TEX '2001: Where Will the Odyssey Bring Us?

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Abstract

If there is one thing that the 2001 Space Odyssey movie has demonstrated, it is probably that even on a relatively short time-span, predictions are hard to make. In spite of much research, some predictions have turned out the opposite while other developments were not foreseen. When Knuth wrote TEX, one of his assumptions was that in 100 years from their incarnation, people should still be able to reproduce his books from the sources. Can we look that far ahead when it comes to typesetting? What will happen in the (near) future with publishing? Is there a pattern in today's developments? Will all typographic problems be solved? In this talk I will try to reflect on these issues from the perspective of today's TEX based publishing.