

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. For more information, see the background discussions on the [TEI Boilerplate website](#) and “[Publishing printed critical editions from TEI](#)” in the TEI wiki (<http://wiki.tei-c.org/>).

● = yes

◐ = sort of

○ = no

Method	If you want to produce:	... then use:	Can use simple web server	Can use any user agent (web browser, mobile device, etc.)	Notes
A	simple 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	simple webpages	XSLT transforms XML into a form for use on the web. It’s either processed “on the fly” by a 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.)	Can be slow to load pages. Can only process a single XML file at a time. An example of on-the-fly processing is TEI Boilerplate (http://teiboilerplate.org/).
C	a website with search capability	XML-aware publishing system (using XSLT and other technology)*	○	●	Can search specific XML tags. Can easily show portions of documents.
D	PDFs	XSLT transforms XML into XSL-FO, which an FO processor transforms into PDFs. It’s either processed “on the fly” 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. An example of ahead-of-time processing is use of OxGarage or <Oxygen/> XML Editor, which use the same stylesheets.
E	PDFs	CSS with a special processor			I know of one option: as Prince (http://princexml.com/).
F	EPUB	XSLT with additional code	○	◐ (Most readers except those from Amazon support.)	OxGarage and <Oxygen/> XML Editor use the same stylesheets. Or use epub-tools .

*The TEI wiki has a category of pages on [publishing and delivery tools](#), which includes many XML-aware publishing systems.

(over)

How to get help publishing your XML documents

- DHCommons (<http://dhcommons.org/>): “a hub for people and organizations to find projects to work with, and for projects to find collaborators.”
- TAPAS (<http://tapasproject.org/>): “Tapas is the TEI Archiving Publishing and Access Service for scholars and other creators of TEI data who need a place to publish their materials in different forms and ensure it remains accessible over time. Tapas is also for anyone interested in reading and exploring TEI data, and communicating with those that share that interest.”
- Many institutions offer support for text encoding through a digital humanities center, which is often based in the university library. A directory of centers may be found on the centerNet website (<http://digitalhumanities.org/centernet/>).
- At the University of Michigan, the Digital Library Production Service hosts digitized source documents, whereas Michigan Publishing hosts a few digital editions.