

Editor's introduction

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As I write this, it has now been very nearly a year since this conference took place. My apologies for the lengthy process, but I believe that the final results are worth the wait. This anniversary conference provided a unique overview of both the past history of \TeX and related systems, and concrete examples of its future usage — these proceedings encapsulate as much as is possible. More importantly, in addition to a “mere” recounting of history (“25 Years of \TeX and \METAFONT ”, “That Pesky Lion...”, “The spread of \TeX in India”, “ \TeX Heritage Panel”) or an analysis of what happened and why and a consideration of the future, (“The $(\text{\La})\text{\TeX}$ project: A case study of open-source software”, “The future of European LUGs”) they capture for posterity the unique nature of \TeX and its siblings and descendants (“The return to the classics”, “Digital illumination”, “Chinese character synthesis using \METAPOST ”, “POV-ray: A 3D graphics tool for \TeX ”) and the significant impact which it has had (or will continue to have) on academia (“ \BibTeX yesterday, today, and tomorrow”, “ \MiBibTeX ’s version 1.3”, “Enabling web-access to a database of calculus problems using \LaTeX , PHP and \LaTeX2HTML ”, “ \XeMTeX : An integrated platform for high-quality scientific typesetting” “Scientific publishing with \pdfLaTeX ”) and publishing (“Typesetting nightmares”, “ \EXAMPLE ”, “ \ERCOTeX ”, “ \LaTeX in real-world math typesetting”) and its capabilities (“Using \TeX to manage IT for a Mathematics Congress”, “ \TeXPower — Dynamic presentations with \LaTeX ”, “A multidimensional approach to typesetting”, “A new system for typesetting Hebrew with Omega”, “Literate programming meets UML”), including significant interactions with long-standing (or awaited) standards implementations (“ \MathML formatting with \TeX rules and \TeX fonts”, “From \LaTeX to \MathML and beyond”, “Accents, accents, accents... Enhancing CM fonts with ‘funny characters’” “ \Math in \ConTeXt : Bridging the gap with \AMS-LaTeX ”) but to some extent, the nature of the effort which was necessary to make this possible (“A Polished \TeX story”), and a guide to how one can make use of all of this (“Web Services

for CTAN”, “Abusing \TeX : `custom-bib` as an example”, “Programming dynamic \LaTeX documents”, “Creating labeled ‘stand-alone’ figures in \LaTeX using \WARMreader and Adobe Illustrator under Mac OS X”, “New features in \TeXshop ”, “Experiences and lessons learned teaching \LaTeX to a group of university students”) or how it’s all made possible (“The \teTeX distribution”, “ $\varepsilon\text{-}\Omega$: A step towards the future with a look on the past”, “Automatic creation of efficient Type 1 fonts from \METAFONT fonts”, “ \dviPDFmX , an \eXtension of \dviPDFm ”).

I would like to thank everyone who worked to make this conference a success, especially my fellow presenters, all those who attended, and in particular Wendy McKay who very graciously invited me to speak at this conference (and earlier at TUG 2001 in Delaware), and Hans Hagen and Giuseppe Bilotta who very generously offered a post-conference workshop on \ConTeXt .

My sincere thanks also to the TUGboat production team, including Barbara Beeton, Karl Berry and, most especially, Mimi Burbank for their work to produce these proceedings. Karl and Barbara are both far better editors than I and fixed a myriad of errors which had slipped past me, while Mimi managed to create nicely crafted pages in instances where I’d failed utterly.

Ultimately, that’s what much of the use, purpose and intent of \TeX is: a nicely-balanced set of pages, *mise en page*, as Greer Allen describes it, most often in books. I find myself unable to avoid mentioning here a few books which were of especial significance to me in my traveling to and from Hawai’i: *Diver’s Down* by Hal Gordon, which was the first “chapter” book which I read as a youth, and which instilled in me a desire (now fulfilled) to visit Hawai’i, *Bridge of Birds* by Barry Hughart, a delightful fantasy which I re-read on the plane ride over and foisted off on a pair of presenters to make room for swag; and *Calligraphic Type Design in the Digital Age: An Exhibition in Honor of the Contributions of Hermann and Gudrun Zapf*, which should tide the reader over until my presentation is published in the next TUGboat.

Aloha!