

REGEX101: Mastering text with Regular Expressions

Have you ever wanted to extract phone numbers out of a block of unstructured text? Or email addresses. Or find all the words that start with “e” and end with “ed”, no matter their length? Or search through DNA sequences for a pattern? Or extract coordinates from GPS data?

Regular Expressions (regexes) are a powerful way to handle a multitude of different types of data. They can be used to find patterns in text and make sophisticated replacements. Think of them as find and replace on steroids. Come along to this workshop to learn what they can do and how to apply them to your research.

Learning Outcomes

- Comprehend and apply the syntax of regular expressions
- Use the <http://regexr.com> tool to test a regular expression against some text
- Construct simple regular expressions to find capitalised words; all numbers; all words that start with a specific set of letters, etc. in a block of text
- Craft and test a progressively more complex regular expression
- Find helpful resources covering regular expressions on the web