

BIJLAGE U**NTG's second year****C.G. van der Laan**

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Organizational

NTG (Nederlandstalige T_EX Gebruikersgroep), the Dutch language-oriented T_EX Users' Group has existed inofficially since June 1988, and officially since the fall of 1989. The Group currently has 18 institutional members (representing 54 individuals) and some 50 individual members, making the total roughly one hundred members.

Members of the T_EX Users' Group regularly receive minutes of the spring and fall meetings, with articles and status reports collected in the appendices, as well as the most recent updates of the membership database. At the meetings, organizational aspects (such as the budget) are discussed. Presentations are also given. Most recently, these included 'Unusual paragraph shapes' by Victor Eijkhout, 'SGML and TeX at Elsevier' by Nico Poppelier and 'Various network aspects' by Johannes Braams. Roughly 40 members are present at each such meeting.

The listserv `tex-nl@hearn` is heavily used for information exchange and asking questions. The fileserv `tex-nl@hearn` contains codes useful to the Dutch-speaking community. The University of Utrecht (the RUU for short) recently made a second (internet) fileserv available to this community. Those wishing to contact the board of NTG can also do it via email number: `ntg@hearn`.

The NTG's first year was characterized by 'getting started' and the second by 'getting organized'. We now face the difficult task of establishing NTG continuity: that is, to get a renewal process going for the election of (two) board members every year, their job being to preserve and stimulate an active NTG. Of course, the real basis for the NTG's life and existence are the Working Groups and individual research. Thus, these activities should continue to be stimulated. Nevertheless, it is important that a structure be established which will continue to provide for 'teaching the teachers'. The T_EX Users' Group hopes that also its contacts with other European and international T_EX Users' Groups will endorse and strengthen this continuity.

Cooperation with other (European) T_EX Users Groups has resulted in:

1. a representative of other Users Groups being invited to the (open) meeting(s) at no (conference and one

course) costs,

2. the president of every national or linguistic T_EX Users Group being vice-president of the board of directors of TUG (one federative world T_EX Users Group, decentralised nationally and linguistically, is strived for),
3. the secretary of every T_EX Users Group being member of the other User Groups by default (information exchange is organized),
4. members of one group being considered members of other groups with respect to admission fees for meetings,
5. sharing of know-how (exchange of teachers, speakers etc.).

With respect to TUG, we welcome the realization of the possibility of joint memberships.

Cooperation with the SGML Holland Users' Group has resulted in the SGML-T_EX conference, 31 August 1990, and a shared working group. Members of this working group have worked on SGML and T_EX with respect to mathematics (C.G. van der Laan of the University of Groningen and D.C. Coleman of Elsevier Science Publishers; J. Grootenhuis of Circe BV, presented a paper at Markup90 in Charleston) and tabular material.

Working group activities

Although we mainly operate in working groups — which help structure discussion and stimulate cooperation — much work has been done on an individual basis. Examples of the latter are the articles 'Unusual paragraph shapes', and 'Typesetting bridge via (plain) T_EX,' which have recently been published in TUGboat.

Education

A survey of (local) courses and courseware is maintained. Tools for preparing and maintaining (course) transparencies are in preparation. A set-up of courses has been made for the 'NTG Days,' keeping the idea of worldwide modules in mind. A contribution to Child's discussion of what every module should contain, has been made. Dutch members also teach at other TUG meetings. (E.g. Kees van der Laan held the SGML class (Stanford89), and Victor Eijkhout will give the T_EX advanced course at Cork.)

Guidelines for authors

A report (*Journal Style Guidelines*), RC RUG Report 26, has appeared.

PCs

Some evaluation of public domain (PD) MS-DOS programs have been made. An Atari PD set is available upon request. It looks like that this WG will become more active this year, which is very much appreciated. Cooperation with other user groups is bound to be beneficial.

Fonts

A chess font has been developed by Tutelaers (to be published in TUGboat).

NTG Days

The first 'NTG Days,' June 89, was organized by RUU. Roughly 80 people attended. This year the theme is SGML and \TeX . It was organized by NTG and SGML Holland. The number of courses, offered during these NTG days, has been increased from 2 to 8, where 5 courses have actually taken place. We now have multi-day courses, as opposed to the one-day courses last year. This year's meeting will be on the 31st of August, with courses being held in the week before and after.

SGML(, \TeX ...)

An introductory paper was prepared and presented at the second SGML Holland seminar (October 89, Amsterdam), and at GUTenberg 90 (May 90, Toulouse). The fi-

nal version will be presented at Cork90 and the fall NTG meeting (see appendix —SGML (, \TeX and ...)— for the printed version.)

Dutch aspects

Various sty.files have emerged for `report`, `article` and `letter`. In addition, articles have been prepared on A4, international \LaTeX , and Babel. These articles have been submitted to TUGboat.

Communication

Fileservers — `tex-nl@hearn` and RUU's internet server — have been maintained. Problems of what and how (coded?) to store, and how to retrieve, are under study. A floppy distribution service has been started: floppies with information (minutes with appendices) as well as programs (those available on the file servers) are available, especially to those members who don't have access to electronic mail.

Some opinions

In the last meeting the NTG was urged to pay more attention to Public Relation activities, e.g.: 'helicopter presentations' such as 'What is \TeX all about (off the shelf),' and a real survey course on: \TeX , \LaTeX , Metafont, Postscript, SGML and how these are related.

The idea of an NTG-report series has been opted.

Furthermore, attention will be paid to Public Domain PC versions, not so much to develop it ourselves but to get the material, exercise it, and organize dissemination.