overleaf, and the `img` folder has an arrow on it so that it can be folded out of the way when you don't need to see the contents. Handy.

Alongside the `img` folder, this main folder contains only the following files:

- Markdown-formatted text files for each section, numbered sequentially so that they stay in the appropriate order when sorted alphabetically:
 - 01.introduction.md
 - 02.second-section.md
 - 03.images.md
- The *main.tex* file which sets up the document type, contains the author name and document title, and pulls in the Markdown text.
- The *references.bib* file, which is simply a text file containing BibTeX-formatted references which are generated from your reference manager of choice, i.e. Zotero, Mendeley, Endnote etc.

Tip: always put a 0 in front of filenames with single numbers so that `chapter1` and `chapter2` don't end up with `chapter10` inbetween them in the file list.

Tip 2: Name your Markdown files with the chapter or section name. I've named the files in this template to make sense specifically for this document. Change them to be useful for your own work.

²www.overleaf.com/learn/latex/Articles/How_to_write_in_Markdown_on_Overleaf

4 How to cite using Markdown

The last thing I'd like to demonstrate is the use of citations. It's incredibly simple using Markdown.

In the `references.bib` section of this template you will find a single reference, an article by Linda Candy from 2014 entitled **Interactive Experience in the Digital Age**.

This reference is in what is known as BibTeX format, and was auto-generated via Mendeley. Any decent reference manager should be able to generate a BibTeX entry, or even an entire library of BibTeX entries, with very little effort.

Your own library of references should be added to the `references.bib` file from your reference manager of choice.

4.1 Citing a reference in the text

Markdown has a very simple command for citations: `[@citationkey]`. The citation key is normally in the format `AuthorYear`, with no spaces. So, to cite Linda Candy's 2014 article **Interactive Experience in the Digital Age** you would add a reference to a sentence in the following manner:

```
[@Candy2014] states that the evaluation of interactive art...
```

Which the LaTeX interpreter compiles and displays in the following manner:

```
(Candy 2014) states that the evaluation of interactive art...
```

As you can see, the citation key has been replaced by the appropriate citation style, which in this instance is the Harvard referencing format.

Also, you will notice that this reference has automatically been placed in the references section at the end of this PDF document. Neat, not to mention infinitely quicker and better than referencing things manually. ***shiver***

5 Conclusion

Hopefully this template will help you get started in writing plain-text Markdown-formatted articles and assignments. Though it is possible to do it all in raw LaTeX code, but it's not particularly pleasant to write in LaTeX directly, even if the output is absolutely

beautiful to look at the end of the process.

It might seem a little odd to begin with, but the point of working this way is to concentrate on what is important - the written work. Concentrate on making the work good, and let the system make it look good for you.

Try this template out for yourself. Add some BibTeX references, add some images, write some text for yourself and have a go at citing something. With a little practice you should be able to knock up a pretty sweet looking and properly referenced report in very little time.

References

Candy, L. (2014), 'Interactive Experience in the Digital Age', *Interactive Experience in the Digital Age* (August), 25–48.

URL: <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-3-319-04510-8>