netherlands eScience center

Research Software Directory

A content management system
tailored to research software

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Xpert Network Panel, UDel

About the Netherlands eScience Center

doi: 10.5281/zenodo.4337602

github.com/research-software-directory

netherlands eScience center

About the Netherlands eScience Center

1. What software do we have?
2. How to show outside world what we're working on
3. How to collect metrics
4. How to illustrate making an impact through software

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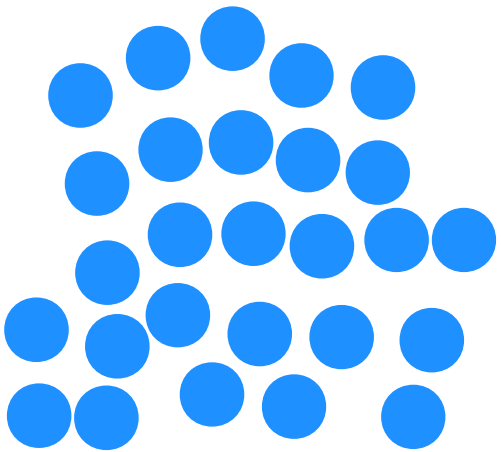
Research Software Directory

Types of pages

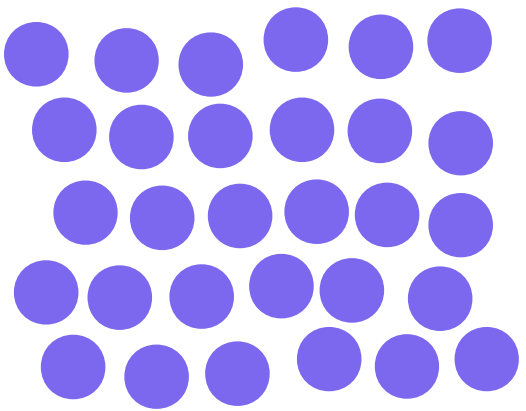
software index

project index

software pages (~133)



project pages (~146)



admin

metrics dashboard

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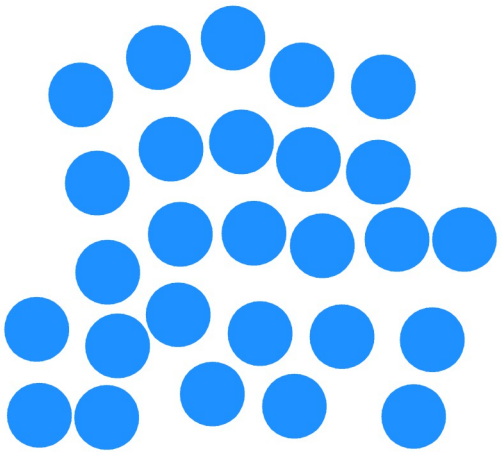
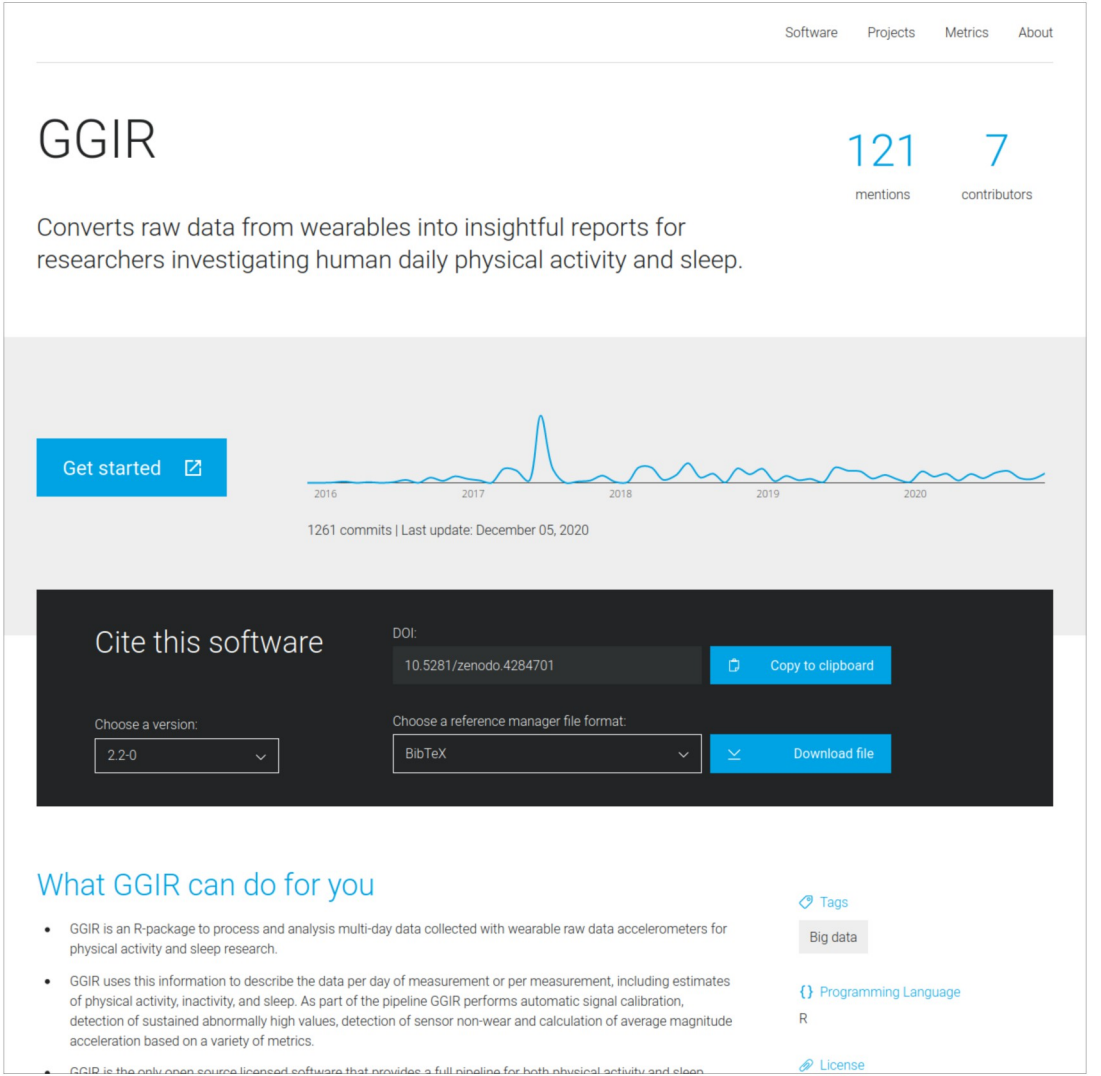
Types of pages

software pages (~133)





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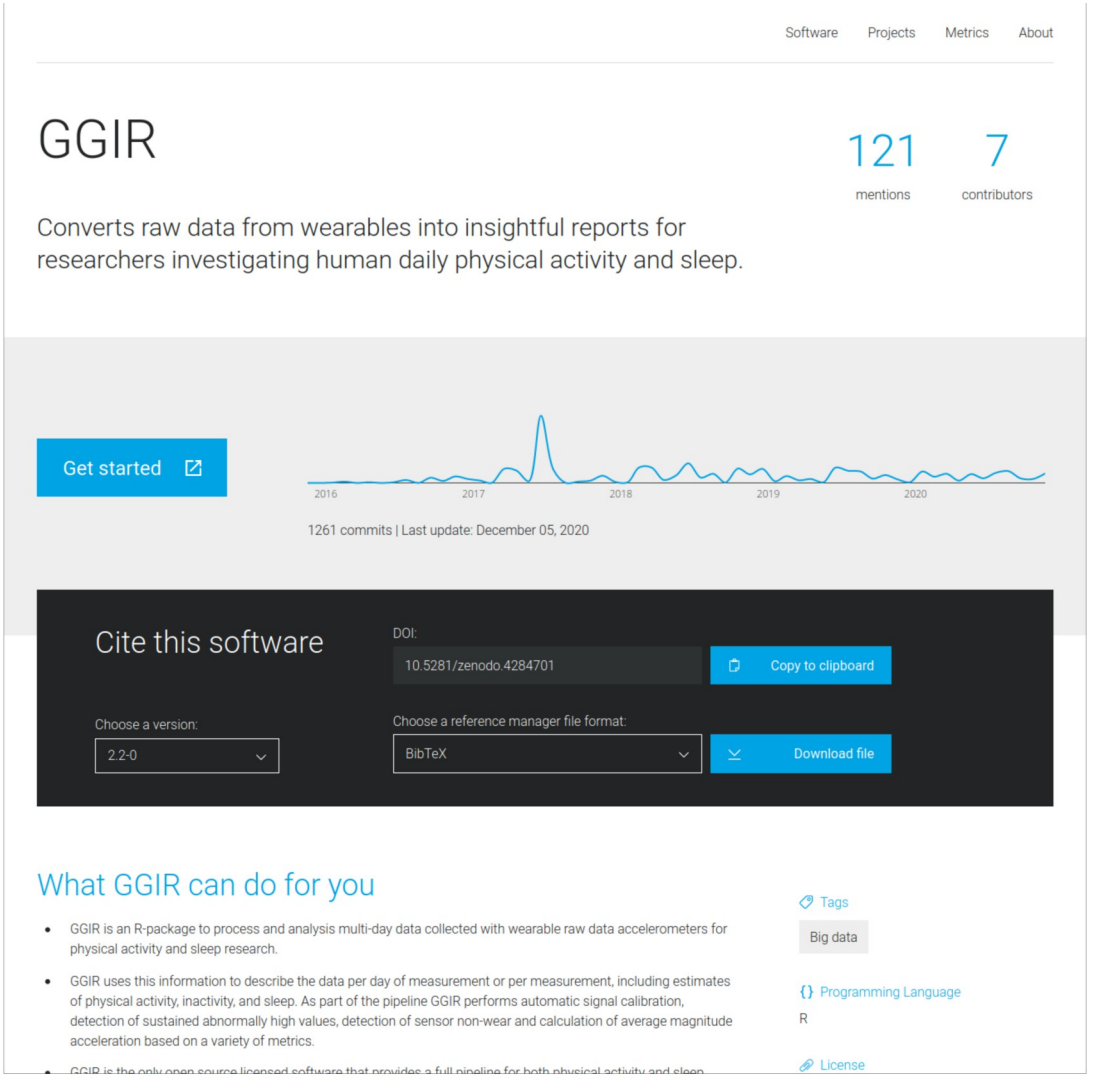
Customer journey

Taking the visitor's perspective

1. Searching
2. Realizing that you've found it
3. Building trust / removing fears
4. Getting started



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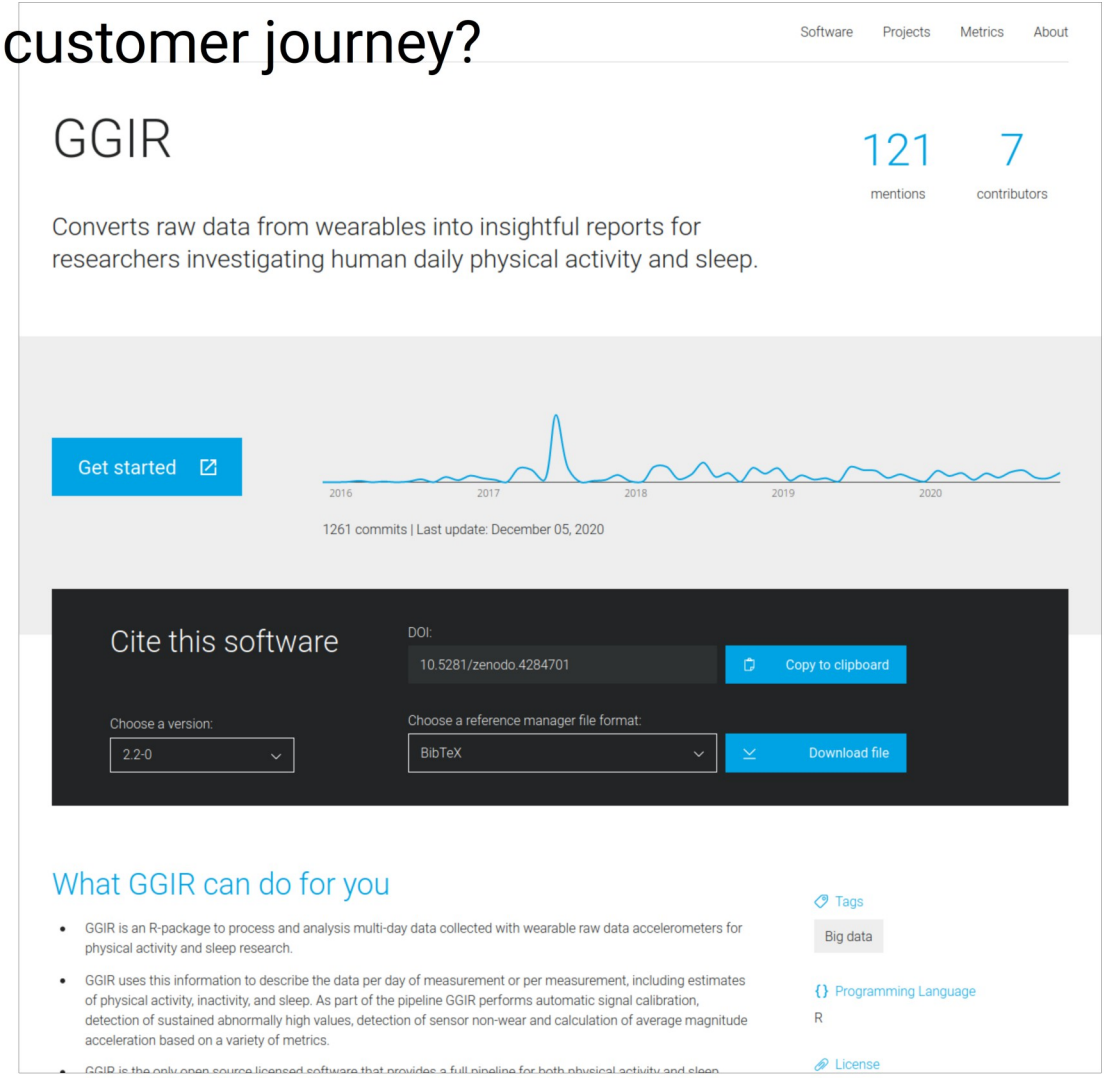
How does the design support the customer journey?

Taking the visitor's perspective

1/4: Searching

Search Engine Optimization

- Clear layout
- Well written prose
- Links to context
- Load times
- Responsiveness on various devices
- schema.org metadata
- etc.



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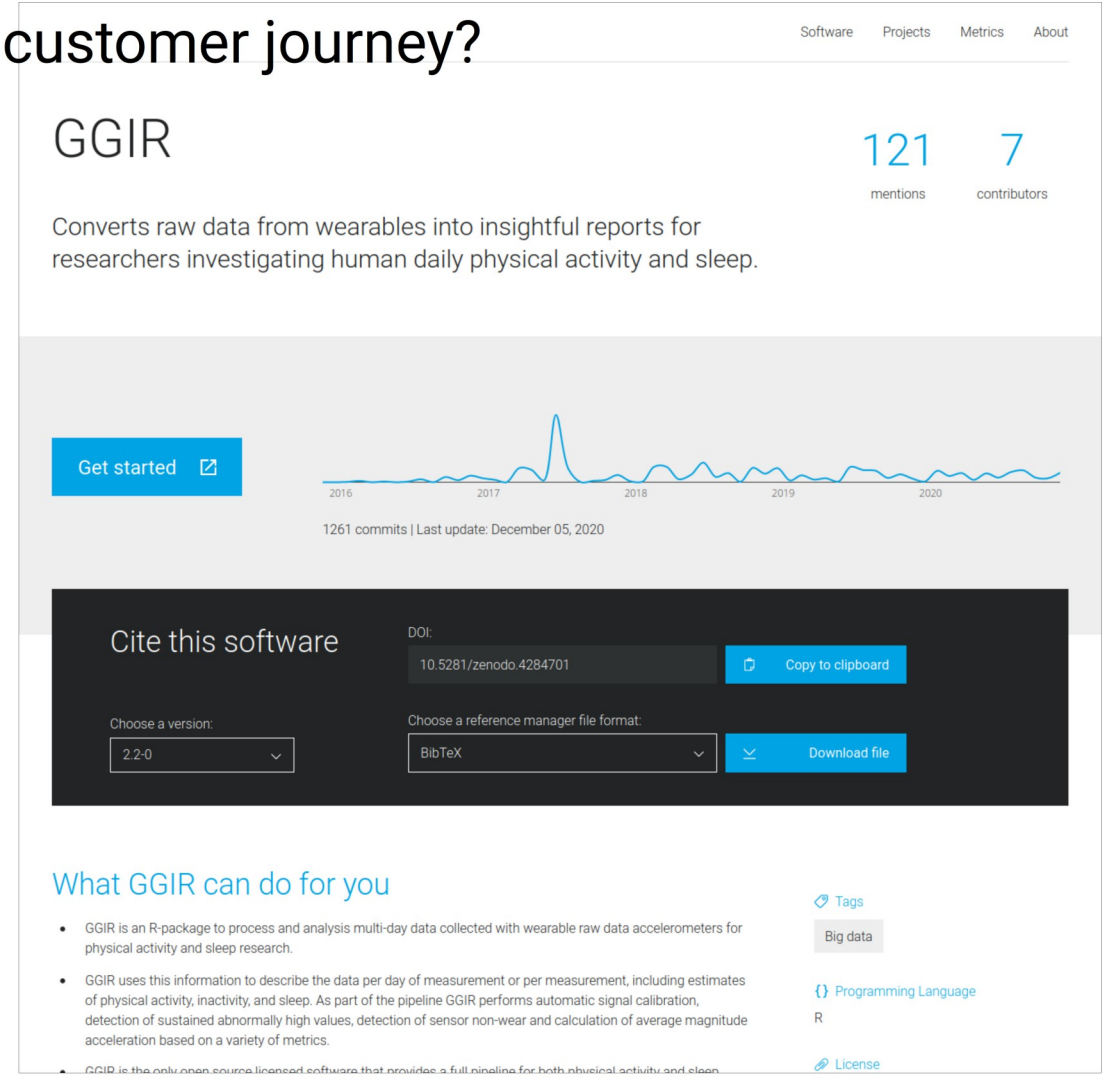
How does the design support the customer journey?

Taking the visitor's perspective

2/4: Realizing that you've found it

- Clean, attractive layout
- Accessible language
- Help visitors judge if a 'shared purpose' exists



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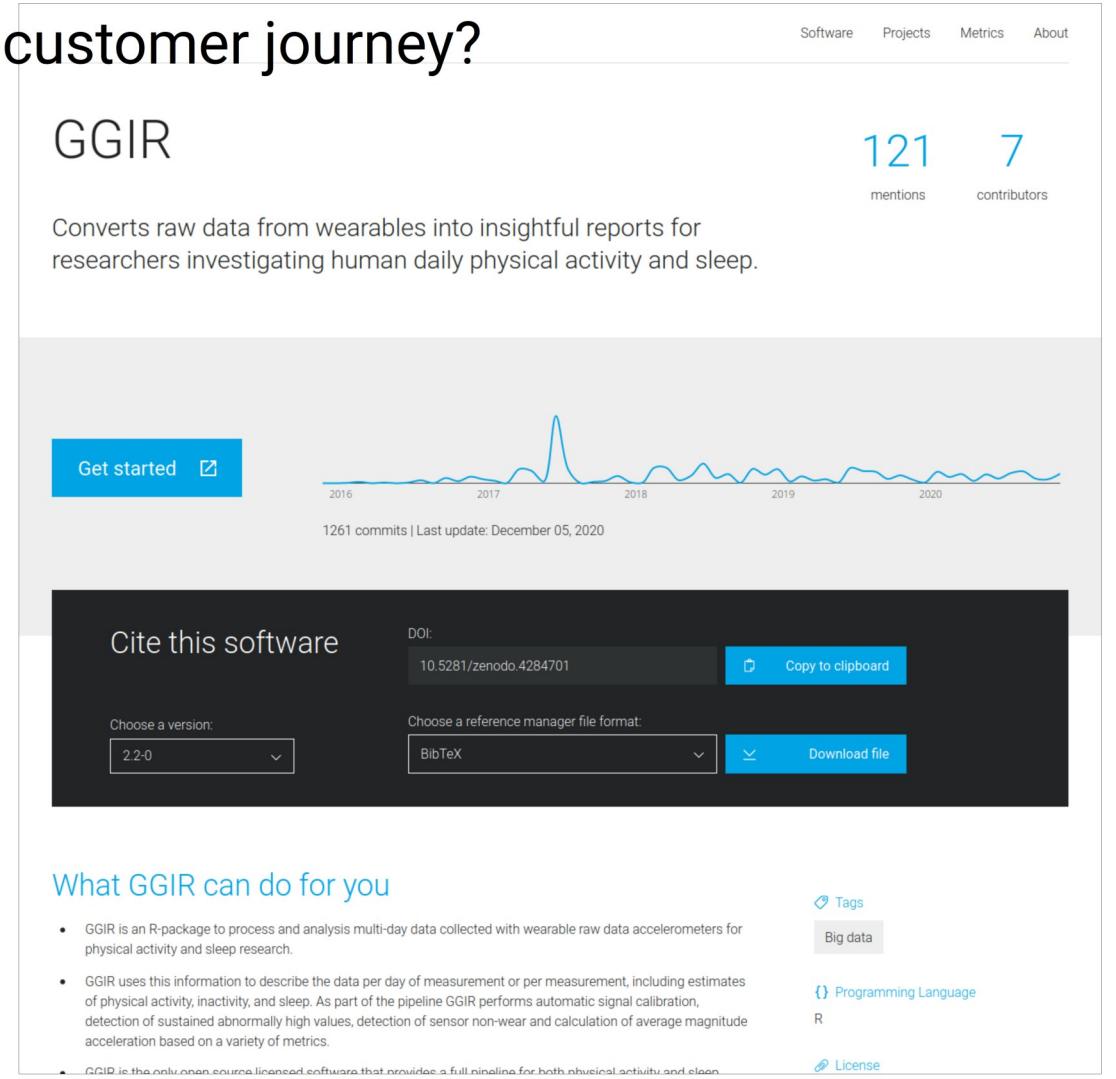
How does the design support the customer journey?

Taking the visitor's perspective

3/4: Building trust / removing fears

1. Research and social context
2. Activity plot
3. Software license
4. Programming language
5. Link to code



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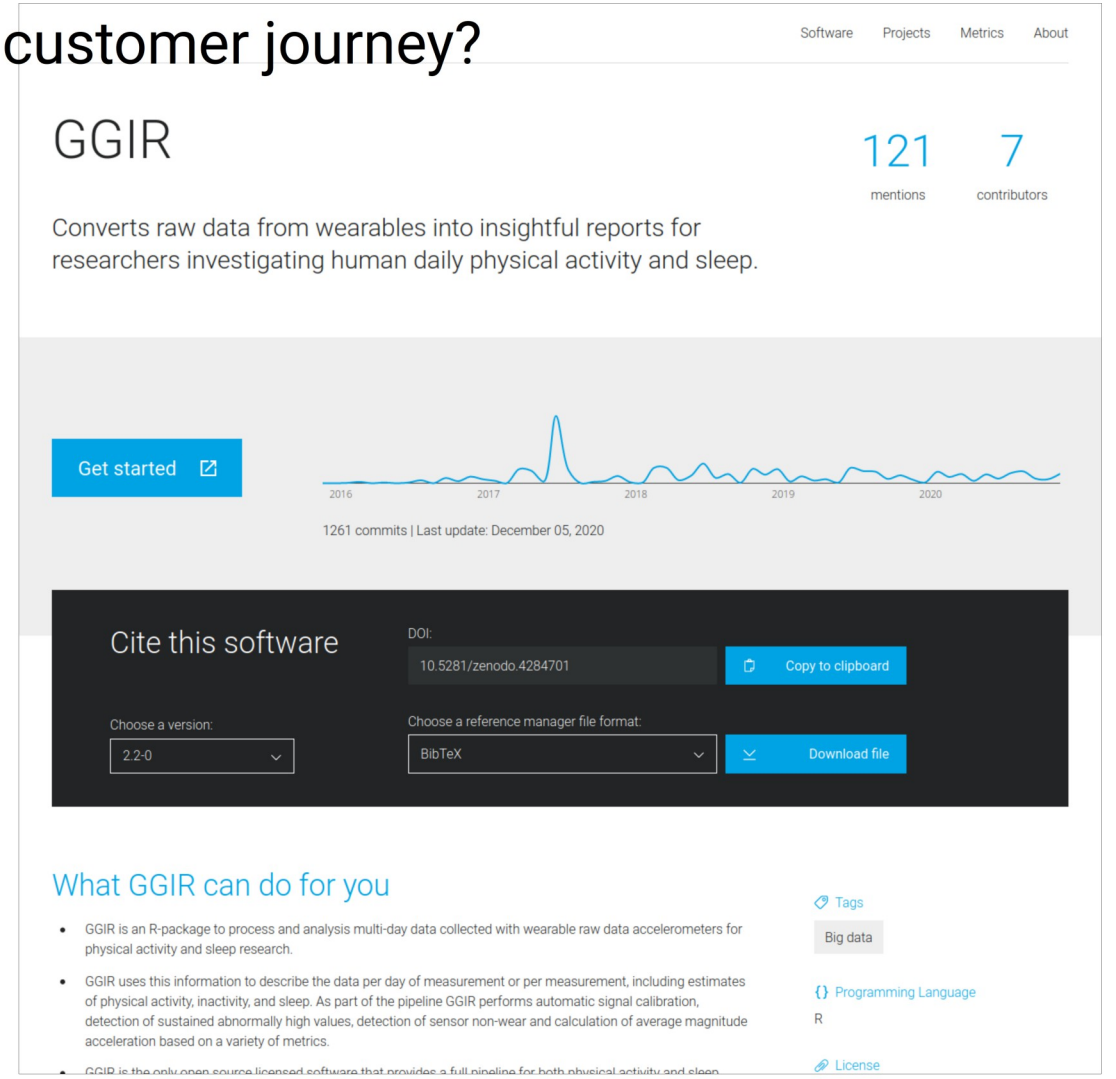
How does the design support the customer journey?

Taking the visitor's perspective

4/4: Getting started

e.g.:

1. Link to tutorial
2. Link to documentation
3. Link to screencast of the software being used



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Talking points

1. "Can a directory of tools help development?"
    - Yes, especially when work is done asynchronously (like with project based funding), physically distant, at multiple organizations or departments
2. "What are good attributes?"
    - Depends on the needs of the visitor, more manageable if done per community, per organization
    - Better to look for group of users with more or less homogeneous needs
3. "Distributed system (multiple directories / instances)"
    - Yes, better for social reasons
    - easier to govern
    - can work better technically as well
4. "What should be the scope of items advertised in the directory?"
    - co-ownership
    - usefulness
5. "How to do crosslinking / federated search across instances?"
    - For most communities, no need for extensive search as long as you do Search Engine Optimization

Thank you

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