## Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

When asked what features they would find most useful in *TUGboat*, members often mention "things I can use right away" and "how-to information".

In response to these requests, this issue is devoted to a single "how-to" manual, "Formatting Information", by Peter Flynn. Subtitled "A beginner's introduction to typesetting with LaTeX", this manual covers much more than just the basics. It is directed especially toward authors who are undertaking larger projects, such as books or highly-structured documents that might be generated from databases. It starts with the assumption that a user has chosen the TeX Live distribution but has not yet installed it. Almost all of the document is distribution-independent, however, so it is also relevant for users of installations other than TeX Live.

Topics include:

- an installation overview for Windows and Unix systems;
- recommendations for editing software;
- fine tuning — fonts, stylistic details;
- converting into/out of LaTeX;
- pointers to "other systems", e.g., XML.

You may know Peter from his column "Typographers' Inn". Peter has been acquainted with typography and printing since the days of "ink under the fingernails", and is well qualified to communicate the traditions and present recommendations for formatting, font selection, and other niceties that characterize well-made documents.

Including the manual in *TUGboat* required a few minor modifications. We have retained the fonts used in the original (Palatino, Avant Garde, and Courier), and thank Peter for generating the final copy for the printer. The original was formatted for A4 paper, while *TUGboat* is letter size; the margins are changed only slightly, but the pagination is substantially different from the original. The main difference is the absence of color — the cost of printing color is substantial, funds we felt could better be applied to other projects, so this edition is black and white only. However, the PDF file posted on the *TUGboat* web site will contain all the hues of the original. Look for it at `http://www.tug.org/TUGboat/Contents/contents23-2.html`; it is being posted at the same time this issue is sent to the printer.

## Future plans

We had hoped to include another manual in this issue — "The font installation guide", by Philipp Lehman. This guide covers nearly all the information needed to set up Type 1 fonts for use with (LA)TeX; the separate fontinst manual and the LaTeX font selection guide provide the rest. Unfortunately for our schedule, a new version of fontinst was under construction at the same time, and we considered it unwise to publish a version of the manual that would be obsolete as soon as it came off the press. We will follow the manual's progress, and hope to include it in a future *TUGboat* issue.

## Suggestions, please!

Perhaps you know of another good manual on a TeX-related topic. We are open to suggestions and recommendations. We ask only that the document is of general interest, is not subject to any restrictions, and can be posted as a PDF file on the TUG web pages as well as published in *TUGboat*. Both "Formatting information" and "The font installation guide" are distributed under the GNU free documentation license, which is a good model.

Let us hear your suggestions.

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