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ArsTEXnica is the journal of G∪IT, the Italian TEX user group (http://www.guit.sssup.it/).

GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, Editoriale [From the editor]; pp. 3–4

A short overview of the present issue.

GIANGIACOMO BRAVO, Reciprocità e attaccamento al gruppo nel forum G∪IT [Reciprocity and appreciation for the G∪IT forum group]; pp. 5–14

This paper studies the provision of public goods in open-source software support forums. Data from the G∪IT were analyzed to find individual motives for offering help. Using this methodology, we were able to split the forum participants into a small intrinsically motivated core group and a much larger group motivated mainly on the basis of reciprocity. The motives of the two groups were largely complementary and jointly produced a situation where the overwhelming majority of questions received an appropriate answer. At the same time, the core group played a fundamental role and was the key in explaining the forum's success. Without this group, the forum's performance would have been considerably diminished, probably down to a level that would not justify its existence.

TOMMASO GORDINI, Scrivere un indirizzo postale [How to write a postal address]; pp. 15–23

We'll describe all the rules to write postal addresses exactly according to Italian standard. You can find here also a simple document class to print addresses directly on an envelope with LaTeX.

GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, Cicli, test e calcoli angolari per disegni non banali con METAPOST [Loops, tests and angular computations for non-trivial drawings in METAPOST]; pp. 24–30

A fair number of introductory guides to METAPOST are available online; a good selection comes along with the TEX distributions. Unfortunately, sometimes the authors don't succeed in treating the topics fully: some details get hidden, lost or left to other similar documents. In this paper we'll see how some non-trivial drawings for a short thesis on Galileo Galilei were done, having the chance to study in detail some of the manuals' explanations.

GUSTAVO CEVOLANI, Composizione automatica dell'indice dei nomi con biblatex [Automatic composition of a list of names with biblatex]; pp. 31–38

Most academic and specialist publications are required to contain an *index of names.* The biblatex package offers, for the first time, a simple and direct way of *automatically* generating the index of names. This paper briefly explains how to generate the index of names using biblatex, with reference to some minimal working examples. The paper assumes that the reader is familiar with BibTEX and the makeidx, index and biblatex packages.

IVAN VALBUSA, Creare stili bibliografici con biblatex: l'esperienza del pacchetto biblatex-philosophy [How to create bibliographic styles with biblatex: the experience of the package biblatex-philosophy]; pp. 39–50

The aim of this article is to describe the genesis and the main features of the bibliography and citation styles provided by the biblatex-philosophy package; moreover, it provides the basic concepts to create a style for use with Philipp Lehman's biblatex package. This article requires basic knowledge of BibTEX and biblatex.

LUIGI SCARSO, Fell Types in ConTEXt; pp. 51–56

In this paper we will briefly show how to install and use an OpenType font with ConTEXt MkIV. We will use the *Fell Types* fonts as in M. Dominici's paper "Utilizzo di caratteri TrueType con LaTEX. Un esempio pratico: i *Fell Types*". A problem with an unusual font parameter is described and a solution offered by ConTEXt MkIV is discussed.

ENRICO GREGORIO, L'arte esoterica di scrivere in cirillico con LaTEX [The esoteric art of writing in Cyrillic with LaTEX]; pp. 57–73

Writing words in the Cyrillic script with LaTEX is easy once we know some small tricks of the trade. With babel it's also easy to write a document with longer parts in a language using the Cyrillic script. We describe also some small defects of babel in this area and some ways to correct them.

CLAUDIO BECCARI and HEINRICH FLECK, I mark, questi sconosciuti [Marks, those unknowns]; pp. 74–78

Marks are useful for typesetting headers, but their inner workings are rather mysterious. We try to uncover their secrets with an important example: the composition of a dictionary.

[Received from Gianluca Pignalberi.]