

## 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

| Method | If you want to produce: | ... then use:   | Can use standard web server | Can use any user agent (web browser, mobile device, etc.)                       | Notes   |
|--------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| A      | 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. |
| B      | webpages                | XSLT processed by browser or ahead of time by software (as in the <i>Philosophers' Imprint</i> exercise)    | ●                           | ◐ (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.   |
| C      | webpages                | XML-aware publishing system (using XSLT and other technology)*  | ○                           | ●   | Can search specific XML tags. Can easily show portions of documents.  |
| D      | PDFs                    | XSL-FO processed by a server or ahead of time by software (as in the <i>Philosophers' Imprint</i> exercise) | ○                           | ●   | Open-source tools don't work well yet, and commercial tools are quite expensive. Alternatively, can use a tool like <a href="#">Prince</a> .                      |
| E      | EPUB                    | epub-tools and other packages   | ○                           | ◐ (Most readers except those from Amazon support.)                              |   |

\*XML-aware publishing systems for use with TEI are [listed in the TEI wiki](#).