COS Master Thesis - writing to produce an EPUB

Three most important pieces of advice:
1. **If possible - write in markdown. This avoids a lot of problems from converting a DOCX file.**
2. **Use the [@betterbibtexkeys] as citations.**
3. **Insert tables as images.**

If you can't write in Markdown for any reason, follow the rules for using Word, so that it can be converted into markdown with Pandoc.

DOCX Template:

– Use only one clean and clear font, the same throughout the text.
– The whole text should have Normal style as default.
– The title and author should have Heading 1 style, article sections should have Header 2 and subsections Header 3 style.
– Use single spacing between lines.
– Text should be aligned on the left (it will be made justified by Pandoc).
– Do not use tabs for paragraph breaks at any time.
– Add italics where needed (references, emphasis on single words).
– Do not use underlining at any time.
– URLs in the body text should not be clickable (they will be made clickable later in conversion into EPUB)
– **no table of contents, no TOC for pictures, Tables or Appendice.**
– **No bibliography list needed** – just a title 'literature' or 'references' – the bibliography will be automatically generated by Pandoc
– **no formatting styles for Table and Picture subtitles** – just write a line in plain text directly under the picture. Pandoc doesn't recognize Word styles in Markdown and needs to be deleted manually, if present
– Formatting, colours and citation styles are added later when converting to the chosen file format with Pandoc.

TABLES:

Can only be inserted as pictures
If you create tables in MS Word:

- Keep them only 1 page per table – then you can easily copy it to Photoshop & generate a JPEG out of it.
- NO Tables that stretch over several pages
- Another way: Copy table into PowerPoint & save the slide as JPEG – the paste the image back into word & cut the edges with the cut tool

CITATIONS

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in-text citations must equivalent to the Bibtext abbreviation in square brackets, with the @ prefix and the exact abbreviation: [@bibtexkey], readable by pandoc

- To be able to convert, you need to attach an exported bibliography of your used sources (a .bib File you can export from Zotero)

- Every bibtex key in the source text can consist only of a word and a year attached (example casey2012) – no spaces, underscores (_), no, other punctuations allowed in the key (;,.:!?) If there are such symbols in the keys, pandoc will produce an error message and the link in the epub citation won't work + there will be no bibliography entry in the references
- You can change how your Bibtext keys are generated in Zotero Preferences/Better Bibtex/citation key format

WHAT YOU CAN SEE IN THE EXAMPLES ATTACHED:

- What happens if you leave the title page in your source text – it will be converted into plain text after the table of contents. For your title page, either create an image or insert the data into the metadata section and a simple cover for the book will be generated by the EPUB editor.
- How citations look like when you do them right in the word file (blue) and when you do them wrong (red – no links, no literature list entries in the EPUB)
- How tables from MS Word look like after converting them – why it is better to insert tables as images.
- How Pandoc and the CSS stylesheet transform the text formatting and why there is no need to format the source text.
- How Pandoc creates Table of contents at the beginning and the Literature list at the end.

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CONVERTING

PANDOC

- Run a command prompt window (Eingabeaufforderung in Windows)
- **You need to have all files needed for the conversion in one place on the hard drive, preferably directly on the drive (no subfolders) for the conversion to go without errors.**

Your best location for all conversions is directly on a drive, no subfolders (for example: D:\>

1. For conversion from Word to Markdown use this command:

pandoc --bibliography=D:\Sabines_Zotero.bib --filter pandoc-citeproc --metadata link-citations=true --csl=D:\apa.csl --extract-media=DIR --data-dir=D:\DIR --wrap=preserve --toc -f docx -t markdown -o Example_MasterarbeitCOS.md Example_MasterarbeitCOS.docx

replace the red elements with your personal file names:

- Name of your bibliography file
- Name of your citation style file
- The directory where your media files should be extracted to
- Your preferred markdown output file name
- Your docx source text name

2. For conversion from Markdown to EPUB use this command:

pandoc --standalone --epub-cover-image=RoyalContent.png --css=epub.css --toc --data-dir=D:\media --wrap=preserve --bibliography=D:\Sabines_Zotero.bib --filter pandoc-citeproc --metadata link-citations=true --csl=D:\apa.csl -f markdown -t epub3 -o Example_MasterarbeitCOS.epub Example_MasterarbeitCOS.md

replace the red elements with your personal files:

- The preferred cover image for your EPUB Book
- An CSS Stylesheet that defines which fonts, colours to use etc. – certain EPUB editors force their own CSS Sheet – then you have to open the book, click on edit book and then replace the .css file with yours manually.
- Name of your bibliography file (again)
- Name of your citation style file (again)
- The directory name where your media files should be read from
- Your preferred EPUB output file name
- Your markdown source file

You still need to add the Metadata in the EPUB Editor – like Calibre/edit Metadata.

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