

# STADT GESCHICHTE BASEL

Fast prototyping: CollectionBuilder's Minimal Computing Approach to Open-Source Collections and Exhibits

Lighting Talk at the RSE Meetup by Dr. sc. Moritz Mähr (Digital Lead)

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# A common problem with (Digital) Humanities projects

In the (digital) humanities, researchers (and especially PIs) often want to create an online collection or exhibition, but don't know exactly what they need.

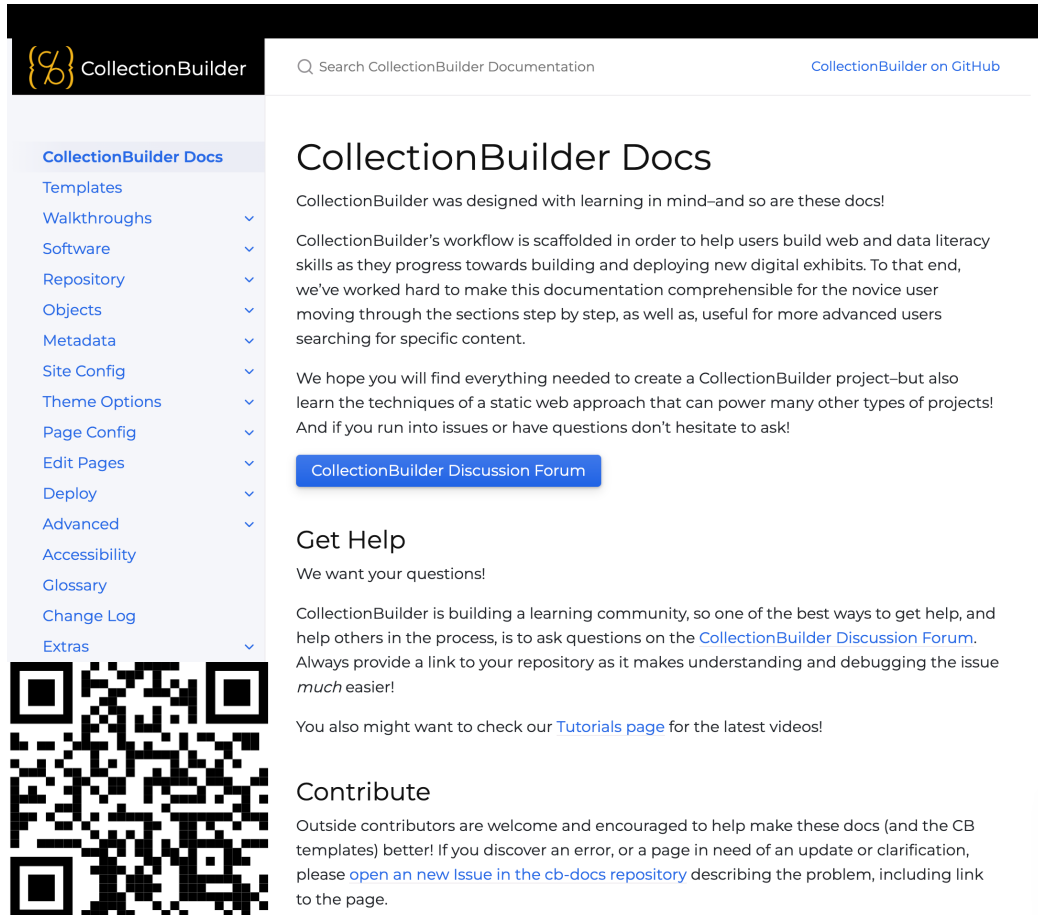


# The Solution: Fast prototyping with CollectionBuilder

Due to minimal computing, the Jekyll-based static site generator CollectionBuilder [collectionbuilder.github.io](https://collectionbuilder.github.io) allows for fast prototyping while retaining important features such as:

- **Digital Longevity:** Ensuring long-term archival and preservation.
- **FAIR Principles:** Supporting findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of digital assets.
- **Accessibility:** Making collections available to a wide audience, including those with disabilities.
- **KISS:** better HCI/UX/DX due to simple mental model.

# Extensive documentation and a very supportive open source community



The screenshot shows the CollectionBuilder documentation website. The header includes the CollectionBuilder logo and a search bar. A left sidebar lists navigation options like Templates, Walkthroughs, Software, Repository, Objects, Metadata, Site Config, Theme Options, Page Config, Edit Pages, Deploy, Advanced, Accessibility, Glossary, Change Log, and Extras. The main content area is titled "CollectionBuilder Docs" and contains introductory text, a "CollectionBuilder Discussion Forum" button, a "Get Help" section with a QR code, and a "Contribute" section.

**CollectionBuilder Docs**

CollectionBuilder was designed with learning in mind—and so are these docs!

CollectionBuilder's workflow is scaffolded in order to help users build web and data literacy skills as they progress towards building and deploying new digital exhibits. To that end, we've worked hard to make this documentation comprehensible for the novice user moving through the sections step by step, as well as, useful for more advanced users searching for specific content.

We hope you will find everything needed to create a CollectionBuilder project—but also learn the techniques of a static web approach that can power many other types of projects! And if you run into issues or have questions don't hesitate to ask!

[CollectionBuilder Discussion Forum](#)

### Get Help

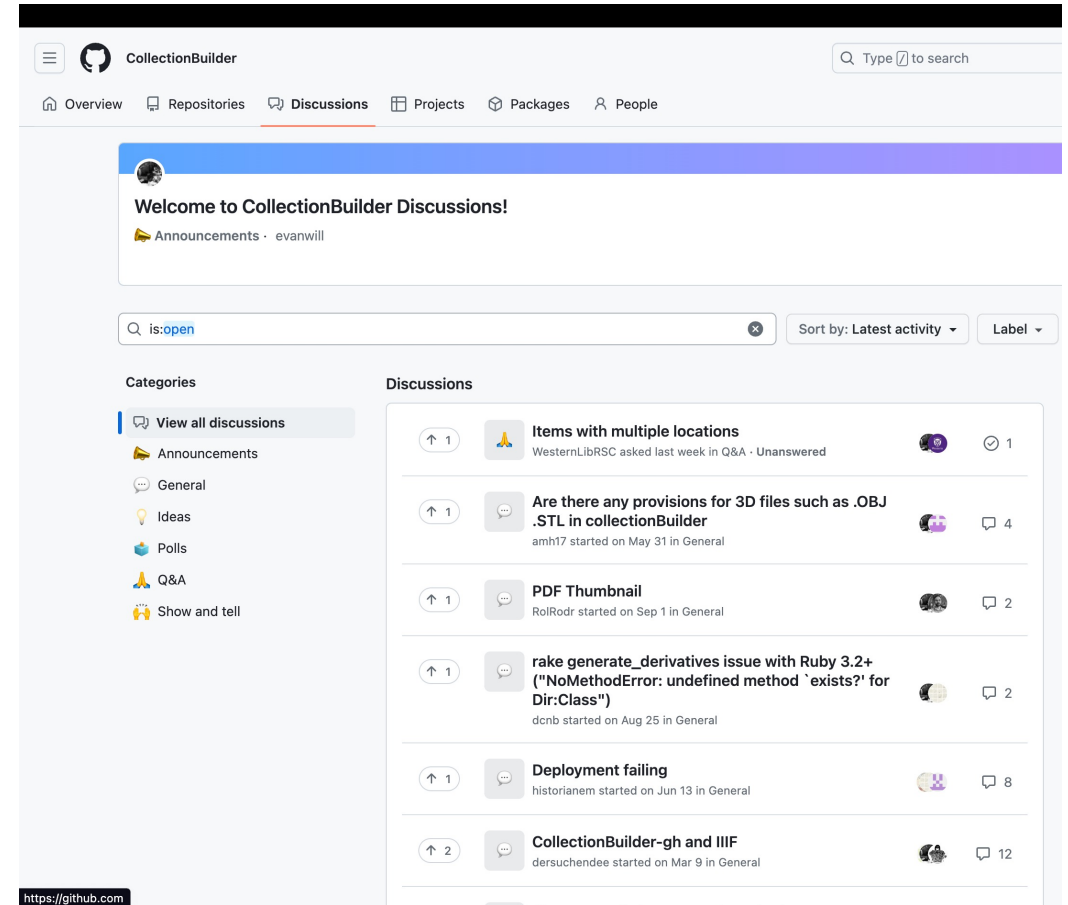
We want your questions!

CollectionBuilder is building a learning community, so one of the best ways to get help, and help others in the process, is to ask questions on the [CollectionBuilder Discussion Forum](#). Always provide a link to your repository as it makes understanding and debugging the issue *much* easier!

You also might want to check our [Tutorials page](#) for the latest videos!

### Contribute

Outside contributors are welcome and encouraged to help make these docs (and the CB templates) better! If you discover an error, or a page in need of an update or clarification, please [open an new Issue in the cb-docs repository](#) describing the problem, including link to the page.



The screenshot shows the GitHub Discussions page for CollectionBuilder. It features a navigation bar with Overview, Repositories, Discussions, Projects, Packages, and People. A search bar is present. The main content area displays a welcome message and a list of discussions. The discussions are sorted by latest activity and include titles, authors, and response counts.

**CollectionBuilder**

Search: Type to search

Overview Repositories **Discussions** Projects Packages People

Welcome to CollectionBuilder Discussions!

Announcements · evanwill

Search: is:open Sort by: Latest activity Label

#### Categories

- View all discussions
- Announcements
- General
- Ideas
- Polls
- Q&A
- Show and tell

#### Discussions

Upvotes	Discussion Title	Author	Start Date	Category	Responses
1	Items with multiple locations	WesternLibRSC	asked last week in Q&A	Unanswered	1
1	Are there any provisions for 3D files such as .OBJ .STL in collectionBuilder	amh17	started on May 31 in General	General	4
1	PDF Thumbnail	RoLRodr	started on Sep 1 in General	General	2
1	rake generate_derivatives issue with Ruby 3.2+ ("NoMethodError: undefined method `exists?' for Dir:Class")	dcnb	started on Aug 25 in General	General	2
1	Deployment failing	historianem	started on Jun 13 in General	General	8
2	CollectionBuilder-gh and IIIF	dersuchendee	started on Mar 9 in General	General	12

<https://github.com>

# STADT GESCHICHTE BASEL

Our own platform with research, sources and data on the history of the city of Basel is based on CollectionBuilder

- [forschung.stadtgeschichtebasel.ch](https://forschung.stadtgeschichtebasel.ch)
- [github.com/Stadt-Geschichte-Basel/forschung.stadtgeschichtebasel.ch](https://github.com/Stadt-Geschichte-Basel/forschung.stadtgeschichtebasel.ch)

## Forschungsdatenplattform

Die Forschungsdatenplattform befindet sich noch in der Testphase. Wir arbeiten daran, die Sammlung zu erweitern und die Plattform zu verbessern. Wir freuen uns über Ihr Feedback und Ihre Anregungen. Schreiben Sie uns eine [E-Mail](#).

Diese Sammlung enthält sensible Inhalte. Klicken Sie hier, um mehr zu erfahren. ✕

Diese öffentlich zugängliche Plattform dient der Bereitstellung von Quellen und historischen Forschungsdaten. In naher Zukunft werden Sie auf dieser Plattform eine umfangreiche Sammlung von Ressourcen zur Geschichte der Stadt Basel finden können. Sie bietet direkten Zugang zu nachnutzbaren Quellen und Daten, die aus verschiedenen Bänden stammen. Die sorgfältige Aufbereitung dieser Objekte ermöglicht es, Themen aus der Basler Geschichte aus verschiedenen Perspektiven zu erforschen – sei es auf einer Karte, entlang einer Zeitachse oder durch Inhalte, die mit Schlagworten versehen sind. Darüber hinaus werden wissenschaftliche Publikationen, die im Zusammenhang mit dem Forschungsprojekt stehen, sowie eine Bibliographie mit sämtlicher in den Bänden zitierter Literatur zur Verfügung gestellt.

Da die Plattform noch im Testbetrieb ist, werden kontinuierlich weitere Daten hinzugefügt, bis das Projekt Ende 2025 abgeschlossen wird. Wir laden Sie ein, die Plattform regelmässig zu besuchen, um die neuesten Updates zu entdecken, und ermutigen Sie, Fehler oder Unstimmigkeiten zu melden.

### Daten aus der Sammlung



Auf der Forschungsdatenplattform von Stadt.Geschichte.Basel finden Sie nachnutzbare Quellen und Daten zur Geschichte der Stadt Basel.