Markdown + YAML

Proposal to include a metadata-header in our Markdown documents  
Knutholmen Sprint | 23–27 May 2016

# Introduction

During the Knutholmen sprint, the question came up how we could allow the [restriction of properties in functional views](https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/display/DDI4/Documents+from+Sprint?preview=/38240266/38240281/restrictions-in-functional-views.docx). The proposed solution is to add the information about restrictions in the metadata of the documentation. In this case, the modelers could edit restrictions in Drupal. These information would then also be exported as part of the documentation. The following discussion presents a solution how to integrate metadata like this in the documentation. It is worth mentioning that this solution is not limited to the restriction of properties. It could also help to include other information in a structured format in the Documentation.

The idea is to complement the documentation string in [Markdown](https://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/) format with additional metadata in [YAML](http://yaml.org/).

# Jekyll

The static website generator [Jekyll](https://jekyllrb.com/), which is also used for GithubPages, combines Markdown files with a YAML "front matter" for structured information.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Example** | **Description** |
| --- layout: post title: Blogging Like a Hacker ---  This is the actual content of the page in  [Markdown](https://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/) | ---  YAML  YAML  ---  Markdown  Markdown |

Example for Markdown + YAML in Jekyll

# Proposed solution

Like in Jekyll we could include a front matter in our Markdown documents to include additional metadata which are required to adjust the documentation on RTFD. This front matter could be used in the generation of the .rst files.

|  |
| --- |
| ---  class:  name: InstanceVariable functional\_views:  codebook:  include:  - attributeX  - attributeY ---  The use of a Represented Variable within a Data Set. |

Example for Markdown + YAML in Jekyll: the InstanceVariable

These additional metadata could be used in various scenarios. In particular, we could use these metadat to control the generation of the documentation in ReStructured Text.