

WordPress to L^AT_EX with Pandoc and J: L^AT_EX Directories (2)

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In this post I will describe the L^AT_EX directory structure the J script `TeXfrWpxml.ijs` is expecting. To convert WordPress export XML to L^AT_EX with this script you will have to set up similar directories.



L^AT_EX documents are built from `*.tex`¹ source code files. This makes L^AT_EX more like a compiled programming language than a word processing program. There are advantages and disadvantages to the L^AT_EX way. In L^AT_EX's favor, the system is enormously adaptable, versatile and powerful. There is very little that L^AT_EX/TeX and [associates](#) cannot do. Unfortunately, “[with great power comes great responsibility](#).” L^AT_EX is demanding! You have to study L^AT_EX like any other programming language. It's not for everyone but for experienced users it's the best way to produce documents with the highest typographic standards.

L^AT_EX directory structure To use L^AT_EX efficiently it's wise to pick a document directory structure and *stick with it*. I use a simple directory layout. Each document has a root directory. The root directory used by `TeXfrWpxml.ijs` is:

Windows	<code>c:/pd/blog/wp2latex</code>
Linux	<code>/home/john/pd/blog/wp2latex</code>

I put my document specific `*.tex`, `*.bib`, `*.sty` and other L^AT_EX/TeX files in the root. To handle graphics I create an immediate subdirectory called `inclusions`.

```
c:/pd/blog/wp2latex/inclusions
```

The inclusions directory holds the document's `*.png`, `*.jpg`, `*.pdf`, `*.eps` and other graphics files. To reference files in the inclusions directory with the standard L^AT_EX `graphicx` package insert

```
\usepackage{color,graphicx,subfigure,sidecap}
\graphicspath{{./inclusions/}}
```

in your preamble. Finally, to track document changes I create a [GIT](#) repository in the root directory.

¹L^AT_EX uses many other file types but key files are usually `*.tex` files.

```
c:/pd/blog/wp2latex/.git
```

Self contained directories I take care to keep my document directories *self-contained*. Zipping up the root and inclusions directory collects *all* the document's files. This means that I sometimes have to copy files that are used in more than one document. Many L^AT_EX users maintain a common directory for such files but I've found that common directories complicate moving documents around. You're always forgetting something in the damn common directory or you are copying a [buttload](#) of mostly irrelevant files from one big confusing common directory to another.

TeXfrWpxml.ijs files The `TeXfrWpxml.ijs` script searches for these files in the root directory.

<code>bm.tex</code>	Main LaTeX root file
<code>bmamble.tex</code>	L ^A T _E X preamble

`bm.tex` references `bmtitlepage.tex`. I prefer a separate title page file; simply comment out this file if you create titles in other ways. **The zip file `wp2latex.zip` contains a test directory in the format expected by `TeXfrWpxml.ijs`.** It also has a subset of my blog posts already converted to L^AT_EX. To get ready for [WordPress to LaTeX with Pandoc and J: Using TeXfrWpxml.ijs \(3\)](#) download `wp2latex.zip` and attempt to compile `bm.tex`. You might have to download a number of L^AT_EX packages. Once you have successfully compiled `bm.tex` you are ready for the next step.