

How to publish your XML documents

XML's power comes from its use to describe structure, not appearance. But you need a way to render the structural components of your documents so that the text is easy for humans to read and work with. Here is a grossly simplified view of your options.

● = yes

◐ = sort of

○ = no

| If you want to produce | Use | Can use standard web server | Can use any user agent (web browser, mobile device, etc.) | Notes |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|---|
| webpages | CSS (processed by browser) | ● | ● (Limitations and workarounds are widely known.) | While you need not display all the text in your XML, it must stay in the same order as in your XML. Good for quick proofing of your encoding using a web browser. |
| webpages | XSLT processed by browser | ● | ◐ (All major browsers support. Limitations and workarounds are not well known.) | Painfully slow to load each page. Can only process a single XML file at a time. |
| webpages | XML-aware publishing system (using XSLT and other technology)* | ○ | ● | Can search specific XML tags. Can easily show portions of documents. |
| PDFs | XSL-FO | ○ | ● | Open-source tools don't work well yet, and commercial tools are quite expensive. Alternatively, can use a tool like Prince . |
| EPUB | epub-tools and other packages | ○ | ◐ (Most readers except those from Amazon support.) | |

*XML-aware publishing systems for use with TEI are listed at http://wiki.tei-c.org/index.php/Category:Publishing_and_delivery_tools