PTXprint Training Workshop

Recorded online, 15-19 July 2024 **tiny.cc/ptxp24training**

Master Slides   Resources2Share   James Gallery

Tech docs in GitHub   Tech Reference   Modules to download

Aim: The primary aim of the workshop is to train participants to become confident in typesetting Scripture for final publication using PTXprint

TO DO:

1. Please update to the latest version: 2.6.x just been released!
2. Here is the link to a very small Paratext project backup file. Please **RESTORE** this WSGBTpub project from the .zip file into Paratext so that you can follow along on your own in each session.

Links to recordings of sessions (alternate easy-to-download Link to Recordings)

Here is what was covered in the sessions each day: Zoom-recordings **passcode**:ptxp2024!

PTXprint	Monday (15 Jul)	Tuesday (16 Jul)	Wednesday (17 Jul)	Thursday (18 Jul)	Friday (19 Jul)
Session 1	Aims, Introduction	Body Settings Fine Tuning Styles	Getting Help! Review of AdjLists and more on changes (Intro to RegEx)	RegEx Basics (again) More on Peripherals	A Critical Eye
Session 2	Walkthrough of Features	Footnotes and Cross-References A Critical Eye	Saving As a Config A Critical Eye	Table of Contents Thumb tabs	Finishing well **Import**ing settings & Tidying up files after a job
Session 3	Getting started, Layout Basics Header+Footer	Balancing/Filling the page using AdjLists **NEW videos below**	Pictures Overview + Gaining Permission & Getting Access to Pictures	Wrap-around Covers	Creating + Using Archives Troubleshooting tips and tricks
Session 4	Fonts+Scripts, Text Stretchability	Fine Tuning Through Changes.txt rules	Peripherals + Front Matter	Changing a Style for the GLO book (Back Matter)	How to install & use an Image Set
Homework feedback	Marilyn, Jordan, Alastair, Lucien, Uma, David, Craig				
Updated:	There are some systematic videos regarding "Filling the Page" at this Vimeo link.				
Stop Press!	In version 2.6 **a new feature was unveiled** which makes Filling the Page MUCH easier. Watch the video (6 mins).				

Topics that were NOT covered during the workshop:

These are all covered in the Master Slides for you to discover on your own*:

- [Ornaments](#) - verse decorators, decorative rules, borders (static + dynamic),

- [Styles](#) (we only touched on them briefly)

- [Diglots](#) (these are easier than you think, but have a few gotchas!)

- [Special layouts](#) including Study Bibles; and a section on [Derivative Scripture Products](#) (Modules)

- [Strong's Numbers](#) (adding Cross-References + Indexes + using PT's Biblical Terms)

- [Interlinear Text](#) (using what has been done in Paratext)

- [Extra](#) bits-n-pieces; [Advanced/Technical](#) Topics (includes Changes.txt rules); [Setting Overrides](#)

*I plan to record training sessions on these topics, and if I do, the links will be posted here as well.

Pre-requisites:

[Paratext Settings for Checking](#)
[Checklist for Team Pre-processing](#)

Day 1

- WARNING: If you enjoy reading… Consider leaving now!
- Why this course? (i) training for final typesetting (specific); (ii) for EMDC participants (general)
- Format of each day
- Know your way around this Shared Notebook (open for all to contribute to; ~~please don't delete anything~~)
- By Friday: Typeset the Johannine writings to create a publishable PDF (cover to cover).

- Walkthrough of features - learning to look at other examples
- Develop a critical typesetter's eye
- Getting set up for success:
  - Fonts (SIL, Google)
  - Latest version (2.5.2) - go get it!
  - Sumatra PDF viewer (link)
  - Notepad++ (link)
  - Optional:
- Overview of **what's where** in PTXprint - perhaps some things you hadn't noticed before
- Layout - "getting the big rocks in first"
- Fonts+Scripts

Day 1 homework:
- Readings: (1) From the End Backward, (2) Transparent Page Design
- Practical task: Make JHN as pretty as possible (even with your limited knowledge so far)

and temple guards having lit a fire were warming themselves. So Peter also having gone was warming himself along with them.

The High Priest asking questions to Jesus
(Matthew 26:59-66; Mark 14:55-64; Luke 22:66-71)

[19] At that time the High Priest Annas, asked Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. [20] So Jesus said, "I

< too tight | just right >

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Day 2

- Body Settings, and Introduction to Styles (\v \c \s \r \w)
- Footnotes and Cross-References - and including Glossary entries
- Practice develop a critical typesetter's eye
- Overview of the **View+Edit** tab (and relation to the Advanced tab)
- Balancing/Filling the page **using AdjLists** (Adjustment Lists)
  - note that you normally only do this right at the end AFTER all other settings are locked.
  - One file per book
  - Very picky about syntax JHN 3.16 +1 (so syntax colouring helps)
  - Stops working if the order of ch.vs is wrong/out of sequence

- Understanding Changes.txt (a whole different system from using AdjList)
  - Find X replace with Y
  - Uses BUK Ch:Vs for references (colon, not period) and usually points to previous verse

Day 2 homework:
- Homework: Complete adjusting/balancing JHN and 1,2,3 JN
- Start working on your own project to get it to a similar level as WSGBTpub
- Optional, but helpful: Watch this video of Mark adjusting the book of ACTS (start at 4m10s).

Day 3

- Where to get help: (Tooltips , Help tab links, PTXprint Website: How To Use, support.bible/PTXprint, Tech Reference, More Tech Docs)
- Review of **AdjLists** and **Changes.txt rules** (reminder, clarification, differences, pros-and-cons)
- Intro to simple Regular Expressions - and how to make use of the **Code Snippets**
  - 🗖 **RegExSummarySlide**
- What is a **config**, and why is it important? [make a new one for Pictures]
- – 5 min break–
- Pictures
  - if you don't even have the Sample Images, download them from: tiny.cc/sampleimages

Illustration Samples
from Scripture Maps & Illustrations Repository (SIL GPS)

Name ↑	Modified		Size	
Illustrations - Engl...	--	Copy to Dropbox	Download	...

- – 5 min break–
- Practice develop a critical typesetter's eye
- Gaining Permission (DCC)
- Getting Access to the high-resolution illustrations
- – 5 min break–
- Peripherals and Front Matter

Day 3 homework:
- Make a list of all the "Special Formatting" in JHN 1JN 2JN 3JN and **REV** - and work out how you will deal with those in our sample publication (is the USFM markup already adequate? Or do some things need to be changed/improved).
- Re-balance/fill any pages that have been affected by inserting pictures
- Look at several different physical Bibles to gain an understanding of what needs to be included as part of the Front Matter

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Day 4

- TO DO: Download this Background image and place it in WSGBTpub**local****figures** folder
- Some foundational knowledge for Regular Expressions
  - 🟨 **RegExSummarySlide**
- Peripherals
  - Using the Advanced template instead of the Basic one
  - getting front matter to work well (fill in the Variables)
- Table of Contents - many variations (and briefly, Thumb Tabs)
- – 5 min break–
- Covers
- – 5 min break–
- Back Matter - Glossary (changing the formatting, adding a rule for –), and BAK (not maps yet)

Day 4 homework:
- Send me your "John PDF" (Front matter, John, 1Jn, 2Jn, 3Jn, Rev and Glossary) and tell me which areas still need improvement
- List the top 2 areas that you want to go over again tomorrow
- Make the \xt in glossary slightly smaller and blue font

Day 5

- **My sad story:** I spent 90 mins today recording my feedback on your homework (and reiterating the instructions on how to fix the issues I was encountering), **but** I forgot to share my screen! ☹️ Maybe I'll do it again tomorrow, but a bit quicker.

- Practice develop a critical typesetter's eye
- Finishing well (booklet pagination, diffs, finishing options)
- – 5 min break–
- Import settings
  - Bringing in settings from other sources
  - Configurations (and what is where) - tidying up files after a job (Tidy Up)
- Creating + Using Archives
- Troubleshooting tips and tricks
  - turn off advance features
  - look for clues
  - divide and conquer
  - don't panic, but don't spend too much time
- – 5 min break–

Elected repeat topics:

1. **Order** in which to do setup
   a. In general follow the order of the tabs down the left hand side
   b. But you are never "finished" - there is always room for improvement
   c. Once you are confident of all the settings, start page-up according to an optimum sequence
   d. LOCK the UI settings to prevent accidental changes (see Advanced tab, near bottom right)
   e. When you get a book completed that you like, rename the PDF with "(keep)" in the name.
2. Best **sequence** for typesetting
   a. Start with a small book first (one that you don't mind redoing later if needed, 1JN / JAS)
   b. Then move to a more complicated book (e.g. MRK/JHN; pics, parallel passages)
   c. Then do a book with other features (HEB=poetry; REV=letters, etc.)
   d. To have a break from the hard page-layout task, work on Front Matter, and peripherals
   e. Don't leave the cover until the last moment - get it set up and out of the way (but turn it off)
3. MKD: **Footnotes** and Cross-**References** - and including **Glossary** entries
4. MKD: **Front matter**
5. JG: Still struggling with the **Regex** in the changes.txt
6. LD: I see only one **picture** in the whole gospel. I need to go over this topic again
7. UJ: **adjusting** but I think I need more exercises
8. AMP: An overview of how to obtain images

9. AMP: The **shrink/stretch values**.
   a. It would be interesting to see what everyone's values are here to see how much we differ, or whether we all have something similar.

Initials/Name	Min/Shrink Between Letters	Max/Stretch Between Letters	Min/Shrink Between Words	Max/Stretch Between Words
Mark	2.7	1.5	65	150
Alastair	2.0	0.5	50	200
Phil	1.5	0.5	60	200
Lucien	2.0	0.5	65	200
Marilyn	2.0	0.5	65	250
Craig	2.0	3.0	65	220
Chuck	2	.5	50	200
Jordan	2.5	1.5	50	235
Mathews	2.0	1.5	65	200
David	2.0	1.5	50	200
Marv	2.5	0.5	50	150
Average	**2.1**	**1.1**	**57.7**	**200.5**

All in one PDF: [Preparing for Scripture Typesetting](#) (7 modules with most of the above articles included, mostly good to search for something you're looking for without knowing which PDF it is in)

List of Commonly Used Terms

Leading—the distance between the baselines of successive lines of type.

Back-up / on-grid (as opposed to off-grid)—the precise alignment of printed content on both sides of a sheet. This is particularly important when printing on thin paper, as any misalignment becomes more noticeable.

Widows, Orphans and Runts—read this [confusing Wikipedia article](#)! Still confused?

Reg Ex—regular expression (a sequence of characters that defines a search pattern in text) [Cheat Sheet](#)

Icebreaker / meet-n-greet questions:

Introduce yourself: name, where you are from, where you are currently living/working
What do you hope to gain from this training?
Are you new to scripture typesetting? If not, how did you do typesetting before PTXprint?
[Optional: a fun fact about yourself; or how many languages you speak]

Questions

Q: What is the difference between PTXprint and Publishing Assistant?
A: Great question! Here's a helpful [explanation](#).

Q: What Paratext user permissions does someone need in order to use PTXprint? Do they have to be a Consultant, or Typesetter/Reviewer?
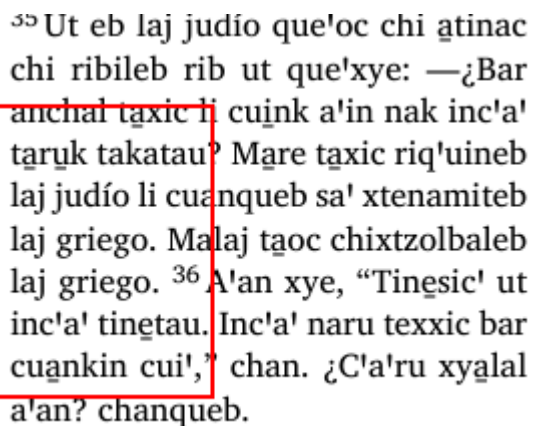*A:* No special permission is needed. Even an "Observer" can typeset scripture, but they can only typeset the **Projects** that they have on their computer. Resource texts cannot be typeset. You can also typeset directly from a folder of USFM files, but this is far from ideal.

Q: …from Marv: I've primarily done balancing with changes.txt. What might help me decide between using adj. List vs. changes.txt?
A: We will talk about this today - Day 2 (comparing and contrasting the differences).

Q: How can you handle word ladders in the pdf?
A1: Good question - could you take a screenshot of an example of a word ladder so that others can see what we're talking about. Then we'll try to work out a solution.

A2: You could try to expand/shrink to see if it changes any of the text to avoid word ladders being created. If that doesn't work, then putting in some no-break spaces '~' between certain words in that paragraph (through a changes.txt rule) might force a change which breaks the word ladder.

Q: … from David: What are the differences between using PDF Sumatra or Acrobat for PTXprint? (Advantage and Disadvantage)
A: Acrobat does not let you re-create the PDF while it has it open (due to LOCKING the PDF file that is open - not a good strategy for a PDF viewer!). So, before you hit Print in PTXprint, you have to always remember to close the PDF in Acrobat. This gets tiresome very quickly. Another disadvantage is that you can't *be watching* the PDF to see how it moves/updates when you make a change. That's a huge disadvantage when you are trying to make minor changes and want to see the small difference that it should have made. Acrobat is slower and harder to navigate in. It is more complex to use for the average person. SumatraPDF is free, fast, does everything we need it to do AND most importantly, allows us to keep re-creating the same PDF while the old one is still open.

Q: How to understand the error log file and how to fix them?
A1: The summary message on the status bar has the most useful information. But we will learn how to troubleshoot on the last day.
A2: In general, you start at the bottom of the tex.log file and work back up the file until you see a cause of the error(s). Usually the last section will have a !explanation which is helpful to point you to the issue. If you happen to see [1] … [2] … [3] … etc. higher up in the log, then this means that those pages were

successfully 'output' and the last [number] will tell you which page it got to. Sometimes that will help you find a specific book/chapter where a markup issue is tripping up the layout process.

Q: I could use more explanation on this syntax like this: 'JHN 2.12 +0% +1[2] %+1[3]'
A: A series of examples are probably the best way to explain the syntax:

JHN 2.12 +1　　– means grow the (1st) paragraph at John ch 2 vs 2 by one line (occupy one line more)

JHN 2.12 -1　　– **try to shrink** the (1st) paragraph at John ch 2 vs 12 by one line (occupy one line **less**)

JHN 2.12 +-1　　– (same as above +-1 = -1)

JHN 2.12 +1[2]　　　– means grow the 2nd paragraph at John ch 2 vs 12 by one line

JHN 2.12 +1[3]　　　– means grow the 3rd paragraph at John ch 2 vs 12 by one line

So when you see a complicated (computer generated) line like this in the AdjList, it is just trying to show you all the options you have at that reference. JHN 2.12 +0% +1[2] %+1[3]　　And the % is a **comment** character so that everything after the % **can be ignored**. And note that +0 also does **nothing**. So the entire line does nothing until you edit it to look like one of the lines above (where something has a +1 or -1). Note that if you want to make 2 changes at the same ch:vs location, then you will need 2 different lines. For example:
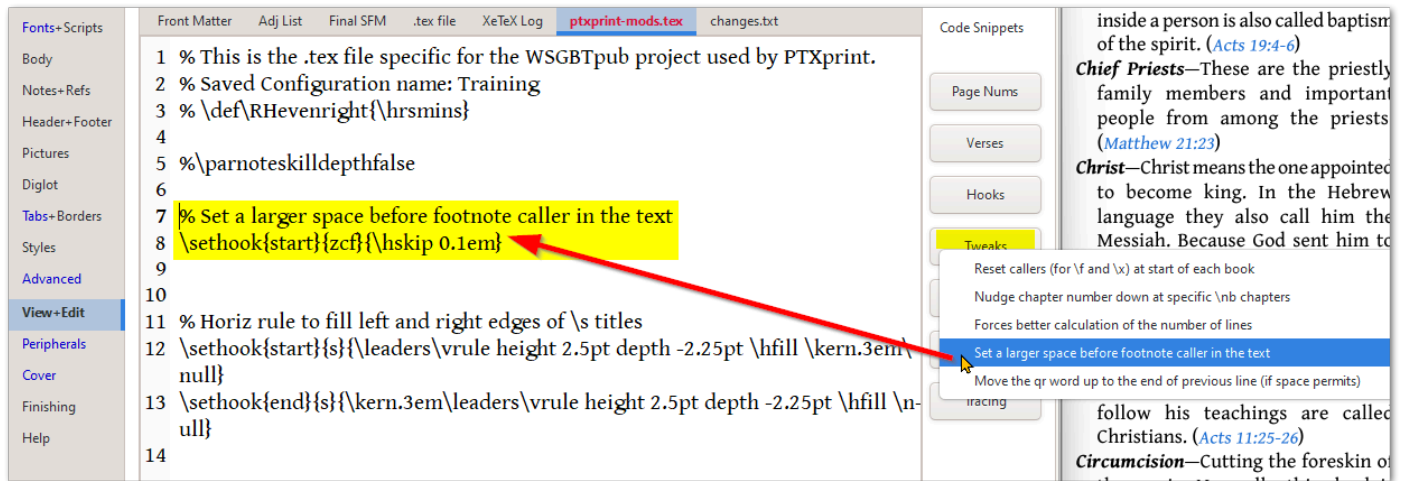
JHN 2.12 +1
JHN 2.12 +1[3]

Q: Is there an order of operations for typesetting like math has PEMDAS?
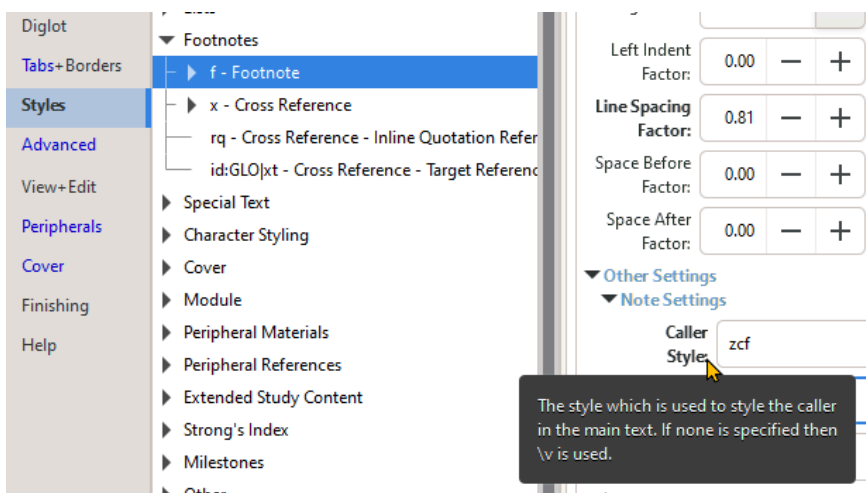A: No, not really. But if you are using an AdjList like above, the order of references MUST be sequential.

Q: (Phil L) Is there a way to adjust the space before a footnote caller in the text? When I choose to use italic letters, letters with descenders tend to be too close to some text. Here is an example:

A: Yes, there is a **.tex** Code Snippet that helps here:

If you use that, you will need to add this setting in \f style settings, and then manually add \zcf as a style which can be tweaked as needed.

Which will give you control over styling etc:

Q: I find it interesting that the USFM docs does not have coverspine, coverfront, coverwhole (etc) and how PTXPrint maps those words over to the proper USFM keyword. Example: \periph spannedCover|id="coverwhole"- CAL

A: The USFM standard just assumes that the cover is going to be created manually, so all the needed information sits in the \periph **cover** Whereas PTXprint is actually creating the cover automatically, so needs to know exactly what goes where (and hence needs 4 different Periphs).

Q: (Marv L) The ISBN box is centered on my back cover, rather than being on the right. Is there a setting for this?

A1: I'm thinking that changing pc to pr should do it, but it's not working for me: **\esb \cat ISBNbox\cat* \pr \zISBNbarcode|var="isbn" height="large"* \esbe** -CAL Yes, I had the same thought, with the same lack of results. ML 🙂

A2: Yes, this is a known bug/limitation with the UI right now. The (newer) options for positioning **esb**s haven't been added yet. So to fix it, you have to manually edit the ptxprint.sty stylesheet (outside of PTXprint) and then re-open PTXprint to make the updated cover. For example, my .sty file has this in it:

```
\Marker cat:ISBNbox|esb
\Position hr
\FirstLineIndent 0.6
```

Where 'hr' means '**h**ere, **r**ight'.

Something I want to learn:

AMP: An idiot's guide to Regular Expressions - syntax, break down of complicated expressions, what can be done.

Ans: Here is a good place to start: 🔲 RegExSummarySlide and then practice at https://Regex101.com

AMP: When the **Create Archive** button is used in the Help tab, does this also keep a list of all the style settings and modifications so that if at some time in the future someone else needs to re-create the project, it will rebuild exactly the same? What about future versions of PTXPrint producing a different output?

Ans: Yes, *everything* that was used to create the PDF is included in the archive. It even includes the TeX macros so that it is possible to recreate the exact layout (even years later).

Interesting Support.Bible topics:

https://support.bible/12061/best-practices-for-workflow-while-paginating?show=12061#q12061

Suggestions for improvement

1. RL: When switching to the Styles view and, for example, 'c' is in the search box already, it would be nice if the 'c' style would be in focus automatically. Right now I have to retype 'c' or type a space and backspace. **[MP/MH to action this]**

2. Is there a way to change all the percentages to points or mm? The percentages are confusing when everything is measured in points or mm.

3. For marginal verses, when turned on, the text box gets shifted to the right and the numbers go where the text box used to be. This causes back bleed as the text box on the reverse page is lined up with the numbers instead of the text box. Suggestion: don't move the text box and marginal verses should go in the margin, thus their name. ;)

4. Verse bridges in marginal verses are number, return, hyphen, number. Would be better if it was number, hyphen, return, number. This would have the first number with the hyphen so people know it continues to the number below. Not as intuitive with the hyphen not on the first line.

5. AMP: When using the adjustment list to add n lines, PTXPrint always does this by leaving an orphan word at the end of the paragraph. Could the adjustment be made such that the stretching would add, say, two words are enough to fill at least x% (e.g. 50%) of a line?

6. I second #5. Adjustments seem to ignore the no orphan word rule.