Front matter that the index depends on

Dates, subjects, permanent citation handles and the fields that connect published work.

JWOGRADY

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The theme carries no content types. What an entry *is* comes entirely from its front matter, and three fields are load-bearing: an entry missing them renders correctly and appears nowhere.

1. The three that matter

```
tags     = ["hugo", "workflow"]
archives = ["2026", "2026-09", "2026-09-20"]
resolves = "JRN 26-007"
aliases  = ["/r/26-007/"]
```

`tags` are subjects, not decoration. Frequency sets each tag's colour in the index, so a table of fifty entries is legible as a field before a word is read. This only works if terms are *reused* — a new tag per entry gives fifty identical grey labels. Reuse what exists; invent sparingly.

`archives` builds the date index. It is not derived from `date` — the three-element year / month / da form has to be written out, and the archetype does it automatically. Wrong here means the entry is missing from `/archives/` while looking fine on its own page.

`resolves` + `aliases` are the citation handle. Assigned once, never renumbered, resolving at `/r/<code>/` forever. Two entries claiming the same number is a silent collision — one alias wins ar the other is lost.

`story.sh plan` assigns the next free handle by scanning the existing entries, which is the reason t use it rather than copying an old entry's front matter and editing the number by hand. It also refuse to publish an entry with no tags, because that entry would render and appear in no index.

2. The optional ones worth using

```
description = 'One sentence. Used for meta description and search results.'
claim       = 'One line. Renders as the standout paragraph under the date.'
```

3. Images, in a bundle

```
[[resources]]
  src   = "screenshot.png"
  title = "Screenshot"
  [resources.params]
    alt     = "What is actually in the image, for a reader who cannot see it."
    caption = "Rendered under the figure."
    credit  = "Screenshot"
```

`alt` is not optional. The theme prints `caption` and `credit` beneath the figure and uses `alt` on the image itself.

4. Journal and Lab Notes

Journal remains `content/posts/`: complete, authored pieces, with existing URLs and `JRN` handle unchanged. A Lab Note is a bundle at `content/lab-notes/<slug>/index.md`, with `draft = true` to start. Its stable URL is `/lab-notes/<slug>/`; use a descriptive heading such as `## Finding` to give a Journal article an anchor it can cite.

```
title = 'A useful observation'
date = 2026-11-20T10:30:00-06:00
draft = true
description = 'A short account of what changed or what remains uncertain.'
tags = ['hugo', 'workflow']
projects = ['jwogrady-com']
archives = ['2026', '2026-11', '2026-11-20']
related = ['/docs/publishing', '/posts/personal-brand-first']
```

`projects` is a shared taxonomy, not an instruction to move old articles. `related` names page path or existing citation handles. It produces links and backlinks only to pages present in the build: a public article must not reveal a private note's title. Publish a cited note before linking to it from a public article.

Use the `cite` shortcode for a checked cross-reference:

```
{{< cite "JRN 26-018" >}}
{{< cite "/lab-notes/a-useful-observation#finding" "the experiment" >}}
```

The build fails if that target is absent, including when it is still a local draft. Ordinary Markdown lin still work, but cannot provide this check.

5. Docs previews and downloads

```
description = 'A short explanation of what this document helps with.'
preview = 'cover.png'  # bundle resource, assets/ resource, or another page's resource pat
format = 'HTML'        # label; omit for an ordinary web document
lastmod = 2026-11-20  # only when the document was actually revised
# download = '/documents/checklist.pdf'  # optional; never inferred
```

An entry can be a web page, a downloadable file, or a web page with a download. The index always opens the page and shows the download separately. A preview is an aid to recognition beside the same title, so it has empty alt text rather than repeating the link to a screen reader. Content images still need meaningful alt text. Missing previews use a labelled document plate; SVGs and unsupported formats do not enter the raster processing path.

Canonical: https://www.jwogrady.com/docs/writing/front-matter/ ‹https://www.jwogrady.com/docs/writing/front-matter/›