

L^AT_EX at WKAP in Dordrecht

Rob de Jeu

rob.dejeu@wkap.nl

Abstract

In this article, I will explain a couple of things about the use of L^AT_EX at Wolters Kluwer Academic Publishers (WKAP), a scientific publisher in Dordrecht. WKAP came into existence in the '80s after the merger between D. Reidel Publishing Company, Martinus Nijhoff and Dr W. Junk. Each year, WKAP publishes approximately 200 scientific journals and about 500 books (in reality, 200 scientific journal titles translates into some 1200 journal issues).

1 History

Towards the end of the '80s, WKAP increasingly had to deal with authors who, in addition to their paper manuscript, also sent along a diskette of the electronic file. Given that WKAP authors are spread out over the whole world, you can imagine the colourful collection of diskette formats and word processing systems which were used.

Specifically with the astronomy journals, it was noted that the quality of the paper manuscript (the 'hard copy'), was in some cases surprisingly good. Formulas and mathematical symbols weren't just added by hand in-between the text, but professionally typeset. This was reason enough to take a good look at the accompanying files. Without exception, these were typeset using T_EX.

In 1989, a consultant was hired to initiate the people at WKAP in the wonderful world of L^AT_EX.

2 The choice for L^AT_EX

It was quickly apparent that L^AT_EX was more advantageous for use at WKAP than just plain T_EX. The division between content and layout was very appealing to the publisher. More so, because it fits in nicely with WKAP's future plans to use SGML to store scientific articles in an electronic database.

In the meantime, a T_EX configuration was installed at the in-house typesetter so that they could process manuscripts supplied in L^AT_EX themselves. In cooperation with the scientific editors of two of our journals, *Celestial Mechanics* and *Space Science Reviews*, the consultant wrote a style file matching WKAP's house style for these journals. The `article` style file served as starting point for this.

The majority of the copy for these journals was supplied in L^AT_EX and could easily be processed in-house without much difficulty. In the relevant journals, L^AT_EX was announced in the instructions to authors and it

was explained how authors could get a hold of the special `kluwer` style file. A separate example- and instruction-file was also included with the style file. This is because the `kluwer` style file has an article 'opening environment' which differs from the L^AT_EX `article` style file.

The use of L^AT_EX together with this style file was very successful. The number of articles delivered in L^AT_EX increased significantly. And, more often, the in-house typesetter opted to use L^AT_EX when typesetting traditional manuscripts.

3 The present situation

Right now, the situation at WKAP is as follows: A journal-independent style file has been written, `kluwer.sty`, and it serves as basis for 10 journal specific style files. In these journal specific style files, the `kluwer.sty` data is `\input`-ted and after that, the journal specific characteristics are arranged. The `kluwer` style file gives a 'sober' general layout in the Computer Modern Font and is used externally by our authors and editors. This way, we only have to support one external style file. This style file includes an example- and instruction-file which helps the author to use the style file. This is mainly for things which differ from the `article` style file, plus a couple of *do's* and *don'ts*.

After an article coded according to the `kluwer` style file is received, the article is printed out in the appropriate journal specific layout so as to generate a first proof. Likewise, the font is changed from Computer Modern to Times, and the so-called creditlines are added, running headlines adapted, and eventual corrections are made, etc. This takes place at the in-house setter or at one of the external typesetters who have converted to L^AT_EX in the meantime. Presently, around 50 journals are produced using L^AT_EX and for these journals, L^AT_EX files are accepted from authors. It's expected that this number will continue to increase significantly in the coming years.

4 The relationship between L^AT_EX and SGML

As mentioned above, one of the reasons for choosing L^AT_EX was the L^AT_EX-concept of a division between (structured) content and layout because it fits in nicely with SGML. At this moment, WKAP is busy making preparations to store scientific articles in an electronic database in SGML format. In order to generate paper products, L^AT_EX will be used as the setting system. Presently, different SGML DTDs¹ for scientific articles are being evaluated. When a DTD has definitively been chosen, then the `klower` style file will undoubtedly require a thorough revision so as to dovetail nicely. For the different SGML elements in the DTD, macros can be written in the style file.

5 Conclusion

By now, it should be clear that L^AT_EX plays an important role at WKAP. On one hand, we are confronted with a growing number of manuscripts which are supplied in L^AT_EX. On the other hand, L^AT_EX is increasingly chosen as typesetting system for scientific articles and books. Soon, the availability of style files on a ftp server can only lead to an increase in the number of authors who supply their articles in L^AT_EX.

Above all, in the near future, L^AT_EX will be implemented as a typesetting system for generating paper products from the SGML files in the electronic database. Thus, the importance of L^AT_EX for WKAP can only but increase in the coming years!

¹ DTD: Document Type Definition. Abstract model of a document-type in which its structure is described.