Editorial comments

Barbara Beeton

TEX entomology

For the past many years, I have been listed on Don Knuth's TEX web page as his official collector of bugs (see the "Errata" section of `http://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~uno/abcde.html`). This is about to change.

The next review is scheduled for 2020, and it's prudent for someone younger to be the bearer of this responsibility. By unanimous consent, my successor will be Karl Berry (already the bearer of many TEX-related responsibilities), `karl@freefriends.org`; he will officially take up the butterfly net on 1 January 2015. Although in practice we will continue to share information and consult on matters involving the history of this function, as of January 1, Karl will be the person responding to inquiries and rendering decisions on whether a report is or is not a bug. As in the past, this decision will not be reached by just one person; a few "trusted experts" (trusted and approved by Don, that is) will continue to provide advice backing up responses to reports.

Bonne chance, Karl! May you find this exercise as interesting as I have.

An alternative to `tangle` and `weave`

In addition to his presentation at TUG 2014 on a new, fully functional, TEX-language interpreter, Doug McKenna unveiled a command-line program, `literac`, that converts source code written in languages that use C-style commenting syntax into a LATEX document. The result, if the author has been diligent, is a literate exposition of the program under consideration. Only one file and one step is involved, unlike the dual-process `tangle` and `weave`.

The slides from the talk are posted at `http://tug.org/tug2014/slides/mckenna-literac.pdf`, though sadly without the (blindingly fast) demonstration that accompanied the presentation. We look forward to articles from Doug on this and other topics in a future *TUGboat* issue.

More Lucida fonts

The complete (albeit growing) selection of Lucida fonts has a new venue at the Lucida fonts store, `http://lucidafonts.com`. As announced on the Bigelow & Holmes site:

> We have opened a store to sell downloadable Lucida Fonts. We offer 310 fonts, most of them never before released and available only from The Lucida Fonts Store.

The letter "a" is shown in all its variety at `http://bigelowandholmes.typepad.com/`. (This page, the B&H blog, also contains a remembrance of Hans Eduard Meier, Swiss lettering artist and creator of the font Syntax, who died on 15 July 2014, age 91. Other interesting items appear in the blog as well; by the time you read this, there should be an item "How and Why We Designed Lucida".)

A "Math" page at `http://lucidafonts.com/pages/lucida-math` points to the Lucida fonts page at the TUG store (`http://tug.org/store`).

More from Chuck Bigelow about Lucida

Lucida fonts spotted "in the wild": `http://www.pinterest.com/lucidaf/lucida-on-location/`

Chuck asks, "If you run across uses of Lucida elsewhere that are photogenic enough to be legible, let me know."

He also notes that the Louvre example is out of date; the photo was taken in 1997, but by 2012, the interior signage had been switched to use other fonts (unspecified).

Erratum: "Online Publishing via pdf2htmlEX", *TUGboat* 34:3

In their Acknowledgement on page 323, the authors, Lu Wang and Wanmin Liu, misspelled the name of Professor Masakata Kaneko.

Peter Flynn's *Formatting Information* updated

An early version of this manual was published in *TUGboat* **23**:2. It has undergone some revisions since its original appearance in 1999. The latest (HTML) version has undergone several major changes: it is now mobile-friendly, it has a new search engine, a new index. and the chapter pages (previously quite large) have been cut into files per section so that they load faster on marginal connections.

Peter says, regarding the new release,

> Some things like lines of code examples won't fit happily on very small screens. I don't think anyone has a real solution to this yet.
>
> The examples have all been reworked, and all the package links updated (and several obsolescent packages replaced by newer ones).
>
> The PDF and eBook will follow in due course. Please email me with all corrections, suggestions, gripes, flames, etc.

Peter's contact information is available on the web site for the manual: `http://latex.silmaril.ie/formattinginformation/`. The manual is also posted on CTAN.

Klaus Peters, 1937–2014

Klaus Peters was a mathematician who, instead of "practicing" mathematics, preferred to use his knowledge to ensure that mathematics and other scientific literature was presented in its best, most readable form for a wide audience. His publishing ventures began with the founding of Birkhäuser, Boston, in 1979, with his wife, Alice, and continued through several other publishing houses, some of which he founded (including A K Peters Ltd.), others where he worked as an editor or consultant. His expertise and friendship were greatly valued by scores of mathematicians.

His philosophy was laid out in an article in the *AMS Notices*, "Why publish mathematics?" (`http://www.ams.org/notices/200907/rtx090700819p.pdf`). It is well worth reading, as is a shorter opinion piece on the obligations of a responsible publishing house: "P_V: The value of publishing" (`http://www.ams.org/notices/201206/rtx120600741p.pdf`).

The high standards he professed are a worthy goal for any author or publisher.

Other items worth a look — bibliographies

The web-based service `http://www.doi2bib.org/` will accept a DOI (digital object identifier) and return a BibTeX entry for use in your bibliography. A similar facility, based on author names and titles, is offered by `http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/`, but is available only to subscribers (including many academic libraries). This by way of a reminder that Nelson Beebe has amassed an amazing collection of scientific bibliographies and tools for handling them, at `http://ftp.math.utah.edu/pub/bibnet/`.

Geographical trivia: Kolophon

Not long ago, I attended a presentation entitled "Field Dirt", in which were reported the projects undertaken during the summer vacation by the archaeological faculty of Brown University. One of the projects covered several sites in Turkey, which were duly displayed on a map. But wait — what's that name "Kolophon" doing there?

This city was founded by the Greeks around the turn of the first millennium B.C. as "Κολοφών". (One of the most renowned Ionian cities until its conquest and decline in the 7th century B.C., it has been cited as a possible home or birthplace for Homer.) The origin of the name is the word κολοφών, meaning "summit", on account of its location, built on three hills. The bibliographic "colophon" is from the same source, with the metaphorical sense of "crowning touch", a feature nowadays too often missed.

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http://tug.org/TUGboat