



Ready to publish:

DIY publication environment (not only) for academic texts in CONTEXt

Petra Janouchova (Macquarie University/Charles University)

www.github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705

Students and academics are expected to produce and publish several papers per year and a book every few years. Are you one of them?

Do you struggle every time with any of the following tasks?

- keep the track whether all references are correct,
- have consistently labeled figures and footnotes,
- create tables of contents,
- create indices,
- format bibliographical references,
- ... (fill in based on your experience)

If your answer is YES to both, using CONTEXt may solve your problems. CONTEXt is computer markup language, allowing you to format the text how exactly you want it. It does not corrupt the file when you need it the most, and moreover, it saves your time by automatizing the tedious manual work (yes, indexes, references, re-labelling...).



Ready to publish:

DIY publication environment (not only) for academic texts in CONTEX

Petra Janouchova (Macquarie University/Charles University)

www.github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705

This project enables the broader academic public to set up their own high-quality publication environment. The inexperienced users can use detailed manual in order to produce books, articles, posters etc. The project aims to increase digital literacy amongst scholars and raise the awareness of existing publication tools.

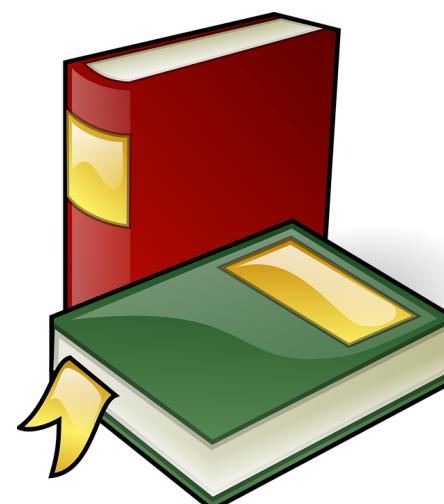
How does it work?



Step 1: Do your research, write it down



Step 2: Format the text with CONTEX markup language



Step 3: Produce high-quality & publication ready book

1 About the project

As my digital project I will set up and test typesetting production environment for my dissertation. I will use ConTeXt running on Linux Ubuntu 14.04. I will also set up GitHub project to keep my work somewhere transparent, but safe.

1.1 Step 1: planning, 29 April

Here is the timeframe of my work, as discussed during FOAR705 on 29 April 2016. I have allocated 40-60 hours of my time, ideally 40 hours on set up and testing, and additional 20 hrs for potential problems that may arise.

I have set up my internal deadline as 31 May, but ideally the actual work should be done around 15 May and the extra two weeks give me some space for unexpected changes (illness, software bugs, hardware issues, project deadline, personal life issues).

I have done my planning very granular, because that is how I work. I like small steps, careful planning and a lot of time (back up) for any unexpected events, such as me getting scarlet fever in the middle of the thing or breaking my vertebra when getting up in the morning.

Moreover I have thought the steps ahead, so I had no problems articulating them quite clearly even with the timeframe allocated to individual elements. We will see how it goes. In general, everything takes me longer than I planned it, but I tried to be generous with time.

- Allocated/Spent time: 3/5 h. during the FOAR705

1.1.1 Technical planning

As part of planning, I have talked to Brian about technical part of my project. We have discussed the technical options: ConTeXt is best running on Linux, Brian suggested 14.04. As I have very old computer, I can't do Virtual Machine or Disk Partition. I am in final stage of my PhD and I don't want to lose programs such as Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop, Bridge, Illustrator etc., so I cannot entirely kill my Windows OS. I have the following options:

- Run ConTeXt Windows, which will likely be problematic (risk spending too much time on it with its result, and growing frustration; my decision: tried to run it, but even the installing gave me too many errors so I decided to abandon this scenario)
- Buy a new computer ASAP, and run Virtual Machine there, or switch completely to Linux (risk: money money money. For the type of laptop I want, the price starts at ~\$1000)

2



Ready to publish:

DIY publication environment (not only) for academic texts in CONTEXT

Petra Janouchova (Macquarie University/Charles University)

www.github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705

Case study: Dissertation

I have decided to use CONTEXT to typeset my dissertation '*Hellenisation of Ancient Thrace based on epigraphic evidence*', that I am submitting in December 2016 at Charles University in Prague. I am expecting some 250 pages total, therefore any tool that could help me with the final processing, streamlining and typesetting that at the same time keep the data consistent, is exactly what I need.

I have decided to abandon the joys of MS Word (after some not-so-good experiences) and I have started learning a new language. Because CONTEXT markup is basically a new language (and quite old at the same time). By series of tags you define how the text should behave and how it should look like. Eventhough, it sounds very technical, people who have to deal with Latin or Greek on a daily basis should be fairly comfortable with markup.

- **Plus:** It is logical! And it does not have exceptions unlike all spoken languages.
- **Minus:** It takes time and enthusiasm. It is still a new language and nobody has learnt Greek in a day. So be ready to get dirty.

Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Filozofická fakulta

Ústav řeckých a latinských studií

Dějiny antického starověku

Disertační práce

*Hellénizace antické Thrákie
ve světle epigrafických nálezů*

PhDr. Jan Souček, CSc.

2016

Mgr. Petra Janouchová



Ready to publish:

DIY publication environment (not only) for academic texts in ConTeXt

Petra Janouchova (Macquarie University/Charles University)

www.github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705

7 basic steps you need to do

1. Install Linux (Ubuntu 14.04)
2. Install ConTeXt (using my step-by-step manual at <https://github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705/manual>)
3. Install other software (GitHub, Sublime Text 3, Pandoc, Floobits if you want to work in teams etc.)
4. Get the requirements (publication rules etc.)
5. Convert your article/book to ConTeXt (using markup language)
6. Create a PDF with final product
7. Send it to your advisor, to your colleagues, to your publisher, put it on the internet...



Ready to publish:

DIY publication environment (not only) for academic texts in ConTeXt

Petra Janouchova (Macquarie University/Charles University)

www.github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705

- For user guidelines, please see <https://github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705/manual>
- For additional information and official guidelines see <http://wiki.contextgarden.net/>
- Source code for this presentation (compiled in ConTeXt) is available at: <https://github.com/petrajanouchova/foar705/presentation>
- If you have any questions, contact petra.janouchova@gmail.com