

Development of skills for my EP

Izaak van Dongen

May 4, 2018

1 Problems and how they were overcome

Problem	What I did to overcome it
Little to no knowledge of the basic usage of L ^A T _E X	In order to develop my basic knowledge of L ^A T _E X, I mainly used the online resources https://www.latex-project.org/about/ and https://www.sharelatex.com/
I wanted to customise my document to take up more of the page	I installed and loaded savetrees
I wanted to include code I'd written in my L ^A T _E X document	I found out about the listings package and found a suitable configuration online, that I added to somewhat with other sources. I also figured out that I could have L ^A T _E X directly read from my source files rather than having to include them in my .tex file.
I had to create a bibliography, using L ^A T _E X, or, as I now know, B ^I B ^T E _X .	I did some research on how bibliographies worked in L ^A T _E X. I had already heard of B ^I B ^T E _X citations, and in fact most of the sources I'd used up to this point had provided an option to "export B ^I B ^T E _X citation". Because of this, I could narrow my search terms somewhat, and soon found these pages: http://www.bibtex.org/Using/ and https://www.sharelatex.com/learn/Bibliography_management_with_bibtex . With these, I'd soon compiled my own .bib file with extensive records of all of my sources.
Creating specifically a Harvard-referenced bibliography, customised to my liking.	As this seemed to be a requirement of the EP qualification, I needed to modify my B ^I B ^T E _X workflow to the point where everything was Harvard-referenced with author-year citations. I found that this was apparently quite difficult to do with vanilla B ^I B ^T E _X so I decided to use natbib with the agsm style...

Loading the natbib package caused L^AT_EX to crash while compiling the output PDF, with a seemingly gibberish error

After much Googling to no avail, I applied an approach I'd picked up from programming PostScript (another language that compiled to PDF for my purposes). When I first started programming PostScript, I didn't use an interpreter but rather Preview, so I didn't have access to error messages. The craft to finding bugs was to section off parts of the source with comments and then slowly release them again until you found the bug. By doing this I found that loading savetrees was causing the crash. I didn't end up finding out what the actual conflict was being caused by, but instead used the alternative fullpage package.

Creating nice-looking, effective tables in L^AT_EX.

For this project I had to create a number of tables, for various documents such as my source evaluation, this document, my diary and at some point I played around with some tables in my dissertation. These tables generally needed to be very long, which standard L^AT_EX "tabular" mode didn't support. I found out about the longtabs package, together with generic tabulation and also had to increase my arrayfill to make a spacing between my table cells that I found satisfying.