Anatomy of "Anatomy of Melancholy" in XeLaTeX

Making a large *and* complex *book with* free/libre *software*

epilys

August 29, 2022

Contents

Part I

Introduction

Chapter 1

Selecting a typeface (Junicode)

Chapter 2

Selecting a paper layout and margins

Figure 2.1:

Figure 2.2:

Chapter 3

Selecting a design style, choices

Chapter 4

Organizing the artwork with `biblatex`

To simplify the handling of a large amount of artwork in the book, we store each work as a bibliography entry in a `bib` database and use the bibliography management package biblatex. The `bib` database is a plain text file with entries of the following format:

```
@artwork{TheLoveSong,
  title        = {The Love Song},
  annotation   = {{Burne-Jones associated this painting with
   ↪ a refrain from a French folk ballad: "Alas, I know a
   ↪ love song, / Sad or happy, each in turn." Cupid, his
   ↪ arrows slung over his shoulder, works the bellows on
   ↪ the portative organ. This picture, which took nine
   ↪ years to complete, unites inspirations that shaped
   ↪ Burne-Jones's art: medievalism, Italian Renaissance
   ↪ painting, romance, beauty, and music. Like a
   ↪ bittersweet melody, the scene suggests a mood of
   ↪ dreamy melancholy. As one critic observed, "There is
   ↪ no story: nothing to guess at, but everything to
   ↪ feel."}},
  author       = {{Edward Burne-Jones}},
```

```
  date          = {1868/1877},
  url           =
   ↪ {https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/435826},
  eid           = {47.26},
  file          =
   ↪ {The-Love-Song-Edward-Burne-Jones-small.jpg},
  type          = {oil on canvas},
}
```

We use the `file` field to store the image filename. Assuming the images are stored in a folder called `figures` in the same directory as the main TEX file, we define the default graphics path as

```
\graphicspath{{./figures/}}
```

This means that everytime we include a graphic with the `includegraphics` macro, it will look for it in that prepend the path to whatever we pass to `includegraphics`.

To load the database we insert this line in our main `tex` file:

```
\addbibresource{artworks.bib}
```

Now, using the key for each entry we can use any of the entry fields inside the document. The fields we are interested in are:

- `author`
- `title`
- `year`
- `type`, which contains the art medium

- file

biblatex defines macros to access the fields using the entry key.

Figure 4.1:

Part II

Premilinary pages

Chapter 5

Designing a cover with Inkscape

Figure 5.1:

Figure 5.2:

Chapter 6

Designing a diagram for the frontispiece with TiKz

Figure 6.1:

Chapter 7

Including the cover, title pages and frontispiece

Chapter 8

Adding a list of figures and a list of prescriptions

Figure 8.1:

Part III

Main Part

Chapter 9

Creating formatting and helpful macros

9.1 URLs

Underlined text is not considered particularly pleasing. However, it's an established visual hint for hyperlinks, and we will use it for linking to the book's `git` repository and the typeface websites.

Using the contour package, we can draw the outline of each glyph behind the glyph itself. That way, the descenders of a glyph, which is the part of the glyph going bellow the base line, do not cross the underline:


```
\usepackage{contour}
\usepackage[normalem]{ulem}

\renewcommand{\ULdepth}{1.8pt}
\contourlength{0.8pt}

\newcommand\colorunderline[1]{\bgroup%
  \markoverwith{%
    \textcolor{#1}{%
      \rule[-0.5ex]{2pt}{0.8pt}%
    }%
  }%
  \ULon%
}
\newcommand{\myuline}[2]{%
  \colorunderline{#1}{\phantom{#2}}%
  \llap{\contour{white}{#2}}%
}
\newcommand{\myurl}[2]{%
```

```
  \href{#1}{\myuline{blue}{#2}}%
}
```

Chapter 10

Converting the end notes to a usable format

[redacted] 24

Chapter 11

Using footnotes or margin notes

[redacted] [25]

Chapter 12

Typesetting figures

12.1 Placing figures in the text

12.2 Placing figures on their own page

Chapter 13

Designing the synopsis schemata

Chapter 14

Typesetting the author's notes

[redacted] 27

Chapter 15

Typesetting inline translations

[redacted] 28

Chapter 16

Finding out uncommon vocabulary for a glossary

Chapter 17

Typesetting verse and block quotations

Chapter 18

Creating an OTF for Chaucer with FontForge

31

Part IV

Appendices

Chapter 19

Creating an index for author and topic references

Chapter 20

Designing a custom `biblatex` bibliography style to list artwork sources

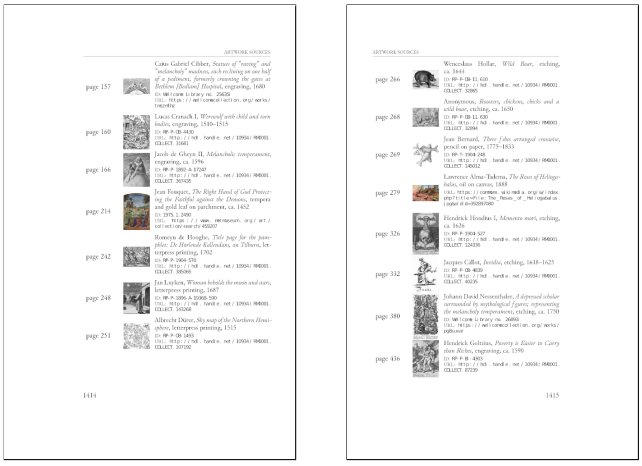


Figure 20.1: Pagespread of art bibliography.

We want to add a list of the artworks included in the book and their sources. We saw how the artwork database was compiled in a `bib` file back in chapter 4.

`biblatex` prints the bibliography with a `\printbibliography` macro. The invocation used in the book is:

```
\defbibnote{artworks-introduction}{All artworks are in the
 ↪ public domain.}
\phantomsection
\printbibliography[label=app:artworksources,
                   prenote=artworks-introduction,
                   type=artwork,
                   heading=bibnumbered,
                   title={Artwork Sources}]
```

This will print a chapter with title `Artwork Sources` and a paragraph after the title, set with the `prenote` option and defined with a preceding `defbibnote` command.

Using the `numeric` bibliography style, the result is this:

Figure 20.2:

Let's copy the numeric source file, called `numeric.bbx` to the project's folder and name it `art-numeric.bbx`.

We want to show a list of every artwork with its name, title, format/medium, year, the source URL and the source's identification number (called *accession number* by librarians). For extra fanciness, let's show a thumbnail of the work and the page where it's located.

First, we want instead of index label numbering to show the page location of each artwork. This is done by defining the bibliography's environment with `\defbibenvironment{bibliograph`

Figure 20.3:

We want every label to have the same width, and a page number can range from 1 to 3 digits for a book under 10 000 pages. So let's set the label's width to the maximum width possible:

```
% This typesets the list entry labels for the artwork bibliography.
% The list is of this format:
%
% page X   [thumbnail] [details]
%
% page XY  [thumbnail] [details]
%
% page XYZ [thumbnail] [details]
%
% The "page XYZ" part is done in the following bibenvironment macro.
% We want the "page .." labels to have the same width regardless of
% how many digits the page is. For example we don't want a "Page 5"
```

```
% box to be smaller than a "Page 1234" box because this would cause
% misalignment of the list items.
%
% 1. Create new length to store the maximum page label width.
\newlength\PageRefLabelWidth
% 2. Create new box to store the maximum page label.
\newsavebox{\PageRefLabelBox}
% 3. Typeset a string that has the same width as the maximum page label
% (Book won't be more than 9999 pages, hopefully).
\savebox{\PageRefLabelBox}{\mbox{{page 9999}}}
% 4. Set length to width of box.
\setlength\PageRefLabelWidth{\wd\PageRefLabelBox}
```

Then define the bibliography environment:

```
\defbibenvironment{bibliography}
  {\list
      % 5. and final step. put the page label in a box of set width.

      {\setlength{\fboxrule}{.5pt}\setlength{\fboxsep}{-.5pt}%
     \fbox{%
       \makebox[\PageRefLabelWidth]{%
         \usebibmacro{pagereflabel}%
       }}}%
     {\setlength{\labelwidth}{\PageRefLabelWidth}%
      \setlength{\leftmargin}{\labelwidth}%
      \setlength{\labelsep}{0pt}%
      \setlength{\itemsep}{\bibitemsep}%
      \setlength{\parsep}{\bibparsep}}%
```

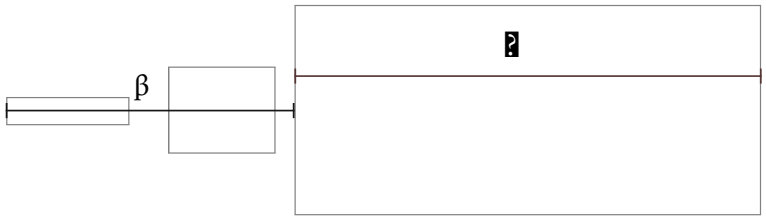
```
      \renewcommand*{\makelabel}[1]{\hss##1}}
  {\endlist}
  {\item}
\endinput
```

We have to decide on the layout of each entry. Let's use the golden ratio ϕ which is a good bet.

The golden ratio which equals $\phi = 1.618\ldots$, is two lengths α and β such that $\alpha + \beta$ is to α as α is to β:

$$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \phi$$

We arbitrarily decide to set each thumbnail's maximum width to the width of the string "`thumbnail:`". Then, β will contain the page label and the thumbnail, and α will contain the text with the info.



We last encountered length calculations in chapter 12 where we calculated the space required for the annotation text of a figure. That required integer precision, and now we need floating point precision. To do the required arithmetic we use the LaTeX$_{3_\varepsilon}$ floating point interface from the xfp package.

First, define ϕ as a length. ϕ is equal to $\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2}$:

```
\edef\GoldenRatio{\fpeval{(sqrt(5)+1)/2}} % phi
\edef\GoldenRatioPlusOne{\fpeval{\GoldenRatio+1}} % phi+1
```

Then $\beta = \phi \times \alpha$ and $\alpha = \frac{\text{\textwidth}}{1+\phi}$:

```
\newlength\ArtInfoWidth
\newlength\ArtThumbnailWidth
\newlength\tmpAReg
\newlength\tmpBReg

\newsavebox{\TmpBoxForWidths}
\savebox{\TmpBoxForWidths}{\mbox{thumbnail:}}%
\setlength\ArtThumbnailWidth{\wd\TmpBoxForWidths}%

\setlength\tmpAReg{\fpeval{\textwidth/\GoldenRatioPlusOne}pt}
\setlength\ArtInfoWidth{\GoldenRatio\tmpAReg}
\setlength\tmpBReg{\tmpAReg-\PageRefLabelWidth-\ArtThumbnailWidth}
```

Setting the thumbnail and the text in two `minipages` we can put them side by side:

Figure 20.4:

To print the thumbnail let's define a custom `biblatex` field format. The file's relative path is stored in the `file` field of each citation entry. We can define a custom format for printing the `file` field:

```
\DeclareFieldFormat{includeartthumb}{{%
\graphicspath{{./figures/thumbs/}}%
\includegraphics[keepaspectratio,width=0.85\textwidth]{#1}}}
```

This is a simple `\includegraphics` *only* it changes `\graphicspath` locally, that is inside the group defined by the braces of the macro's definition. Recall that in chapter 4 we set `\graphicspath` to `./figures/`.

We create the thumbnails with a new `Makefile` target. First, store the paths for each figure in a variable `$INFILES` and the thumb location, which will be inside `figures/thumbs`, in a variable `$OUTFILES`.

```
INFILES:=$(shell bash -c "grep file artworks.bib| \
      cut -d '{' -f2 | cut -d'}' -f1 | sed
 ↪  's/^/figures\//'")
OUTFILES:=$(shell bash -c "grep file artworks.bib| \
      cut -d '{' -f2 | cut -d'}' -f1 | sed
 ↪  's/^/figures\/thumbs\//'")
```

Next, add the target dependency to the pdf:

```
anatomy-of-melancholy.pdf: main.tex *.tex $(OUTFILES)
```

This means that before compiling the pdf, the targets `figure/thumbs/foobar_1`, etc. will have to be compiled first. Let's add these targets:

```
figures/thumbs/%.jpg: figures/%.jpg
    @mkdir -p figures/thumbs
    convert -thumbnail 100 "$<" "$@"
```

The first line creates the `thumbs` folder if it does not exist, and the second is an `ImageMagick` command that makes a thumbnail of width 100px.

Returning to LaTeX, print the author, title, year, url, etc:

Figure 20.5:

Observing the result in Figure 20.6 we see that the actual page dimensions end up as $\alpha + \beta = 10.97$cm, $\alpha = 6.77$cm and $\beta = 4.20$cm. Indeed the ratio checks out:

$$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha} = \frac{10.97}{6.77} \approx 1.6204, \text{ and}$$
$$\frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \frac{6.77}{4.2} \approx 1.612 \text{ which is good enough.}$$

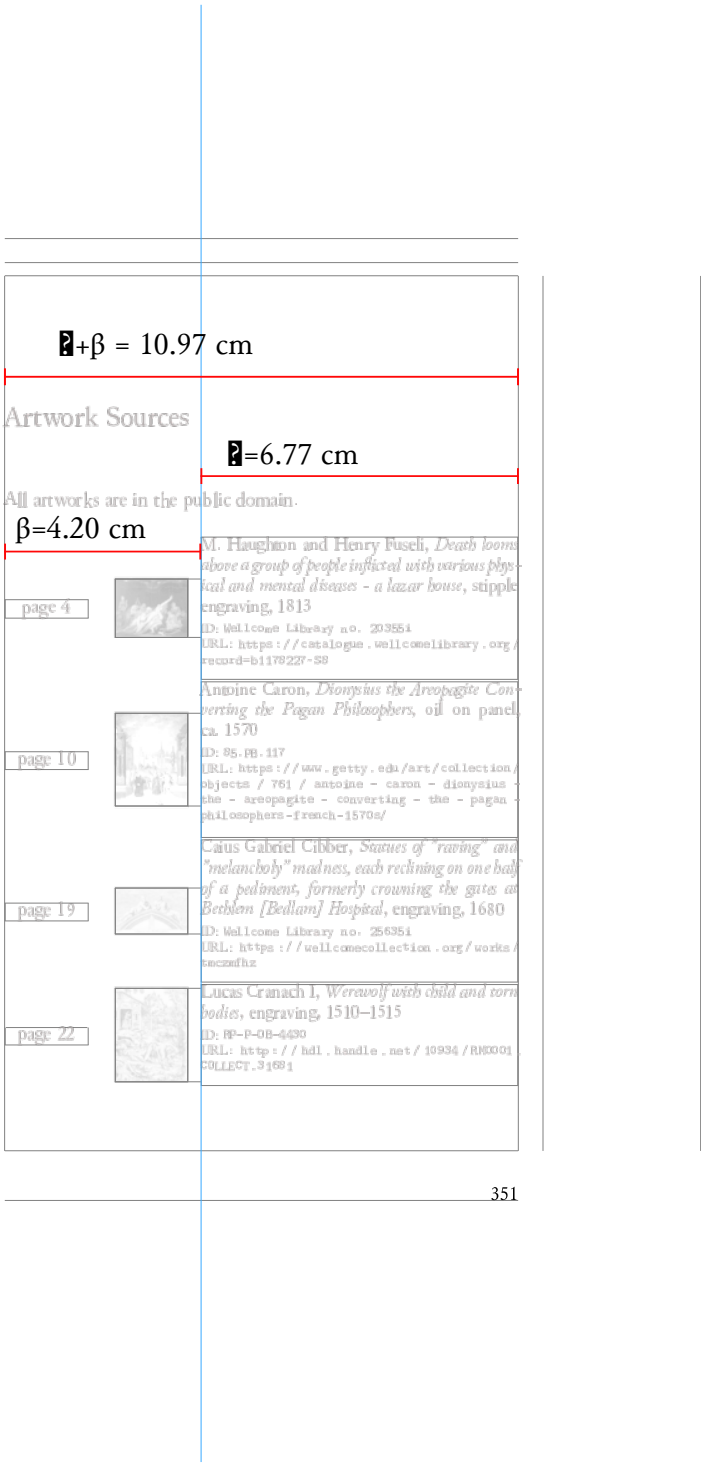


Figure 20.6: Page layout and proportions

Chapter 21

Adding an editor's postface

Chapter 22

Closing with a colophon