

Editor Instructions

This document is designed to help you get up and running with getting magazine articles ready for production. If you just want to get to the instructions, they're below this intro section!

What is L^AT_EX?

L^AT_EX is a free program used to create beautifully typeset documents like books, theses, and newsletters. It is very different than Microsoft Word. Instead of selecting text and clicking on a button to make it bold or *italicized*, you write code like `\textit{}` for italics. It seems like more work than necessary, but there are several strong advantages for using L^AT_EX.

Beautiful typography

L^AT_EX automatically handles a lot of typesetting details including:

- Kerning - aesthetically pleasing spacing between letters based on their shapes
- Ligatures - new characters for letter combinations like `fi` and `ff`, which often crash into each other in Word documents.
- Text justification without creating white rivers of blank spots
- Consistent styles for section headers, citations, figure captions and numbering, etc.
- and more!

Really, only typography nerds will notice or care about these details. But professional-quality typesetting does have an overall effect on the appearance of the document.

Insert comparison image here for justification and ligatures

No manual formatting

You don't need to manually adjust spacing, figure numbers, or page numbers.

Uses Plaintext

Word documents often crash when they get too large or have too many images. Since L^AT_EX uses plaintext files (`.txt`) and sources images externally, your document stays small and portable. Plaintext files can open on any operating system, and they aren't locked into a specific version or program. You can open decades-old `.txt` files and they still work. You can easily link your writing to version control software like Git.

Handles large, complex documents well

L^AT_EX makes it easy for you to manage large documents like a thesis or book because it allows for easy cross-referencing of figures, footnotes, quotes, and citations. To add a list of figures, just type `\listoffigures`!

Inserting a new page or image into a lengthy document (typically a harrowing process in Word) is not difficult in L^AT_EX and you have a lot of control over the layout of your sections. It's easy to move things around, and L^AT_EX will automatically re-number all your figures and footnotes.

Mathematics

One of the best features of L^AT_EX is its mathematical typesetting. This includes auto-aligned equations and the ability to add specialized mathematical notation.

$$\int_a^b u \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} dx = u \frac{dv}{dx} \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dv}{dx} dx.$$

Instructions

Author names

To insert an author name, type in

```
\begin{author-name}  
Lewis Carroll  
\end{author-name}
```

to get:

Lewis Carroll

The line will automatically stretch to fill the current text container. Place the author environment somewhere before `\end{multicols}` to have it only take up one column.

Preamble

Some articles require some explanatory text or a disclaimer before the main content. Use the preamble environment for this.

```
\begin{preamble}
```

Insert disclaimer text here, an intro, etc...

```
\end{preamble}
```

Section Titles

In most cases, `\section{Article title}` should be fine. If you have a dark background image, you may want to change the text color. Use the following code:

```
\section{\color{white} Alice in Wonderland}
```