

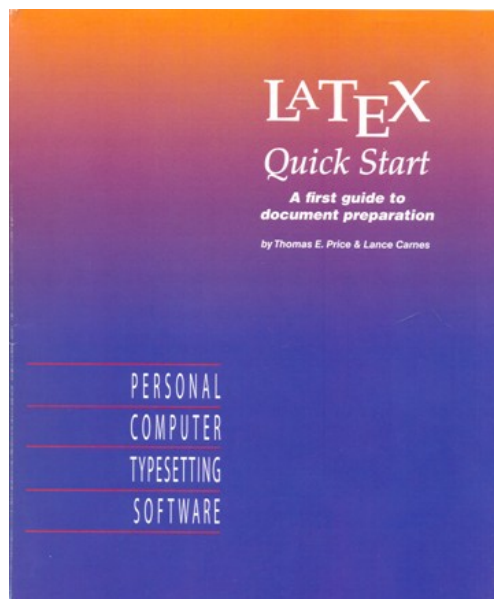
## Book review: $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ Quick Start

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**Abstract** In this paper we review the book *LaTeX Quick Start: A first guide to document preparation* from a users viewpoint, and give a candid assessment of its contents.

### 1 Book review



**The book:** Thomas E. Price and Lance Carnes.  $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  Quick Start: A first guide to document preparation. 1. ed. Personal  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ , Inc.: 2009. 130 pg.

<http://www.pctex.com/>

**Comments by:** Francisco Reinaldo, Chelder Lins, and Adriano Dutra, all members of the Laboratório de Inteligência Computacional (LIC) do Centro Universitário do Leste de Minas Gerais (UnilesteMG), Cel. Fabriciano, Minas Gerais, Brasil.

## 1.1 About the book

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Quick Start* was written for those who want to learn to write articles, books, and professional presentations in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. The book covers everything from the most basic concepts to more advanced methods. The book is well designed for anyone who wants to learn L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

The book is divided into ten chapters and several appendices, with examples throughout. By using examples of elementary tasks for building or formatting text, the authors present a new and easy way to write documents using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. The book has many examples to illustrate common needs, such as inserting images, creating mathematical formulas, developing graphics, tables, and many other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X features. At the back of the book, the authors show several sample documents.

What caught our attention while reading is how the authors describe the content in a clear, simple, and effective way for those who just want to learn the basics of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. Through this book, readers can (a) develop scientific articles, (b) address parts, chapters, sections and subsections, and mathematical equations (c) reference images, tables and bibliography, (d) insert images of various kinds, and even import libraries of commands. All of these topics and more are shown by the use of sample documents.

The guide also assists the user in setting up PCT<sub>E</sub>X showing step-by-step how to install it, how to work with the generated files, and the general settings required. However, *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Quick Start* is not just for PCT<sub>E</sub>X users, and you can use this book with other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X systems.

By explaining good typography, such as appropriately-sized letters, good spacing of words, and other qualities by using clear, hands-on examples, the work is a truly handy guide, and a detailed manual with everything for those who have never used L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

We found that the book explains the topics well and is easy to understand. Actually, it's an excellent book for those who want to learn L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X quickly and

do not know where to start. It is difficult to believe the large amount of content covered in this small book. With other guides the reader often needs to read three or four handouts to supplement the contents, but this was not the case here. We have used this book in our laboratory since it was first published.

The only disappointment is that the book is in English, making it difficult for some, and we hope the second edition will be translated into Portuguese.