

Even more foolproof: simply take a parameter of file name

```
\def\labelfile#1{\begin{labels}\input#1\end{labels}}
```

or prompt for it:

```
\def\promptlabels{\typein[\labelfilename]{What is the name of the
label file?}
\labelfile{\labelfilename}}
```

#### 4 History and acknowledgements

- v.1 May 9th 1989 simply allowed for `\addresslabel{... \ \ ... \ \ ...}`
- v.2 July 15th permitted verbatim style with no explicit end of lines
- v.3 March 1991 made more generic
- v.4 January 1992 checked and made to work with emtex drivers to my satisfaction, and documented to bare-bones level with 'doc' system.

The crucial macros which make the system bearable for mailing lists by redefining end of line came from Phil Taylor; apologies to him for using them in a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  style file!

◊ Sebastian Rahtz  
 Archaeoinformatica  
 12 Cygnet Street  
 York YO2 1AG  
 spqr@uk.ac.york.minster

## Abstracts

### *Les Cahiers GUTenberg* Contents of Recent Issues

#### Numéro 13 – juin 1992

Bernard GAULLE, Éditorial : morosité francophone ou récession économique? [French moodiness or economic recession?]; pp. 1–4

GUTenberg's president provides ample evidence of a strong and dynamic  $(\text{\LaTeX})$  community, in spite of the low interest shown for the 1991 GUTenberg meeting and other reasons which caused the board to decide to skip GUTenberg'92. While the two meetings seemed to have all the best possible organisation and components, participation didn't seem to match the efforts made. And yet the intensity of work being done on various fronts

(e.g.,  $\text{\LaTeX3}$ ), the increasing number of articles on  $(\text{\LaTeX})$  in various national magazines and journals, the increase in requests to GUTenberg for information, courses and subscriptions to the *Cahiers*, all show that things are humming. It would therefore seem that the economy, not a downturn in interest (along with perhaps too many  $\text{\TeX}$  meetings), is the most likely cause for reduced participation at recent meetings.

Hans Ed. MEIER, Règles fondamentales de mise en page [Basic rules for page layout]; pp. 5–38

Originally published in 1991 in German, this article as translated has been augmented with comments on French typographic style. Meier, described in the editorial as a retired typographer, discusses in his article design elements not only of

books but all manner of documents, from in-house reports to business cards. The article comprises two parts: a section (pp. 6–14) on various elements of a document (e.g., spacing, margins, justification, use of small caps, centering, the general look of a page, etc.), followed by before/after examples taken from documents Meier had worked on while at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (pp. 14–38). The first section provides very useful basic notions (as promised in the title) on style and layout, and with the additional comments from the GUTenberg editorial staff, this portion is very interesting and informative for those interested in variations across linguistic and cultural groups. The second section, while its rather dogmatic rejection and improvements may not sit well with everyone, is nevertheless a good baseline which users new to the notions of page layout and document design could either choose to adhere to, or deviate from. The article has a short bibliography of 6 titles in German, with 2 references in French, added by the GUTenberg editorial staff.

Emmanuel SAINT-JAMES, Une police pour la science. De l'impact du traitement de texte sur l'activité scientifique [Guidelines for science: the impact of word processing on scientific activity]; pp. 39–54

The editorial for this issue introduces the Saint-James article as one which is more philosophical—even epistemological—and as with the previous article, one not specifically aimed at  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  at all. “Difficult to read, sometimes obscure and often provocative, each paragraph prompts one to stop and think” is how the editorial describes the paper, and the argumentation is indeed difficult to follow at times. The paper is a result of the author's efforts in producing a 400-page publication (*Traité de programmation*), and discusses the choices at various levels: characters (font selection), lexicon (at issue, the infusion/intrusion of English computer terminology), the document structure, and a mini-diatribes about bibliographies citing “old news”, for which he has little use. Unfortunately, this disdain is also apparent in the references which accompany the article (in fact, the author explicitly refers to this “concession”!), so the reader is unable to readily pursue the casual asides which pass for

references. But this should not deter those who can read French from approaching the article and reading an account which resides more at the meta level than at the mere production level.

Bobby BODENHEIMER,  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ,  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ , etc : questions et réponses [French adaptation and translation of an issue of the “FAQ” — Frequently Asked Questions — posted 2 March 1992 to `comp.text.tex`, v.1.22]; pp. 55–77

An excellent idea [one which TTN might consider!] of presenting some of the main items in a recent issue of the Frequently Asked Questions file which is posted monthly to the `c.t.t` newsgroup, the GUTenberg editors have produced a handy reference article for the many users of  $(\text{I}^{\text{A}})\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  not able to access the Internet. The main areas treated include: archives (where to find what); drivers (queries for specific printers); graphics programs (where to get them, how to use them); fonts (working with `METAFONT`, using PS fonts, converting font formats, locating different fonts); “How do you do  $x$  in  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ?” (music, an index); conversions (e.g.,  $x$  to  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ,  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  to  $x$ ); hyphenation problems; error messages; “How do you do  $y$  in  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ?” (style files, various specific questions); and finally, user groups and documentation. The FAQ closes with a pertinent reminder that electronic accessing via ftp is a privilege, not to be abused. A welcome addition is the Index to the FAQ which the editors of GUTenberg have provided, making this a doubly useful article.

Annonces et publicités [Announcements and advertisements]; pp. 78–90

The final portion of the issue carries a number of items, including a listing of  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  versions available from GUTenberg for various systems (Mac, PCs, VAX/VMS, and UNIX variations); the detailed announcement of the Prague Euro $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ '92 meeting (including registration form); and the announcement for TUG'92 in Portland. As well, there are advertisements from Y&Y (fonts), Cambridge University Press (their Cambridge Electronic Publishing service), and ET, a  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  text editor for the PC. A loose flyer contains advertisements for *Textures* on one side, and MacFEM (a program “for solving partial derivative equations”) on the other.