What Can Typography Gain from ePub?

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Electronic books

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Bookmarks $\Longleftarrow$ resume reading at the last stop.

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Some law problems about lending, giving, re-selling e-books.

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Some e-books were deleted remotely.

My view

The concept is interesting and opens new perspectives.

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- in *fixed-layout* for musical scores.

ePub's organisation

An .epub file $\Longleftarrow$ a .zip archive,

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mimetype   META-INF/container.xml

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Other files include:

- OPS/content.opf and OPS/toc.xhtml (or toc.nav),

- OPS/{Text/,Style/,Images/,Fonts/,Misc/},

Erratum

In my corresponding written article, replace the line (3rd page):

the optional Images folder;

by:

the optional Images and Fonts folders;

ePub 3 vs ePub 2

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Footnotes are processed better.

Other aspects

Interaction with audio contents.

Other improvements

Math ML support for mathematical formulae.

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Better integration of languages written using a non-Latin alphabet.

Paragraphs' layout

Choosing:

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- hyphenation character.

Remarks about hyphenation

Unicode $\ni$ ­ (Soft HYphenation).

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Unicode ∋ ­ (**S**oft **HY**phenation).

Like '\-' in L^AT_EX.

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Like '\-' in LAT_EX.

Breaking 'ck' into 'k-k' as in 'old' German is impossible.

Illuminated initials

Often given as an example in ePub's manuals. Expressed using CSS.

Let's sum up about CSS

CSS allows e-books'makers to:

- choose fonts, importing them if need be,

- rule hyphenation,

- put graphical effects into action.

The language vs tools

The *language* allows tools to get access to information about possible hyphenations. Will they do that really?

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Counterexample: HTML 5 and CSS do the same, but Google Chrome does not know how to handle this information. (But it is very efficient.)

More generally

HTML 5 and CSS 3 overshoot the features of previous versions about getting nice typography.

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Need of efficient tools, in order to react to resizing orders.

Adaptability

ePub 3 allows several versions of effects $\implies$ test on several readers are needed.

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Me $\impliedby$ Adobe Digital Edition.

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Compact discs $\Longleftarrow$ at the beginning, quality was very good, now it is *quite* good.

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Advantageously replaced by DVDs? $\Longleftarrow$ *areas*.

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As members of TEX groups, we should encourage the development of such free formats and participate in it, if possible.

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ePub 3's potential for nice typography is high!