

# Collaboration and Transparency: A User-Generated Documentation for eScriptorium

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The screenshot displays the eScriptorium documentation website. At the top, there is a logo for 'ESCRIPTORIUM DOCUMENTATION' and a search bar. A navigation menu on the left lists various sections: Home, Contribute to the documentation, About this documentation, QUICK-START (Quick-start, Terminology, FAQ), WALKTHROUGH (Import data, Automatic prediction), and Manual segmentation (Forewords on segmentation, Region segmentation, Text line segmentation, Reordering lines, Associate lines to a regions, Using the Ontology feature and labeling lines and regions). The 'Manual segmentation' section is currently selected and highlighted. The main content area shows the 'Forewords on segmentation' page, which includes a breadcrumb trail (Home > Walkthrough > Manual segmentation), a 'Previous' button, and introductory text about the segmentation panel. Below the text is a screenshot of the eScriptorium interface showing a handwritten document with segmentation tools and a 'Forewords on segmentation' section.

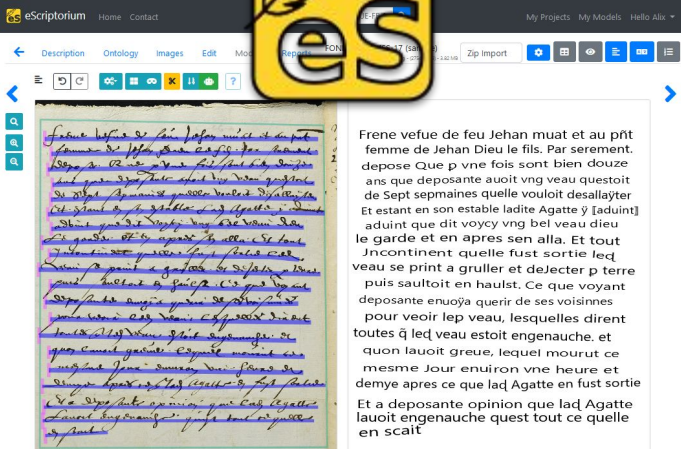
RESEARCH SOFTWARE

THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES  
PRODUCE A LOT OF RESEARCH  
SOFTWARE



# eScriptorium

- open source web application
- dev. by eScripta, part of SCRIPTA-PSL since 2019
- handwritten text recognition
- coupled with Kraken, dev. by Ben Kiessling since 2015
- <https://gitlab.com/scripta/eScriptorium>

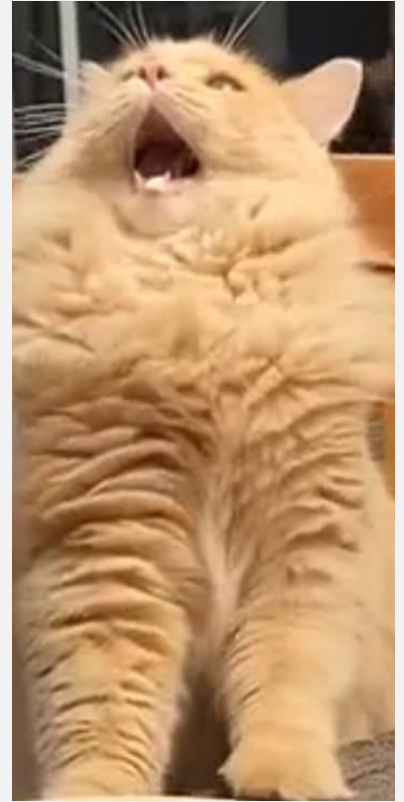


Breve veſue de feu Jehan maſt et au pſt  
 femme de Jehan Dieu le fils. Par ſerement.  
 deſe que p vne fois sont bien douze  
 ans que deſoſante auoit vng veau queſtoit  
 de Sept ſeſmaines quelle vouloit deſallayer  
 Et eſtant en ſon eſtable ladite Agatte y [aduint]  
 aduint que dit voycy vng bel veau dieu  
 le garde et en apres ſon alla. Et tout  
 l'continent quelle fuſt ſortie leq  
 veau se print a gruller et delecter p terre  
 puis ſualtoit en haulx. Ce que voyant  
 deſoſante enuoſa querir de ſes voiſines  
 pour veoir lep veau, leſquelles dirent  
 toutes q leq veau eſtoit enſeuauche. et  
 quon lauoit greue, lequell mourut ce  
 meſme Jour enuiron vne heure et  
 demye apres ce que laq Agatte  
 Laui a deſoſante opinion que laq Agatte  
 lauoit enſeuauche queſt tout ce quelle  
 en ſcait

eScriptorium:

- is an expert software
  - = lots of functionalities
  - = steep learning curve
- had no **centralized** and **extensive** documentation

We wanted to remediate this situation.



# the situation

developer-oriented doc. with the source code

various tutorials in several languages but often outdated

Gitter channel / information exchange platforms

short videos showcasing features on eScripta's blog

hands-on workshops

# OUR VISION

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**GOAL:** create a documentation website capable of becoming the main documentation for eScriptorium

- criteria:
  - easy to maintain and update
  - open to external contributions
  - must support multilingualism

**modularity**

-

**lightweight markup**

-

**transparency**

**escriptorium-documentation** Public  
generated from [readthedocs/tutorial-template](#)

Unpin Unwatch (1) Fork (7) Star (8)

main 9 Branches 0 Tags

Go to file Add file Code

About

FloChiff Merge pull request #95 from alix-tz/fix#94	dc59f82 · 2 weeks ago	🕒 123 Commits
docs	adding list of the names of contributors and illustrative emojis	2 weeks ago
.gitignore	Refactorization and reorganization (#67)	last year
.readthedocs.yaml	adding a requirements file	last year

Source code to eScriptorium Documentation's website (powered with Mkdocs)

[escriptorium.readthedocs.io](#)

documentation tutorial htr

escriptorium


# ⇒ continuous documentation & READTHEDOCS & GitHub

requirements.txt	add pymdownx's keys extension (#32)	last year
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1 watching

7 forks

README MIT license



## ESCRIPORIUM DOCUMENTATION

This GitHub repository stores the source code for the [eScriptorium documentation](#). It is a collective initiative, open to anyone and designed to be modified by anyone.

The eScriptorium Documentation website is powered by MkDocs and hosted on readthedocs. All the source files of

**Releases**

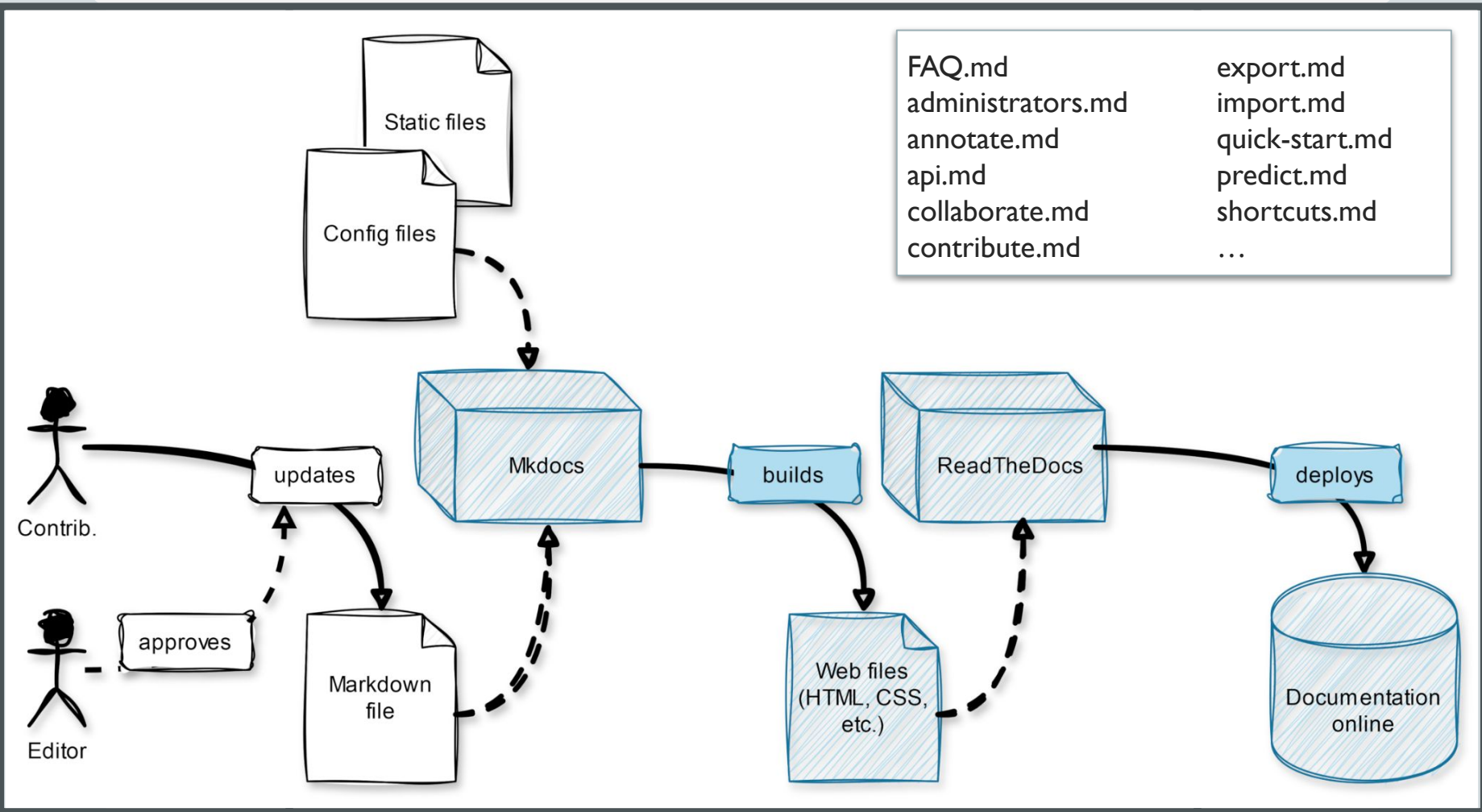
No releases published  
[Create a new release](#)

**Packages**

No packages published  
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**Contributors** (5)







## points of discussion

- it's not 100% robust against obsolescence & may have blind spots
  - *so is it trustworthy?*
  - yes, thanks to transparency and openness to collaborations
- multilingualism has yet to be achieved
- it's possible to contribute to open source software dev. with documentation
- a documentation increases accessibility and can create a broader audience
- the collaborative nature of the documentation can attract new contributors

# CONCLUSION

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- it's possible to contribute to open source software with something else than code
- we shared our vision of an efficient collaborative documentation project
- we'd be happy to find volunteers to make it multilingual!

thank you!



Alix  
Chagué



Floriane  
Chiffolleau



Hugo  
Scheithauer

and many thanks to those who already contributed:

- Jennifer Carrow
- Stefan Weil