

2010-11-13

Digital Publishing and Preservation Using the TEI

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<http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/109397>

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

| Tool | Produces | Can use standard web server | Can use any user agent (web browser, mobile device, etc.) | Notes |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| CSS (processed by browser) | webpages | ● | ● (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. |
| XSLT processed by browser | webpages | ● | ◐ (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. |
| XML-aware publishing system (using XSLT and other technology)* | webpages | ○ | ● | Can search specific XML tags. Can easily show portions of documents. |
| XSL-FO | PDFs | ○ | ● | Open-source tools don't work well yet, and commercial tools are quite expensive. Alternatively, can use a tool like Prince . |
| epub-tools and other packages | EPUB | ○ | ◐ (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