

Foreign Language E-Text
Production: Techniques and
Considerations

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Basics of structured etext
production

- Acquire new text
- Use OCR program to recognize text
- Strip running headers and footers; keep page numbers.
- Apply appropriate styles to section headers/breaks, captions, page numbers, etc.
- Re-order text boxes, pullouts, etc., if necessary for more appropriate reading experience.

Foreign language concerns

- Single language or mixed language text?
- All 1 writing system or multiple?
- Can your OCR program recognize all the necessary writing systems?
- Does anyone editing the text have any reading knowledge of the language (or a related language)? Know the script? Recognize the diacritics or other significant marks? If not, can you learn?
 - Roman languages: Spanish, French, German, Latin, etc.
 - Languages with other alphabetic systems:
 - Cyrillic: Russian, etc.
 - Greek
 - Languages of India: Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, Telugu, etc.
 - Semitic languages: Arabic, Hebrew, etc.
 - Logosyllabic: Chinese, Japanese (3), Korean, Vietnamese etc.
- Does the end user have the ability to adequately use the materials in the format you are considering producing?

Why does it matter?

- Because it affects the meaning!

Examples:

- English: Q vs O
- Russian: Ш vs Щ
- Many languages: à vs á
- Japanese hiragana: む vs ぬ vs わ; ほ vs ぼ vs ぽ

Checking your quality

- Using TTS (if you are reasonably fluent in the spoken language)
- Using people

Know your limits

- What you can control
- What you cannot control
- Constraints and how to expand your limits

Braille considerations

- Code Tables
- End User Considerations

Experimentation

- Time to work with word processor for editing of sample texts:
 - Albanian sample
 - Greek sample
 - Japanese sample
- Time to work with TextAloud for MP3 conversion and checking

Questions

- Questions
- Suggestions
- Discussion

Thanks

Mahalo
Gracias
Arigato ありがとう
Danke
Merci
Spasibo Спасибо

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