

Notes on creating eBooks in an epub format

Experience gained from a trial conversion

Exporting from InDesign C5 in principle poses no problems and is both fast and reliable.

However, some important points have to be observed when creating the overall document so that the epub can be read easily on the Reader later on.

The complete document has to be formatted with so-called line-break and character formats from the very first page. The images also have to be anchored in the document so that they do not slip to the wrong position in the text. Captions should be grouped together with the image and then anchored in the text.

It is important to remember that blank lines will be ignored so that the texts are pushed together. In this case you have to work with the 'Spacing before' and 'Spacing after' properties.

Avoid hard hyphens since the lines are composed to the size of the display in the epub format. Dashes may otherwise appear in the running text.

A 'book' can also be created in InDesign for the later epub from a finished document. Save the individual chapters separately and then arrange and manage them with the document type 'book'.

A separate file has to appear in the book panel for every page that is later to appear as a separate page in epub.

Footnotes become end notes (as a link) that are appended at the end of a chapter.

Tables are converted to XHTML and undergo no further formatting, which does not lead to an attractive result.

The same formatting rules apply for conversions from Word. The images have to be anchored here too and the templates for the individual text passages, headings, etc. have to be adapted and used.

General procedure for typesetting:

- Define style sheets and/or paragraph formatting
- Set the text in the corresponding format
- Create the table of contents with the Word / InDesign function or create a 'book'
- Insert metadata or have this written into the file by a program