

## Resources

### Resources Available to T<sub>E</sub>X Users

Barbara Beeton and Ron Whitney

The resources available to users of T<sub>E</sub>X and its relations are many. The problem is not lack of sources, but knowing just where to look, depending on what methods of communication are available to you.

We attempt to provide here a summary of the places one can look or inquire after more information. This list is far from complete, and we welcome additions and corrections.

### Archives with network connections

The main repositories of information, software, macros, and so forth, are the electronic archives that have been established at various sites around the world. We list here the archives that have been described already in *TUGboat*, or mentioned in the distributions of the various electronic mailing lists devoted to T<sub>E</sub>X arcana.

All the archives listed here support access either by anonymous FTP, by the Bitnet Listserv protocol, by a mail server, or by some combination of those facilities. When using anonymous FTP, it is usually advisable (and polite) to schedule large jobs for off hours, to avoid the heaviest network traffic. You should also choose the location nearest to you that supports the kind of access that is available to you, for the same reason. Some sites that support anonymous FTP try to keep track of their audience, and ask that you give your user name and host site (in the same form that it would be used as an e-mail address) as the password. This seems to be a good practice, so you should follow it unless some other requirement is specified.

**Stanford.** The canonical source of T<sub>E</sub>X is at Stanford. The Unix machine `labrea.stanford.edu` is the current site onto which new versions of T<sub>E</sub>X, METAFONT, etc., are placed when Donald Knuth makes changes. The directory `/tex` is the root node for the T<sub>E</sub>X collection. `labrea` supports anonymous FTP.

Several of the other archives check regularly and update their holdings as new versions of files appear at `labrea`. `labrea` is the primary resource for T<sub>E</sub>X implementors and the maintainers of other archives, but it should be only a secondary source

for ordinary users, as the other archives contain a greater selection of material.

**Aston.** The archive at Aston University, in the U.K., has been described in *TUGboat* 10, no. 1, pages 59–60, and *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, pages 194–195. Updates and changes are reported regularly in UKT<sub>E</sub>X; see below.

**Clarkson.** The holdings of the Clarkson archive are summarized regularly in *TUGboat*; see page 38 for the latest edition. These files can be obtained on magnetic tape as well as via the network, as described in the article.

Other sites maintain shadow archives of parts or all of the Clarkson collection. These include Texas A&M, Aston, a SPAN/DECNET depository in Italy, and a Canadian L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X archive. See the above-mentioned article for details.

**Harvey Mudd.** An archive has been established at `hmcvax.claremont.edu`, containing everything at `labrea`, plus. The relevant directories are headed by `TeX_Root`: on this VMS machine. A description of this archive is being sought for publication in a future issue.

**DECUS.** The DECUS T<sub>E</sub>X collection, described in *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, pages 195–196, is intended principally for distribution on magnetic tape. However, it has now been made available for anonymous FTP from `power.eee.ndsu.nodak.edu` (192.33.18.40). The root directory is `disk$ftp:[tex]`.

A vote of the DECUS membership for the Top 30 Public Domain programs for VMS was reported by Ted Nieland, compiler of the T<sub>E</sub>X collection, to the `info-vax` mailing list on 14 November 1989. Several familiar items were prominent in the list: MAKEINDEX (tied for 21), SPELL (number 9), and T<sub>E</sub>X (number 1). All three are included in the DECUS T<sub>E</sub>X collection.

**Other archives.** GUTenberg and DANTE (the French and German T<sub>E</sub>X user groups, respectively) maintain an archive at Heidelberg, accessible via `LISTSERV@DHDURZ1` on Bitnet/EARN. NTG (in the Netherlands) also maintains an archive. Specific information is being sought for publication in a future issue.

### Sources of software and macros for PC and Macintosh

Many, if not most, users of T<sub>E</sub>X on personal computers do not have access to any of the electronic networks, and must find distributors who provide

software and macros on diskettes. A number of vendors advertising  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ -related products in *TUGboat* supply them in this form. A quick glance through the ads of the most recent issues should uncover several sources.

In addition to the vendors, several individuals have packaged  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ ,  $\text{M}\text{E}\text{T}\text{A}\text{F}\text{O}\text{N}\text{T}$ ,  $\text{L}\text{A}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  macro collections,  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}\text{hax}$ , and other interesting material onto diskettes and offer copies of them for a nominal charge, usually no more than necessary to cover their expenses.

Jon Radel described his service in *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, page 202; he will also make available the *T\text{E}\text{X}\text{T}1* macro package from Washington State University, newly released to the public domain as described in this issue, page 54.

David Hopper will redistribute the  $\text{L}\text{A}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  style files from Clarkson; see the article on the Clarkson archive, page 38, this issue.

For personal computer users with modems in Germany, a BBS-System called **The Insider** has message and file libraries devoted to  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ . This service was described in *TUGboat* 10, no. 3, pages 367–368.

$\text{Oz}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$ , a public-domain implementation for the Macintosh, is being distributed by a number of volunteers; see *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, pages 202–203.

## Publications

The number of periodicals, formal and informal, devoted to  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  and related topics is growing, as is the collection of books, reports, and articles in various publications. This issue contains the beginnings of a  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  bibliography, starting on page 36.

***TUGboat***. It seems unnecessary to mention *TUGboat*, as you are reading this now, but we do so for the sake of completeness.

***T\text{E}\text{X}\text{line}***. The second oldest publication devoted to serving  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  users, after *TUGboat*, is *T\text{E}\text{X}\text{line}*, an independent publication produced by the independent-minded Malcolm Clark. A short history appeared in *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, pages 193–194.

***Cahiers GUTenberg***. The *Cahiers GUTenberg*, the official publication of  $\text{GUTenberg}$ , the French  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  users group, is now in its third year. See below, under Gutenberg in the section on user groups, for more information.

***Die T\text{E}\text{X}\text{nische Komödie}***. The first number (actually, No. 0) of *Die T\text{E}\text{X}\text{nische Komödie}* has just been issued by DANTE, the users group for speakers of German. See below for more information.

## Electronic discourse

***T\text{E}\text{X}\text{hax}***. The grand-daddy of the electronic “bulletin boards” for  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$  is  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}\text{hax}$ . This began in 1985 and appears at irregular intervals in digest form. It is compiled at the University of Washington, with support from TUG. To subscribe from the Bitnet, send a one-line mail message to your local listserver (`LISTSERV@xxx`):

```
SUBSCRIBE TEX-L (your name)
```

From the Internet, send a similar one-line mail message to

```
TeXhax-request@cs.washington.edu
```

Janet users may choose to use

```
texhax-request@uk.ac.nsf
```

All submissions for publication in  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}\text{hax}$  should be sent to

```
TeXhax@cs.washington.edu
```

***UKT\text{E}\text{X}***.  $\text{UKT}\text{E}\text{X}$ , moderated by Peter Abbott, originates at Aston University. It frequently contains reports on activity in the archive there. Coverage sometimes overlaps that of  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}\text{hax}$ , but there is a great deal more, often amply demonstrating that England and the United States are “two countries separated by a common language”. Send requests for subscriptions to

```
info-tex-request@uk.ac.aston
```

and submissions to

```
info-tex@uk.ac.aston
```

(From the U.S., messages from the Internet can be routed through `NSFnet-relay.ac.uk`.) If the traffic from the western side of the Atlantic increases as a result of publishing this information here, we shall try to assist Peter in finding a secondary distribution site in North America, to cut down network traffic across the ocean.

***T\text{E}\text{X}\text{MaG}***.  $\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}\text{MaG}$  is an “electronic magazine” created, edited and distributed by Don Hosek. Don described it in *TUGboat* 10, no. 2, page 192. It appears every two to four months. His address has changed since he wrote the article; it is now `DHosek@HMCVAX.Claremont.Edu`.

***GUT***. The  $\text{GUT}$  mailing list is a service of  $\text{GUTenberg}$  (see below). The official language is French.  $\text{GUT}$  is a two-pronged affair, with official, numbered messages sent out by the president, Bernard Gaulle, and other messages forwarded from the sender directly to the mailing list. One has to be on the mailing list in order to send messages to the list. To join the list, send a message to your local listserver as follows:

SUBSCRIBE GUT@FRULM11  
 prenom NOM -ORGANISME (LIEU)-

(This should be all on one line.)

TEX\_D-L. This list is a service of DANTE, and is centered at DHDURZ1 at Heidelberg. We have not yet subscribed to this list, so cannot give any details except that it is in German. A message to your local listserv similar to the one for GUT, substituting

TEX\_D-L@DHDURZ1

should put you on the list.

TEX-NL. The T<sub>E</sub>X group in the Netherlands sponsors this list, which produces some quite active and enthusiastic discussions, mostly in Dutch, of course.

TEX-NL is installed on the LISTSERV@HEARN on the Bitnet. To be added to the list, send a message there asking to subscribe.

TEX-EURO. This list was established to try to provide a focus for discussion of issues that affect all users in Europe (for example, A4 paper). A short introduction was provided in *TUGboat* 10, no. 3, pages 366–367 by Joachim Lammarsch. It is installed at the LISTSERV@DHDURZ1.

To subscribe, send the command

SUB TEX-EURO *(your name)*

to your nearest listserv or to LISTSERV@DHDURZ1.

TEX-Ed. This special-interest list, devoted to issues of T<sub>E</sub>X training, was described in *TUGboat* 10, no. 3, pages 360–361. In addition, the article gives useful information on dealing with a listserv. TEX-ED is installed at UICVM on the Bitnet; the archives are also available by anonymous FTP from uicvm.cc.uic.edu, the equivalent address on the Internet.

RUSTEX-L. This is another special-interest list, covering topics of interest to those who wish to use T<sub>E</sub>X for Russian and other Slavic languages. It was established by Dimitri Vulis, who described it briefly within a longer article on Russian T<sub>E</sub>X in *TUGboat* 10, no. 3, pages 332–336, especially page 336. RUSTEX-L is installed at the Bitnet node UBVM, which is the same as ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu on Internet.

**Laser-Lovers.** Laser-Lovers was established at about the same time as T<sub>E</sub>Xhax to provide a forum on topics concerning laser and other printers suitable for use with T<sub>E</sub>X. It has evolved into a general discussion list about such printers, but still contains much of interest to T<sub>E</sub>X users looking for hardware-specific information. To subscribe, send a message to

laser-lovers-request@mimsy.umd.edu

To submit a message to the list, send it to

laser-lovers@mimsy.umd.edu

The moderator of Laser-Lovers is Rick Furuta.

### Getting help on installing T<sub>E</sub>X systems

The TUG site coordinators are volunteers familiar with particular types of hardware and with T<sub>E</sub>X systems installed on that hardware. Very often, they have done the primary installation of T<sub>E</sub>X themselves, starting with TANGLE, creating the hardware-specific change file, and proceeding through validation by the TRIP test.

The site coordinators have agreed to answer questions related to hardware and operating systems and how these interact with T<sub>E</sub>X and related software. They are not prepared to teach the use of T<sub>E</sub>X.

The names and addresses of the TUG site coordinators are listed in the “official” addresses section at the beginning of the TUG membership list and supplements.

Reports from the site coordinators and other individuals on topics dealing with specific computer hardware are highlighted in the *TUGboat* tables of contents, either under the heading “Site reports”, or more recently, “Resources”, with the name of the computer shown in the left-hand column. (For example, this issue contains an article specific to IBM VM/CMS.)

Of course, if the implementation of T<sub>E</sub>X that you are using is a commercial one, you should request help from the originator of the implementation.

**T<sub>E</sub>X printers.** If you are looking for information on printers, the “Output devices” column in *TUGboat* identifies many printers known to be able to produce T<sub>E</sub>X output reliably, along with the sources of output driver software. This column is absent from the present issue, but is expected to return in *TUGboat* 11, no. 2.

### Getting help in using T<sub>E</sub>X and METAFONT

**Local specialists.** Every organization installing T<sub>E</sub>X for general use should assign one or more individuals to be local specialists. These specialists should be the first source of help for users at such sites.

**Courses.** TUG and the regional T<sub>E</sub>X user groups offer courses in T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, METAFONT and related topics at varying levels. If you are expecting to

become a heavy user, attending these courses or others offered by such organizations as DECUS in their Pre-symposium Seminar program is a good idea.

**Electronic sources of help.** T<sub>E</sub>Xhax, UKT<sub>E</sub>X and the other electronic mailing lists are read by an audience that is both knowledgeable and willing to answer questions. When posing a question to one of these lists, prepare your submission carefully, so that it is brief but complete, and give a subject heading that characterizes the problem succinctly.

Before sending an inquiry to one of the lists, check *The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook* or the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X manual as appropriate, including the errata lists, to make sure you can't find the answer on your own. And if your problem is with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, before sending out a general cry, check first with LaTeX-help.

**LaTeX-help.** This service was established by a group of volunteers who wanted to reduce the traffic on T<sub>E</sub>Xhax of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X "beginners' questions". They have offered to answer questions about using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and will be keeping records about the kinds of questions being asked and building informative "packaged" answers to frequently-asked questions.

The service is described in *TUGboat* 10, no. 3, page 360.

**Consultants.** For really difficult problems, or very large tasks, free help will not suffice, and it may be worthwhile obtaining the services of a consultant. Consultants may register their availability with TUG; this information is published at the end of each annual membership list and supplement.

**Inquiries to *TUGboat* and TUG.** If you have an intractable problem and time is not of the essence, you can submit it to *TUGboat*. This, of course, will make it known to more and different people than those who read the lists; not everyone has access to network communications, though those of us who do often forget that fact. The *TUGboat* Associate Editors may also be able to help in their areas of expertise.

Don't underestimate the value of the TUG membership list. The annual list contains separate listings by institution, by geographical location, and by computer and output hardware in addition to the main alphabetical listing. The main listing shows everything that the TUG office knows about a member, including interest areas and how that member is actually using T<sub>E</sub>X. (A suggestion of long standing, that a listing by area of interest and use be added to the membership list, is being investigated for possible implementation next year.)

## The user groups

Last, but not least, TUG and the regional and national user groups can often give assistance.

At the most recent TUG annual meeting, Malcolm Clark presented an excellent overview of the user groups in Europe and the concerns of T<sub>E</sub>X users in Europe. The paper can be found in the Proceedings, *TUGboat* 10, no. 4, pages 667-673; it also contains the names and addresses of the contacts for the European groups and a partial bibliography of T<sub>E</sub>X- and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-related books that have been published in Europe.

Meetings of these groups are regularly announced in *TUGboat*, both in the calendar and in calls for papers, and reports are published as well. In addition to the groups listed below, we are aware that a Japanese group at least used to exist, and we have heard about efforts to start groups elsewhere (see the article by Hubert Partl on page 122 for news from a meeting in Czechoslovakia).

**TUG.** The address of the TUG office can be found on the inside front cover of every issue of *TUGboat*. The officers and board of directors are listed on the inside front cover of *TUGboat*. The first few pages of the annual membership list contain the names and addresses of the officers, board, site coordinators and committees. This information is repeated in the membership supplements printed in regular issues of *TUGboat* after the first one of the year.

The elected heads of most major regional groups have been designated vice-presidents of TUG; their names are included in the lists of board members on the inside front cover of *TUGboat* and at the beginning of the annual membership list and supplements.

In addition to keeping membership and subscription records, the TUG office keeps an inventory of publications and software of interest to T<sub>E</sub>X users. Specific information can be obtained from the TUG office.

**DANTE.** The Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung T<sub>E</sub>X, DANTE, was founded in 1989, but actually, groups of German-speaking T<sub>E</sub>X users have been meeting fairly regularly for much longer. (This issue's calendar lists the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> annual meetings of the "Deutschsprachige T<sub>E</sub>X-Interessenten".)

DANTE maintains an archive with Listserver at the University of Heidelberg (DHDURZ1), and has just begun producing *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie*, a "Bühnenstück [stage play] in (hoffentlich) vielen Folgen".

Joachim Lammarsch, the president of DANTE, is on the TUG board.

**GUTenberg.** Groupe (francophone) des Utilisateurs de T<sub>E</sub>X has been in existence since 1988, but like the German speakers, the French have been actively working together for much longer.

The *Cahiers GUTenberg* is the official publication. GUTenberg also maintains an archive, in coordination with DANTE, at Heidelberg, and official announcements are distributed via the electronic mailing list GUT. More information on GUTenberg and its services can be obtained from Bernard Gaulle, the president of GUTenberg and a member of the TUG board.

**The Nordic T<sub>E</sub>X Group.** This group watches over the interests of T<sub>E</sub>X users in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The diversity of the languages used in these countries and other considerations have resulted in a much more loosely-structured organization than is the case with the other groups described here. A description of the challenges facing this group is included in the article by Malcolm Clark cited above.

Roswitha Graham, the chairperson of the Nordic group, is also a member of the TUG board.

**NTG.** The Nederlandse T<sub>E</sub>X Gebruikersgroep has an ambitious program and a number of working groups devoted to particular interest and problem areas. NTG is working actively with the Dutch SGML users group in areas of common interest, and the two groups are holding a joint meeting on August 31 (see page 126). NTG also maintains an archive and sponsors TEX-NL.

The chairman of NTG, Kees van der Laan, is also on the TUG board.

**The UK T<sub>E</sub>X Group.** This group has been formally organized for only about a year, and only since October 1989 has it had elected officers. Malcolm Clark is now chairman, and a member of the TUG board; he is also TUG's European Coordinator, a position which may predate the existence of the UK T<sub>E</sub>X group.

### Summing up

This compendium is certainly incomplete, both because we have probably forgotten to mention resources that we take for granted and because we know that T<sub>E</sub>X is being used in areas that we've never heard of and that are likewise unaware of TUG's existence. This is partly a consequence of the T<sub>E</sub>X system being in the public domain.

If you have knowledge of any T<sub>E</sub>X-related organization, public mailing list or electronic discussion group, or publication that isn't identified here, please let us know about it. We would also like to keep track of commercial organizations providing T<sub>E</sub>X software or services, as vendors or consultants. The more information that we have, the better TUG will be able to provide support services to its members.

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### A Proto-TUG Bibliography

Barbara Beeton

The number of books and articles about T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, WEB and others of their friends, or prepared using one of them, is growing at an astounding rate. Copies of many of these publications actually come to my desk, and references to others find their way here as well. For a long time, T<sub>E</sub>X users have been asking whether a bibliography of these works exists, or suggesting that one be established. We are publishing here the beginning of such a TUG bibliography, starting with the accumulation from my in-box for about the past year.

I envision this bibliography growing, with help from the T<sub>E</sub>X community, and being made available in several ways. First, installments will be published regularly in *TUGboat*. Second, as we are compiling the information in BibT<sub>E</sub>X form, the source of these partial listings will be consolidated and installed in the *TUGboat* area of the various electronic archives. Finally, when the size of the collection has reached a reasonable level of completeness, it should be neatly packaged by TUG and made available in print.

The scope is another area which is open to speculation. The following topics are what I would like to see covered in such a bibliography.

- Using T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, etc.
- Reviews of T<sub>E</sub>X-related products
- Items published by T<sub>E</sub>X user organizations
- Using WEB
- Literate programming
- Document design
- Typography
- Fonts
- METAFONT
- Structured documents
- SGML