Introduction

Well, as you can see, this isn’t a thematic issue about TeX and the Humanities. Pierre MacKay and I were entrusted with putting such an issue together last spring, but the silly truth is—we’ve both been far busier than either of us had anticipated, doing just that: typesetting humanities materials with TeX. Trust us—TeX is alive and kicking wildly all over the humanities playground.

But back to that nostra culpa bit … It must also be said that we haven’t exactly been inundated with offers of articles or ideas—most suggestions in fact have been in the form of messages from the comp.text.tex newsgroup forwarded by the TUGboat editor. It’s Pierre’s view that perhaps people who are using TeX, but not for maths and sciences, somehow feel their work isn’t of sufficient complexity or of broad-enough interest to write about. Rubbish, we say! This column should help dispel such misperceptions, still around almost 20 years after TeX first came on the scene.

The Humanities column will become a regular feature in TUGboat, providing an on-going dialogue about this very large area of activity. It will include reports and updates on new projects, information on resources, be they style files or articles, along with titles just published (especially handy for those times when you feel at a loss to cite new and diverse examples of TeX-without-math), and so on.

We are hoping that this first overview will not only provide a quick glimpse of some of the important hidden areas of TeX activity, but will also serve as an incentive to people working in these and other related areas, bringing us information about their
projects, their particular hurdles (all surmounted, of course!), and their unexpected discoveries.

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The section headings are in alphabetic order, to make it easier to find your particular field(s) of interest. Some headings refer to format more than content (Collected works, Critical editions, Dictionaries, Journals, for example) while others are more directly related to specific fields of study and research (Linguistics, in this issue; Economics and Music in the next). The “Other projects” section is of course for things we haven’t already stuck into a pre-conceived box, or for items where there’s only one representative to date. Please send new headings you’d like to see treated.

Following a (fairly) brief description of the more salient characteristics of each category, expect to find information and news on current projects, any resources (style files, documentation, etc.) that are available, and then a list of publications in that field.

It is still difficult to explain to someone (a publisher, for example) that not only is it logical and normal to consider \TeX as much as any other typesetting option for non-maths/sciences, but that it has been going on for quite some time. Indeed, in the hunt for journal titles, it would seem that 1983 was the starting point. But a list of publications, while arid in itself, is often the best way, simply by its length, to silence the doubters who still exist—and to encourage those who really do want to use the best possible tool for putting their research to paper.

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This edition of the column is necessarily incomplete: restrictions of space and time mean we’ve focussed on fields where information is readily at hand. And so, it’s true, the initial listing of titles includes many which I’ve worked on—well, I had to fill these sections with something!

There are of course other areas outside of the humanities, and of the maths/sciences: from magazines (Don Hosek’s Serif being an excellent example) to phone books (I recall someone talking once about such a project, perhaps in Ireland). This column won’t become the grab-bag of anything not in maths or the sciences—I shall leave that area of proselytizing to someone else!

One final word. To try and keep the present column to a reasonable length, only publications dated from 1994 onwards are included (with a few exceptions). We’re hoping to eventually have these publications listed on the Web, which would allow not only more complete entries and information about each book’s \TeX-ing particulars, but also would make it possible to have an archival place of record for everything that’s gone before.

Collected works

What’s intended with this category is projects which focus on the entire opus or a facet of a single person or a small discrete group—and are just plain huge! Not just a single book or even a two-volume affair, not a periodical that comes out with a new issue every few months, but a project which anticipates many volumes, and a work period spanning many years, possibly with changes in personnel and hardware along the way. The sheer mass of material, the need for stability in the software over the long term, combined with the need for flexibility as the work progresses—these are some of the core factors which have led these projects to \TeX. And we’re glad they did!

Following a lead provided by Paul Neubauer at Ball State University, we’ve learned of a project that’s been going on for some 20 years!—an edition of the letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe\footnote{American author (1811–1896) of \textit{Uncle Tom’s Cabin} (the book that helped precipitate the American Civil War), and 36 other works.}—under the direction of E. Bruce Kirkham (Dept. of English, Ball State). Paul’s suggestion to consider \TeX has allowed the project team to write and insert both textual notes (describing emendations to the manuscript), and informational notes (identifying all the persons, places, and events Mrs. Stowe mentions in her letters). To date, some 2,200 of the estimated 2,500 letters have been dealt with.

We’d like to hear about more such projects, and any volumes that have already been published.

Credits: E. Bruce Kirkham, Paul Neubauer

Critical editions

In the general field of literary studies, critical editions are amongst the most complex in terms of structure. An “old” text, something typically dated three or four hundred years ago, is reproduced, with great care taken to identify variations in actual copies, not many of which may still exist in various libraries around the world. One or more of these copies is identified as being the most stable, or the most unchanged, or the best (by whatever criteria may be appropriate), and then variations from that main text are noted in the critical apparatus—footnote-like elements at the bottom of each page. Normally line numbers run down either the left- or right-hand margin, perhaps at every 5th or 10th
line, in order to quickly locate the word or phrase in question.

Glosses ("meanings") of words no longer easily understood often appear at page bottom, or at the end of the text, where extensive explanations and commentary are placed. Cross-referencing by line and page numbers is also prevalent: line numbers are often incorporated into the apparatus at page-bottom, while line and page numbers are often found in the commentary.

In short, highly elaborated and formalised structures are to be found in critical editions. And as can be imagined, line- and page-numbering (always subject to change as corrections are input), variable space required for the critical apparatus at page-bottom, and the necessary cross-referencing can make this an extremely expensive typesetting activity for publishers to undertake (not to mention the many years of research needed before the typesetting stage even begins to loom on the horizon).

All of which make critical editions sometimes appear to be a rather non-lucrative type of publication.

Of course, one would like to imagine that the author or typesetter using \TeX makes this type of complexity a mere cakewalk, via macros (and of course, skilled tagging!), and thus re-opens an area of research unhindered by typographic (and economic) constraints. If production costs are too high, projects either don't get off the ground, or have to be scaled back. But with the opportunities which edmac (and some early clones) afford, it is possible for scholars to consider undertaking research which can be presented with the detail and the quality that they would wish.

Existing resources At the moment, there is one major package devoted to critical editions — edmac, from John Lavagnino and Dominik Wujastyk. While only for plain \TeX, edmac — in existence now for almost a decade, but only finalised and completed with documentation a few years ago — provides tremendous possibilities for not merely the typesetting of critical editions, but perhaps more importantly, for expanding the scope of complexity in such works. The edmac package can be found on CTAN in tex-archive/macros/plain/contrib/edmac/. And I've just wandered into a tidy description of the package via the TUG home page, under "Other \TeX resources on the Web", then "Packages and programs".

The books listed for Dovehouse Editions in Ottawa are all done by me, using an early edmac forerunner (provided in February of 1989 by a fellow called Mac Pigman, to whom I shall forever remain indebted), which was then heavily reworked by Andrew Dobrowolski. I suspect that the features we built in are now covered by what eventually became the final version of edmac.

We hope to have an article on Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen's project [1] in a future TUGboat issue, along with something more on edmac.

What we don't know — in addition to the dozens of published works which surely have been produced over the years [please send us details!] — is if there are resources such as newsgroups or discussion lists for people working on critical editions, and if other style files exist which are either not well-known, or are in-house only.

Publications

[1] de Leeuw van Weenen, Andrea, ed. The Icelandic Homily Book. Perg. 15 4° in the Royal Library, Stockholm. Reykjavík: Stofnun Arna Magnússonar á Íslandi, 1993. 640pp. [For a brief article about this project, which took some 19 years to complete, see MAPs 14 (95.1), pages 31-34.]


Credits: Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen
Dictionaries

Everyone knows what these look like! The general structural elements include a page layout of two or more columns (depending on page size), with running heads indicating the first word and last word on each page, and a tremendously varied assortment of font styles and sizes, along with very specific punctuation sequences, all of which imply highly-tagged input files. These documents can be unilingual, bilingual, or multilingual, and not all use high-aliased input. These documents can be sp ecific punctuation sequences, all of which imply fonts, and expect the final product will be 550-600 pages, probably totally photo-composed in LATEX, unless some publisher has other ideas.” The Tamil font WnTamil was designed by Tom Ridgeway of the University of Washington, with input from Schiffman.

And while I wanted to list books only of the past two years, to keep things short … well, dictionaries take so long that I’ll bend a bit. The Newman dictionary listed below is interesting in that it had special fonts created for the Hausa text; thanks to Jörg Knappen for passing on the information (he adds that this of course predates the FC fonts for African languages).

Publications


Credits: Harold F. Schiffman; Jörg Knappen, Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen, Emma Pease

Journals

The principal feature of a journal is its repetitiveness. Once a style is established, it becomes an easy matter to deal with the document’s general structure and thus its coding. Two other features one could highlight are: (a) each issue contains materials from many sources (different software and hardware and skill levels of the contributors); and, (b) each issue has more than one component: articles, book reviews, short notes, perhaps lists of recent publications, occasionally advertisements, and then the cover material. Whatever the frequency (annual, twice or three times a year, quarterly), regular turn- around must be maintained.

There are three entries in the list below for which I have no information beyond their titles. If anyone can provide details, please get in touch.

Existing resources

To date, my impression is that most humanities journals use Tex and co as an in-house tool, the bulk of their submissions coming from word-processing programs such as WordPerfect, MS Word, and so on. We would therefore like to use this space as an ongoing source of information on style files made available to authors by various publishers or editors for submissions to their humanities journals.

In 1993, I set out to find out what humanities journals were being produced in Tex for a poster display on its use in the Humanities for the annual meeting of the Society for Scholarly Publishing. I sent out a form I’d devised, and the results are mainly to be found below, with some additions over the years from Pierre MacKay and Michael Covington. Please send updates and corrections for anything erroneous. And if anyone knows of other humanities journals which use Tex, or which once did, please let me know and I’ll forward the form to them.

There is also a very useful article by Gabriel Valente Feruglio which includes a long listing of titles (a fascinating and impressive collection). There are a few which I’d like to hear more about, since they sound like humanities candidates, as it were: Computers and the Humanities, Man and World, and Philosophical Studies (all from Kluwer Academic).

Publications


[9] Florilegium (plain \TeX{} from 1987 to 1995; \LaTeX{} since 1996)
[10] Hesperia (from 1992; plain \TeX{})
[12] Journal of Natural Language Processing (since 1994; \LaTeX{}3)
[16] Phoenix (from 1989; plain \TeX{}3)
[17] Raven: A Journal of Vexillology\(^4\) (from 1993; \LaTeX{}3)
[18] Recherches sémiotiques/Semiotic Inquiry (1986–1988; plain \TeX{}3)
[21] Wind Row (no details)

**Credits:** Michael Covington; Paul Neubauer

**Linguistics**

In addition to those interesting characters in phonetic fonts, linguistics material also requires certain highly formalised structures: tree diagrams (diagonal lines, not squared), matrices, examples with glosses lined up under the foreign language word(s), and several other components. Other forms of linguistic research, such as semiotics, the study of signs, rely heavily upon mathematical notations and symbols. Most linguistics material is presented in transliterated form; that is, in the Latin alphabet.

**Existing resources** In 1995, an inventory of currently known style files was published in TUGboat 16,1 (1995), pages 42–44, entitled "\TeX{} and Linguistics". This was based on information gleaned from the discussion list ling-tex. The inventory can be found on CTAN in tex-archive/info/ling-mac.tex.

To date, we are unaware of any publishers who have house style files either for in-house production or for their authors, or of any journals which require submissions in \TeX{}3 and provide authors with style files. For linguistics journals and other periodicals produced with \TeX{}3, see the Journals section.

**Publications**


**Credits:** Chet Creider, Michael Doob, Andrea de Leeuw van Weenen, Jan Odijk, David Weber

**Other projects**

This is for projects that don’t fall into my neat little boxes listed above, or for which no clear heading comes to mind. The Degenaar entry is in the field of the history of psychology/philosophy. The remaining entries are variously from English literary studies, general interest titles, and historical accounts (non-fiction).

So ... it seems we do end up with a grab bag collection, after all. Suggestions on how to deal with such titles — do we include them here, are they interesting but not "humanities - other"? What should we do with these “orphaned others”?

**Publications**


**Credits:** Dr. G. Lokhorst

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And so ends the first edition of a new column. We hope you’ve found something new here, something interesting, something intriguing. The next issue will continue with the survey of topics (including Music, Economics, and—following a suggestion from David Weber—Bibles); by then, we expect to have updates and probably some corrections to the information below. Suggestions on how to make this a lively place to turn to when your TUGboat issue arrives are always welcome and needed. Even a more catchy title to this column might be nice!

At this stage, we’re just hungry for information, news, book details, and so on. Offers of help with the bibliographic work would definitely be appreciated: keeping track of what’s been submitted, making sure entries are as complete as possible, and eventually getting them into shape for the Web; send mail to cthiele@ccs.carleton.ca, and use the subject line TB-Humanities, if possible.

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