

# What Can Typography Gain from ePub?

Jean-Michel HUFFLEN

DISC — University of Franche-Comté

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# Electronic books

Saving a *huge* amount of space.■

Retrieving a fragment from specific words.■

*Hyperlinks* ⇐ consultation is easier.■

*Bookmarks* ⇐ resume reading at the last stop.

# Drawbacks

Format owners, compatibility between formats and e-books' readers.

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

Some e-books were deleted remotely.

# My view

The concept is interesting and opens new perspectives.■

However, I **refuse** e-books with format owners.■

I am interested in doing myself some e-books:■

- in *reflowable-content* for 'classical' texts,■
- in *fixed-layout* for musical scores.

# ePub's organisation

An .epub file  $\iff$  a .zip archive, with:

mimetype                      META-INF/container.xml

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

ePub 3's organisation is simpler, more based on navigation features of HTML 5,■

and takes full advantage of CSS 3.■

Footnotes are processed better.



# Other aspects

Interaction with audio contents.

# Other improvements

Math ML support for mathematical formulae. 

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

# Paragraphs' layout

Choosing:

- hyphenation mode  $\Leftarrow$  none, manual, auto;■
- hyphenation language (dictionary),■
- minimum numbers of characters before and after hyphenation,■
- number of consecutive lines possibly ending with a hyphenated word,■
- hyphenation character.

# Remarks about hyphenation

Unicode  $\ni$  `&shy;` (**S**oft **HY**phenation).■

Like `\-` in `LATEX`.■

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? ■

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.■

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.■

Me  $\iff$  Adobe Digital Edition.

# My point of view

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

Laser discs  $\Leftarrow$  no longer supported.■

Advantageously replaced by DVDs?■ $\Leftarrow$  *areas*.

# Final conclusion

As members of T<sub>E</sub>X groups, we should encourage the development of such free formats and participate in it, if possible.■

ePub 3's potential for nice typography is high!