

Data Landscapers — Content Guide

How to add and edit content on data-landscapers.com

Everything is a file in your GitHub repo. GitHub Desktop → commit → push → live in ~2 minutes.

Two ways to edit

Option A — GitHub web editor (quickest for small edits)

Go to the file in github.com/data-landscapers/data-landscapers.github.io, click the pencil icon, edit, click "Commit changes."

Option B — Local files (better for new articles)

Edit in any text editor (even Notepad), save, open GitHub Desktop, commit, push.

1. Writing articles

File location

The `_posts/` folder. One file per article.

Filename format — critical

```
YYYY-MM-DD-short-title.md
```

Examples:

```
2026-05-10-africa-data-problem.md
```

```
2026-06-01-who-owns-the-internet.md
```

The date controls the order articles appear. The slug after the date becomes the URL.

Front matter (the block at the top of every article)

```
layout: article
title: "Your full article title here"
subtitle: "Optional – appears as the standfirst under the title"
date: 2026-05-10
tags: [data sovereignty, infrastructure, Nigeria]
description: "One sentence for SEO – what the article is about"
has_data_table: false
pdf: /assets/pdfs/optional-download.pdf # omit if no PDF
```

Set `has_data_table: true` only if the article contains a data table (loads the extra JS). If `pdf` is present, a Download PDF button appears in the article header. Omit the `pdf` line entirely if there is no PDF to link.

Writing the article

Everything below the closing `---` line is your article content, written in Markdown.

Markdown quick reference

```
## Heading 2 (main section headings)
### Heading 3 (subsections)
**bold text**
*italic text*
> This is a blockquote
[Link text](https://example.com)
![Image alt text](/assets/uploads/image.jpg)
- Bullet item
1. Numbered item
```

Do not use # Heading 1 — that is reserved for the article title.

Writing workflow (from Word)

- Write in Word as normal
 - Save as .docx
 - Convert to Markdown using Word to Markdown (paste or upload)
 - Copy the result into a new _posts/ file with correct filename and front matter
 - Review — check headings, links, images look right
 - Commit and push
-

2. Lab articles (work in progress)

The Lab section is for live datasets, evolving analysis and draft working papers — published to share progress, not as finished positions.

File location

The _lab/ folder. One file per item.

Filename format

```
YYYY-MM-DD-short-title.md
```

Front matter

```
layout: lab
title: "Your title here"
subtitle: "Optional standfirst"
date: 2026-05-10
category: "Digital Transformation" # appears as green badge
tags: [data, finance, OSINT]
description: "One sentence summary"
has_data_table: false
pdf: /assets/pdfs/optional-download.pdf # omit if no PDF
```

category: appears as a green badge on the lab index and on the article page. A filter dropdown appears on the lab index automatically once there are two or more distinct categories.

3. Embedding a data table in an article

Set `has_data_table: true` in the front matter, then place this div anywhere in the article body:

```
<div class="dl-datatable"
data-src="/assets/data/your-file.csv"
data-cols="col1, col2, col3"
data-title="Table title shown above controls">
</div>
```

- `data-cols` — comma-separated list of column names from the CSV header row, exactly as written. Omit entirely to show all columns.
- `data-filters` — optional comma-separated list of columns to use as filter dropdowns. Column names with spaces are fine (e.g. `data-filters="Country Name, Sector"`).
- `data-metadata-src` — optional path to a second CSV of metadata, adds a Download metadata button.

CSV file location — important

Drop CSV files into `assets/data/`. Do **not** put them in `_data/` — that folder is for Jekyll template data only and files there are not served to the browser.

4. Uploading images

Place image files in `assets/uploads/`.

Reference them in articles:

```
![[Description of image]](/assets/uploads/filename.jpg)
```

Or with a caption:

```
<figure>

<figcaption>Caption text here</figcaption>
</figure>
```

Supported formats: jpg, png, gif, webp, svg.

5. Uploading PDFs

Place PDF files in `assets/pdfs/`.

Link to them in any page:

```
[Download report (PDF)](/assets/pdfs/filename.pdf)
```

To show a Download PDF button at the top of an article or lab post, add `pdf: /assets/pdfs/filename.pdf` to the front matter.

6. Portfolio

The portfolio page is driven by a single data file. You never need to edit the page template itself.

Content file

_data/portfolio.yml

Item format

```
- date: "2024"
title: "Title: Subtitle if needed"
url: "https://example.com" # omit this line if no link
description: "One or two sentences."

# For longer descriptions use the > block scalar:
- date: "2022-2024"
title: "A longer entry"
description: >
This description runs across multiple lines.
YAML joins them into a single paragraph.
Write as much as you need.
```

- **date:** free text — use "2024", "2022–2024", "March 2023" etc.
 - **title:** always in double quotes (required — titles often contain colons)
 - **url:** omit the line entirely for unlinked items
 - Items display in the order they appear in the file — put most recent first
-

7. Editing the About page

File: about/index.md

Edit the text directly — it is plain HTML mixed with Markdown. The main bio paragraphs are near the top of the file.

To add a photo: upload your image to assets/uploads/, then:

```

```

8. Editing the CV

File: about/cv.md

Each job follows this pattern — copy and edit to add or change entries:

```
<div class="cv-job">
<div class="cv-job__header">
<div><span class="cv-job__org">Organisation name</span> – <span
class="cv-job__role">Role title</span></div>
<span class="cv-job__period">Jan 2020 – Dec 2023</span>
</div>
<div class="cv-job__desc">
<ul>
<li>What you did</li>
<li>Another achievement</li>
</ul>
```

```
</div>
</div>
```

9. Updating "Current focus" (homepage sidebar)

File: `_data/current_focus.yml`

```
- title: Africa DPI Dashboard
url: https://data-landscapers.github.io/africa-dpi/
meta: "54 countries • AfDB study"
external: true

- title: Another project
url: /lab/project-name/
meta: "Brief descriptor"
external: false
```

Set `external: true` for links that leave the site, `false` for internal pages.

10. Editing the Contact page

File: `contact/index.md`

The services grid and email address are in plain HTML near the bottom of the file. Edit directly.

11. Editing the site tagline / metadata

File: `_config.yml`

```
title: Data Landscapers
tagline: Mapping Africa's data landscape
description: Data governance, digital sovereignty and open source intelligence...
```

After editing `_config.yml`, Jekyll rebuilds the whole site — takes slightly longer (~3 minutes). Do not add or remove collections without checking with Claude first.

12. Quick reference: file locations

What	Where
Articles	<code>_posts/YYYY-MM-DD-title.md</code>
Lab items	<code>_lab/YYYY-MM-DD-title.md</code>
CSV data files (datatable)	<code>assets/data/filename.csv</code>
Images	<code>assets/uploads/filename.jpg</code>
PDFs	<code>assets/pdfs/filename.pdf</code>
About page	<code>about/index.md</code>

CV	about/cv.md
Writing index	writing/index.md
Lab index	lab/index.md
Portfolio content	_data/portfolio.yml
Contact	contact/index.md
Homepage	index.md
Current focus sidebar	_data/current_focus.yml
Site config	_config.yml
CSS (design)	assets/css/main.css

13. Checking your build

After every push, go to: github.com/data-landscapers/data-landscapers.github.io → Actions tab

- Green tick = deployed successfully.
- Red cross = something in the Markdown or YAML has a syntax error — click the failed run to see which file caused it.
- Most common cause: an unmatched quote in the front matter title: field. Fix: wrap titles containing colons or quotes in double quotes.
- After editing `_config.yml` the build takes ~3 minutes rather than ~2.