Die TEXnische Komödie 4/2012–1/2013

Die TEXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TEX user group (`http://www.dante.de`). [Non-technical items are omitted.]

Die TEXnische Komödie 4/2012

WALTER ENTENMANN, Schulschriften — von Sütterlin bis heute [School handwriting fonts — From Suetterlin until today]; pp. 29–57

This article describes the implementation of several handwriting fonts in METAFONT that have been or are used in German schools. These are Suetterlin (1911), the "German Normalschrift" (1941), the "Lateinische Ausgangsschrift" (1953), the "Schulausgangsschrift" (1968) and the "Vereinfachte Schulausgangsschrift" (1972). The METAFONT sources are bundles in the `schulschriften` package, which also contains examples and documentation. After loading the package any German text can be typeset in one of the above-mentioned fonts.

The documentation describes, after a short historical review, the implementation step-by-step, from the handwritten prototype to the systematic translation into METAFONT and the organisation of the file structure. Useful parameter and macro definitions aid the design and maintenance of the package.

The connections of the single letters in a writing font are systematically specified by junction points and the introduction of connection levels. Due to the different typographic characteristics of each font there is an individual match design concept for each font. The description of the package also explains the connection between the dimensions of the handwritten prototype and the desired font sizes with the internally used "sharp" variables in METAFONT and the pixel sizes.

The font definition files, the style files for the related system of rules as well as character tables and font examples support and show the practical use of the fonts.

MARKUS KOHM, Briefpapier mit KOMA-Script nachbauen [Creating letter paper with KOMA-Script]; pp. 58–73

Since my article on modern letters with KOMA-Script a long time has passed. Since then there have been a few improvements and extensions. Questions on the adjustment of `scrlttr2` for a specific layout are still very frequent. This article shows how to create a layout for Washington State University.

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Das Erstellen eines Glossars [Creating a glossary]; pp. 74–79

To create a glossary LATEX natively offers only a little help. Extensions in document classes, additional tools and packages, however, offer enough functionality to create one. They differ with respect to variability and complexity. The more variability they offer, the more difficult is their use.

HEINER RICHTER, Klausur »Steuerlehre« — LATEX-Einsatz für Sehbehinderte [Exam »Steuerlehre« — Using LATEX for visually handicapped people]; pp. 80–82

An article on the selection of font and fontsize for visually handicapped people.

HERBERT VOSS, Spezielle Schriften [Special fonts]; pp. 83–90

It has frequently been mentioned in this publication that LuaTEX and X⫯TEX can use OpenType fonts. This article introduces an uncommon font and shows the simple definition of ligatures for an OpenType font.

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HERBERT VOSS, Die Schrift Venturis [The Venturis fonts]; pp. 7–15

Several fonts that feature a set of mathematical characters have been introduced in DTK or *TUGboat*. Compared to the overall number of available fonts the set of fonts usable for typesetting math is quite low, so a newcomer like "Venturis" is to be welcomed.

HEINER RICHTER, Interaktives Steuerlehreprojekt mit dem LATEX-Paket `gamebook.sty` [Interactive tax education using `gamebook.sty`]; pp. 16–20

A. Miede's existing package `gamebook.sty` (`http://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/gamebook`), which notably provides the means to lay out gamebooks with LATEX, may be used for individual question-and-answer games in structured e-teaching.

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Rollup-Displays mit LATEX erstellen [Creating Rollup-Displays with LATEX]; pp. 21–24

If one visits a trade fair or a conference, one notices different rollup-displays, showing the products and projects of the exhibitors. Since DANTE e.V. hasn't had one so far, I created a rollup-display for the Froscon 2012 in Sankt Augustin. In this article I briefly explain how the display was made with LATEX.

CHRISTIAN JUSTEN, LaTeX im Pfarrdienst [LaTeX in a Parish Office]; pp. 25–35

LaTeX is commonly known as a typesetting system for the mathematical/scientific community. In this article I show how it can profitably be used for people who need neither formulas, technical drawings nor many pictures and tables. Among these are, for example, parish priests.

GERD NEUGEBAUER, CTAN: Relaunch des Web-Auftritts [CTAN: Relaunch of the web portal]; pp. 43–55

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Eutypon 28–29, October 2012

Eutypon is the journal of the Greek TeX Friends (http://www.eutypon.gr).

NICK WHITE, Training Tesseract for Ancient Greek OCR; pp. 1–11

This paper discusses the process of training the Tesseract OCR engine to support Ancient Greek. It covers the general procedures involved in training a new language for Tesseract, both training the script with common printed fonts and adding hints about how the language works to improve recognition. It discusses the particular challenges that arose with Ancient Greek, mainly due to Tesseract's English language heritage. It goes on to describe the various strategies and small programs which were written to overcome these. It concludes with recommendations for changes to Tesseract to make OCR training easier and further improve recognition accuracy. (*Article in English.*)

APOSTOLOS SYROPOULOS, Creating *ePUB*lications; pp. 13–20

Can we create e-books with LaTeX? The answer is yes, when we talk about e-books in ePUB format. First we present the ePUB format, and then describe how we can convert LaTeX files to ePUB files using the latex2epub converter. We also explain how we can read ePUB files with the Firefox browser. (*Article in Greek with English abstract.*)

APOSTOLOS SYROPOULOS, Petros Papasarantopoulos focuses on e-books (an interview); pp. 21–23

Petros Papasarantopoulos has dealt with Greek books since 1977. He has edited hundreds of books, in the past under the imprint "Paratiritis" and now under the imprint "Epikentro". He has also worked for three decades as a journalist in Greek newspapers and magazines. As someone who knows the Greek book world very well, he accepted an invitation to talk to Eutypon about e-publications in Greece. (*Article in Greek with English abstract.*)

ANASTASIA PECHTELIDOU, Looking out for memory; pp. 25–28

Electronic books have serious advantages *vis-à-vis* classical printed ones. However some studies suggest that traditional books add more to long-term memory. A study at Leicester University concluded that reading a book in electronic format requires more repetitions for assimilation of facts. It seems that context and landmarks are valuable for digestion of material. E-books offer fewer landmarks, while printed books provide natural memory references. (*Article in Greek with English abstract.*)

DIMITRIOS FILIPPOU, The publisher and printer Nikos Kachtitsis; pp. 29–39

Nikos Kachtitsis (1926–1970) is considered one of the most important writers of the Greek post-WWII generation. Kachtitsis also attempted to print and publish books himself. In the basement of his home in Montreal, Canada, he set up a small vertical letterpress to start his "Anthelion Press" publishing house. Under this imprint, he typeset by hand and singlehandedly printed some books and pamphlets—all in English, because he lacked Greek fonts. To publish Greek books, Kachtitsis created the imprint "Lotophagus" and collaborated with the print shop of the journal *The Greek-Canadian Tribune*. His early death brought an abrupt end to a very interesting print-and-publish experiment by a Greek outside Greece. (*Article in Greek with English abstract.*)

APOSTOLOS SYROPOULOS, TeXniques: The problem with the Greek semicolon; pp. 41–42

How can we distinguish a middle dot from a Greek *ano teleia* (Greek semicolon)? (*Article in Greek.*)

Book presentations; pp. 43–46

(1) Giorgos E. Dardanos, *Pages on Screen or on Paper*, Gutenberg Publications, Athens, 2010 (book in Greek).

(2) Giorgis Varlamos, *Engraving*, Synchroni Epochi, Athens, 2010 (book in Greek).

(3) Giorgos Matthiopoulos, *An Album of Greek Typography*, Crete University Press, Heraklion, 2009 (book in Greek).

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