

Description

When I started writing an eBook with LibreOffice Writer I could not find a template that worked and demonstrated the styles used within the template, so I created two. In March 2021, the first version of the novel template won a prize in a [template contest](#) and paid for half of my 13" 2020 MacBook Air M1. Now I can write 50% faster than before ;=}

The Novel and Technical book templates are designed such that you can easily produce an eBook (EPUB3) file for Amazon Kindle and a PDF file for a paperback from a common source file.

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Prerequisites

None. It is assumed that you know how to use basic word processing software such as LibreOffice Writer, Microsoft Word or Apple's Pages.

What's Included

1. LibreOffice Writer templates for both a novel and light technical books containing a style sheet and sample content for a book. Both templates work for print/paperback (PDF) and eBook (EPUB3) formats. **Note:** Amazon Kindle now wants EPUB formatted files for eBooks, so these templates work for Amazon Kindle books.
2. There is also a version of the technical template that is reformatted for printed technical reports.
3. A step-by-step set of instructions for:
 - (a) Setting up the environment on Mac or Windows PC.
 - (b) Starting a book project and producing a PDF file for viewing and printing on 6" x 9" paper, and an EPUB3 for viewing and submitting to Amazon, Apple, etc.

- (c) Creating both the JPEG cover for an eBook and a PDF file for the front cover, back cover and spine of a paperback book.
 - (d) Final post-processing for paperback printing.
 - (e) Producing an EPUB3 file for viewing and submitting to book distributors.
4. A LibreOffice Calc Worksheet to calculate the dimensions for a paperback cover.

Changed In Version 25.03.0

- Changed the format of the version/edition number.
- Make a separate *DWS-BookTempNovel* and *DWS-BookTempTech* that are much leaner and not just copies of the relevant sections of *DWS-BookTempMaster*.
- The novel was resized to 5"x8". The Tech and Master templates were resized to 6"x9".
- Make an EPUB3 file for *DWS-BookTempMaster* and dropped the two other ebook files.

Files Included

Warning: When viewing PDF files at GitHub, hyperlinks and links in the Table of Contents **may** not be clickable! In the actual PDF files, when downloaded they are.

1. DWS-BookTemp-Instructions in [PDF](#) and ODT source (~40 8.5"x11" pages)
2. DWS-BookTempNovel in [PDF](#) and ODT source (~40 5"x8" pages)
3. DWS-BookTempTech in [PDF](#), and ODT source (~40 6"x9" pages)
4. DWS-BookTempReport in [PDF](#) and ODT source (~6 8.5"x11" pages)
5. DWS-BookTempMaster in PDF, EPUB3 and ODT source (~130 6"x9"pages)
6. OutTakes.odt a holder for work that has been "cut" out of your book and that you might want to use later.
7. Calc/DWS-BookCalc.ods (a worksheet)

Getting Started

The file [DWS-BookTemp-Instructions.pdf](#) contains the instructions for:

- Software Installation on macOS & Windows.
- New Book Project Setup—The instructions to process the template into a paperback, EPUB3 and Kindle files.
- Post Processing Steps—The final steps prior to producing an eBook or paperback for production.

- Creating both an eBook cover and a paperback book cover.
- Other useful stuff.

Running Tests

If you follow the examples in the instructions, you will have a sample 6x9" paperback (PDF), an EPUB3 eBook built using the templates as a test. Each showing the named style elements. **DWS-BookTempNovel_Epub3.epub** is what the novel will look like. You can view this in any EPUB reader, including [Amazon's Kindle Previewer](#).

You can follow the same instructions using the DWS-BookTempTech template and get an example from the light technical template. **DWS-BookTempTech_Epub3.epub** is now included in the repository.

Version Control

LibreOffice Writer's ODT files are not a good format for software version control. However, each file contains version ID, usually near the top of the file, similar to the image below.

Metadata Block

Title: <i>Instructions for using DWS-BookTemp*</i> Author: David Snow Length: 9298 words, 41 pages. Editing Time: 03:31.00 File: DWS-BookTemp-Instructions.odt Created: 2020-05-16 07:36:13 AM Last Modified: 2021-11-22 02:21 PM (Rev#387) by David Snow Copyright © 2020 David Snow

Also, each template has an *Edition Number* near its beginning. Usually the whole set of templates and the instructions are updated as a set and the edition number is incremented.

Edition History (Git Tag)

- v1.1.0 January 2021 The basic templates (Novel & Technical) plus instructions. The novel template won [Adfinis](#)' template contest. See [thier](#) blog.
- v1.2.1 June 2021 Updated several sections and a report template (DWS-BookTempReport) added. Tested with LibreOffice Writer 7.1.4.2
- v25.03.0 Jan 2025 Applied more *Chicago Manual of Style* / Turabian style elements to the report template. Tested with LibreOffice Writer 24.8.4.2 and

Jutoh v3.16.4. I also charged to the same format of version numbering as LibreOffice at this time. It includes an OutTakes.odt file in the package. This is the file that I store content that I have written, but haven't decided where to use.

Notes:

README.md is created with pandoc via:

pandoc README.odt -o README.md