Publishing .docx Files to GitHub Pages with Auto-Generated Listings

Build a GitHub repo where you simply drop `.docx` files into a folder (/data) and GitHub Pages automatically publishes a clean, browsable list of download links.

You need a small automation layer that generates an index page for you.

The most reliable approach today is to use a **GitHub Action that auto-generates directory listings**. This gives you an nginx-style autoindex for any folder, including `.docx` files, and updates automatically whenever you push new files.
Two Actions exist that do exactly this. Both are confirmed to work with GitHub Pages.

How it works

You create a folder in your repo (e.g., `/data`) and drop `.docx` files into it.
A GitHub Action runs on every push, scans that folder, and generates an `index.html` listing all files with clickable download links.
GitHub Pages then publishes that folder as a browsable page.

This means:

- - No manual HTML editing
- - No scripting on your machine
- - No Jekyll plugins
- - Works with any file type (`.docx`, `.pdf`, `.xlsx`, `.zip`, etc.)

1. Create your folder

Example:

```
    /data
             report1.docx
             project-summary.docx
             notes.docx
```

2. Add this workflow to `.github/workflows/directory-listing.yml`

This uses the widely adopted `github-pages-directory-listing` Action.

```
name: directory-listing

on:
  push:
    branches:
      - main
  workflow_dispatch:

jobs:
  pages-directory-listing:
    name: Directory Listings Index
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest

    steps:
      - name: Checkout Repository
        uses: actions/checkout@v4

      - name: Generate Directory Listings
        uses: jayanta525/github-pages-directory-listing@v4.0.0
        with:
          FOLDER: data

      - name: Upload artifact
        uses: actions/upload-pages-artifact@v4
        with:
          path: data

  deploy:
    needs: pages-directory-listing
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest

    permissions:
      pages: write
      id-token: write

    environment:
      name: github-pages
      url: ${{ steps.deployment.outputs.page_url }}

    steps:
      - name: Deploy to GitHub Pages
        id: deployment
        uses: actions/deploy-pages@v4
```

3. Enable GitHub Pages

Set Pages to deploy from **GitHub Actions**.

4. Visit your auto-generated listing

If your repo is `djw1080/myrepo`, and your folder is `files`, your listing appears at:

```
https://djw1080.github.io/myrepo/
```

You’ll see a clean list of `.docx` files with download links.

What you gain

- - Fully automated publishing
- - Zero maintenance
- - Works perfectly for your *tech-observatory* repo or any research archive
- - Ideal for long-term archiving (Internet Archive will capture the generated index too)