Programming \TeX —
A survey of documentation and packages

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December 30, 2021

Abstract
A survey of documentation for \TeX. Included are references to printed and electronic books and manuals, symbol lists, FAQs, the \TeX source code, CTAN and distributions, programming-related packages, users groups and online communities, and information on creating packages and documentation.

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∗This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the \TeX Project Public License, either version 1.3 of this license or (at your option) any later version. The latest version of this license is in http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt and version 1.3 or later is part of all distributions of \TeX version 2005/12/01 or later.
## Introduction

Reinventing the wheel may be useful if you think that you can do it better. Worse, though, is not even being aware that the wheel has already been invented in the first place, which can be an embarrassing waste of time. Such can be the case both for a new \LaTeX{} programmer who isn't aware of the many ways
things may be done, but also for someone, this author included, who learned \LaTeX{} many years ago but may have missed some of the recent advancements in package code and documentation.

A wealth of information is available, not only in print and online, but also directly embedded in the typical \LaTeX{} distribution. The following is meant to be a broad overview of some of today's resources for \LaTeX{} programmers.

In some cases the same document may be listed in several categories. For example, a graphics FAQ also available in French may be listed under graphics, FAQs, and also French documents.

Many older documents are not included.

(The latest version of this document is available as the \LaTeX{} docsurvey package.)

## Printed books

Even in an electronic/online era, printed books still have the advantage of being able to be opened for reference without taking up space on the screen. Printed books also provide extended discussion of useful topics, have extensive human-edited indexes which are more useful than a simple document-wide search function, and some are also available in electronic format.

### \TeX{} FAQ

\TeX{} FAQ. [URL: https://texfaq.org/](https://texfaq.org/).

An online resource, which includes a detailed list of printed books.

### More Math Into \LaTeX{}


Updated edition.

### Guide to \LaTeX{}


An introduction and more advanced material, including an extensive reference guide.

### \LaTeX{} Beginner's Guide


An overview with numerous examples.

### \LaTeX{} Cookbook


More examples.

The classic introduction to LATEX, in continuous reprint for decades.


Provides extended discussion and examples of the inner workings of LATEX and numerous useful packages.


TEX Users Group book store, with reviews. Includes more than 75 books. Categories: published by TUG, by Donald E. Knuth, about TeX and its applications, about typography and fonts, and about other related topics. Discounts for TUG members.


**Books and documentation by category**

Most of these are provided with the TeX distribution, and may be updated with each release. Access the embedded documentation from a command line using the `texdoc` program.

TeX

For a list of older books, see [https://www.texfaq.org/FAQ-tex-books](https://www.texfaq.org/FAQ-tex-books).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LATEX</strong> for the Impatient</th>
<th>Abrahams et al.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A tutorial and reference for LATEX, plain LATEX, and Eplain. Also available in French and Chinese.</td>
<td>(texdoc impatient).</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A Gentle Introduction to LATEX</strong></th>
<th>Doob</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A comprehensive tutorial on plain LATEX.</td>
<td>(texdoc gentle).</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>LATEX by Topic</strong></th>
<th>Eijkhout</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A reference for LATEX. This may be useful for understanding the source code of LATEX packages, many of which are quite old and written in low-level LATEX.</td>
<td>(texdoc texbytopic).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Wikibooks</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An online book about low-level LATEX.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Getting Started with Plain LATEX</strong></th>
<th>Wilkins</th>
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<th><strong>LATEX</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LATEX2ε for authors</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LATEX3 Project Team. <em>LATEX2ε for authors.</em> 2020. 31 pp. <a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/usrguide">URL</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An overview of the new features of LATEX2ε compared to LATEX2.09.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>New LATEX methods for authors</strong></th>
<th>LATEX3 Project Team</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xparse package functions now integrated into the LATEX core.</td>
<td>(texdoc usrguide3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Author</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Scientific Documents Using \LaTeX</strong></td>
<td>Bennieston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew J. Bennieston. <em>Writing Scientific Documents Using \LaTeX</em>. 2009.</td>
<td>URL: <a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/intro-scientific">https://ctan.org/pkg/intro-scientific</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An introduction to typesetting scientific documents.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formatting Information, A beginner’s introduction to typesetting with \LaTeX</strong></td>
<td>Flynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Flynn. <em>Formatting Information, A beginner’s introduction to typesetting with \LaTeX</em>. 2005.</td>
<td>URL: <a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/beginlatex">https://ctan.org/pkg/beginlatex</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A beginner’s introduction to typesetting with \LaTeX.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The very short guide to typesetting with \LaTeX</strong></td>
<td>Flynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Flynn. <em>The very short guide to typesetting with \LaTeX</em>. 2016.</td>
<td>URL: <a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/latex-veryshortguide">https://ctan.org/pkg/latex-veryshortguide</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A four-page introduction.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>\LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}\epsilon: An unofficial reference manual</strong></td>
<td>Greenwade et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>George D. Greenwade et al. <em>\LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}\epsilon: An unofficial reference manual</em>. English, French, Spanish. 246 pp. URL: <a href="https://latexref.xyz">https://latexref.xyz</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A thorough but concise reference manual for \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}\epsilon, available in several languages. (texdoc -l latex2e-help).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Getting something out of \LaTeX</strong></td>
<td>Hefferon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create your first document in \LaTeX.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guide to \LaTeX</strong></td>
<td>Kopka et al.</td>
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<tr>
<td>An introduction and more advanced material, including an extensive reference guide.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>\LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}\epsilon Beginner’s Guide</strong></td>
<td>Kottwitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>An overview with numerous examples.</td>
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</table>
**\LaTeX{} Cookbook**


More examples.

**\LaTeX{}: A Document Preparation System**


The classic introduction to \LaTeX{}, in continuous reprint for decades.

**Getting Started with \LaTeX{} 2e**


A beginner's bare-bones overview. (texdoc startlatex2e).

**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX{} 2e**


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc ~l lshort).

**\LaTeX{} for Complete Novices**


An extensive introduction for a non-technical person. (texdoc dickimaw-novices).

**Using \LaTeX{} to Write a PhD Thesis**


A followup to *\LaTeX{} for Complete Novices*, including extensive discussion about bibliographies, indexes, and glossaries. (texdoc dickimaw-thesis).

**Wikibooks**

Wikibooks. *\LaTeX{}*. 2017. [url](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX).

An online book, includes information about creating \LaTeX{} packages and classes.
### Lua\TeX

**Lua\TeX Reference Manual**


The complete reference. (texdoc luateX).

**A guide to Lua\TeX**


An overview, and references to related packages. (texdoc lualatex-doc).

### X\E\TeX

**font-change-xetex**

Amit Raj Dhawan. *font-change-xetex. Macros to use OpenType and TrueType fonts with X\E\TeX*. 2016. 21 pp. [URL](https://ctan.org/pkg/font-change-xetex).

For plain X\E\TeX. (texdoc font-change-xetex).

**The X\E\TeX Companion**

Michel Goossens et al. *The X\E\TeX Companion. \TeX meets OpenType and Unicode*. 2010. 112 pp. [URL](https://ctan.org/pkg/xetex).

Introduction to OpenType and Unicode, using OpenType fonts, handling Unicode-encoded sources.

**The X\E\TeX reference guide**


A summary of additional features over \TeX. (texdoc xetex-reference).

### \La\TeX and expl3

**\La\TeX Interfaces**

\La\TeX Project Team. *\La\TeX Interfaces*. 2020. 310 pp. [URL](https://ctan.org/pkg/13kernel).

Reference documentation for the expl3 programming environment. (texdoc interface3).

**The \La\TeX kernel: style guide for code authors**

\La\TeX Project Team. *The \La\TeX kernel: style guide for code authors*. 2020. 5 pp. [URL](https://ctan.org/pkg/13kernel).

Style guide for authors using expl3. (texdoc 13styleguide).
### The expl3 package and \LaTeX{}3 programming

**\LaTeX{}3 Project Team.** *The expl3 package and \LaTeX{}3 programming*. 2020. 16 pp. url: https://ctan.org/pkg/13kernel.

Introduction to expl3. (texdoc expl3).

### \LaTeX{}3: Programming in \LaTeX{} with Ease

**Ziyue “Alan” Xiang.** *\LaTeX{}3: Programming in \LaTeX{} with Ease*. url: https://www.alanshawn.com/latex3-tutorial/.

A \LaTeX{}3 programming tutorial.

### Bibliography

#### Tame the BeaST

**Nicolas Markey.** *Tame the BeaST. The B to X of Bib\LaTeX{}*. 2009. 48 pp. url: https://ctan.org/pkg/tamethebeast/.

About bibliographies and Bib\LaTeX{}X. (texdoc tamethebeast).

#### Biblatex Cheat Sheet


A tri-fold quick reference. (texdoc biblatex-cheatsheet).

### Math

#### User's Guide for the amsmath Package


How to use amsmath. Also see International languages for the Italian, Japanese, and Vietnamese translations. (texdoc amsmath).

#### Short Math Guide for \LaTeX{}X


A summary of features in \LaTeX{}X and packages for writing math formulas. (texdoc short-math-guide).

#### More Math Into \LaTeX{}X


Updated edition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Math in color. In German, but with easy-to-use examples.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>(texdoc voss-mathcol).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typesetting Mathematics with \LaTeX</td>
<td>Voß</td>
<td>Typesetting Mathematics with \LaTeX. UIT Cambridge, 2010.</td>
<td></td>
<td>978-1-906-86017-2</td>
<td><a href="https://www.uit.co.uk/typesetting-mathematics-with-latex">https://www.uit.co.uk/typesetting-mathematics-with-latex</a></td>
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<td>(texdoc voss-mathcol).</td>
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<td>Page headings</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Documents the fancyhdr and extramarks packages. Also includes an overview of the \LaTeX page mark system. (texdoc fancyhdr).</td>
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<td>Tables</td>
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<td>Also see the \TeX FAQ Floats section:</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.texfaq.org/#floats">https://www.texfaq.org/#floats</a></td>
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<td>Publication-quality tables in \LaTeX</td>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>Simon Fear. Publication-quality tables in \LaTeX.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/booktabs">https://ctan.org/pkg/booktabs</a>.</td>
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<td>Documents the booktabs package, and also includes thoughts on the design of tabular layouts in general. (texdoc booktabs).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Typesetting Tables with \LaTeX</td>
<td>Voß</td>
<td>Herbert Voß. Typesetting Tables with \LaTeX.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.uit.co.uk/typesetting-tables-with-latex">https://www.uit.co.uk/typesetting-tables-with-latex</a></td>
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<td>(texdoc booktabs).</td>
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<td>Graphics</td>
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<td>Also see the \TeX FAQ Graphics section:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A visual FAQ consisting of a small example for each effect.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(texdoc -l visualpstricks).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A visual FAQ consisting of a small example for each effect. (texdoc -l visualtikz).

**Using Imported Graphics in \( \LaTeX \) and pdf\( \LaTeX \)**


**The TikZ and PGF Packages**


As well as documenting the packages, this manual also includes “General guidelines and principles concerning the creation of graphics for scientific presentations, papers, and books”. (texdoc pgfmanual).

**PSTricks: Graphics and PostScript for \( \LaTeX \) and \( \LaTeX \)**


**Music**

**\( \LaTeX \) for Musicians**


Packages and programs for music symbols, lyrics, chord sheets, sheet music, and guitar tablature. (texdoc latex4musicians).

**Presentations**

**Beamer by Example**


Graduated examples of the beamer package.

**Examples from the book Presentations with \( \LaTeX \)**


Source for examples from the book.

**Examples from the book Presentations with \( \LaTeX \)**


Source for examples from the book.
### Presentations with \LaTeX


### Fonts

Also see the \TeX FAQ Fonts section: [https://www.texfaq.org/#fonts](https://www.texfaq.org/#fonts)

#### \LaTeX Font Catalogue

Palle Jørgensen. *The \LaTeX Font Catalogue*. URL: [https://www.tug.org/FontCatalogue/](https://www.tug.org/FontCatalogue/).

A detailed list of fonts for \LaTeX, each with samples and setup information.

#### \LaTeX font encodings


About T1 encoding, OT1, etc. (texdoc encguide).

#### Essential NFSS2, version 2


A user’s view of the New Font Selection Scheme, version 2.

#### Using TrueType fonts with \TeX (\LaTeX) and pdf\TeX (pdf\LaTeX)

Damir Rakityansky. *Using TrueType fonts with \TeX (\LaTeX) and pdf\TeX (pdf\LaTeX)*. URL: [http://www.radamir.com/tex/ttf-tex.htm](http://www.radamir.com/tex/ttf-tex.htm).

#### Font selection in \LaTeX: The most frequently asked questions


Covers basic commands, default fonts, available font families, fonts for certain parts of the document.

#### \LaTeX2ε font selection

\LaTeX3 Project Team. *\LaTeX2ε font selection*. 2020. 35 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/fntguide](https://ctan.org/pkg/fntguide).

Documentation of commands for selecting fonts, as well as those for defining the data-structures used by the selection commands. (texdoc fntguide).

#### Fonts and \TeX


A collection of links related to \TeX and fonts.
Cyrillic languages support in \LaTeX{}  
Volovich et al.

Vladimir Volovich, Werner Lemberg, and \LaTeX{}X Project Team. *Cyrillic languages support in \LaTeX{}*. 1999. 7 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/cyrguide](https://ctan.org/pkg/cyrguide).

Installation, usage, encodings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAQs, symbol references, cheat sheets</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Visual PSTricks**


A visual FAQ consisting of a small example for each effect. (\texttt{texdoc -l visualpstricks}).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual TikZ</th>
</tr>
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</table>


A visual FAQ consisting of a small example for each effect. (\texttt{texdoc -l visualtikz}).

**\LaTeX{}X 2ε Cheat Sheet**


A quick-reference guide for \LaTeX{}X and \BibTeX{}. Also in Brazilian Portuguese, German, Japanese, and Spanish. (\texttt{texdoc latexcheat}).

<table>
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<th>Detexify</th>
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Draw a symbol, and the website tells you which macros might make that symbol.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>\TeX{} FAQ</th>
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*\TeX{} FAQ*. URL: [https://texfaq.org/](https://texfaq.org/).

An online resource, which includes a detailed list of printed books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online tutorials on \LaTeX{}</th>
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An extensive tutorial covering many aspects of \LaTeX{}X.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>\LaTeX{}X Cheat Sheet</th>
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</table>

Marion Lammarsch. *\LaTeX{}X Cheat Sheet*. 2017. 4 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/latex-refsheet](https://ctan.org/pkg/latex-refsheet).
A reference for \LaTeX{} with KOMA-Script. (texdoc latex-refsheet).

**The Comprehensive \LaTeX{} Symbol List**


More than 14,000 symbols and \LaTeX{} commands. (texdoc comprehensive).

**The Visual \LaTeX{} FAQ**


Click on a visual element to learn how it is programmed. (texdoc visualFAQ).

**Biblatex Cheat Sheet**


A tri-fold quick reference. (texdoc biblatex-cheatsheet).

**Every symbol (most symbols) defined by unicode-math**


Unicode math symbols. (texdoc unimath-symbols).

**\TeX{} font errors: Cheatsheet**


How \TeX{} integrates fonts, and related error messages. (texdoc tex-font-errors-cheatsheet).

**shapecatcher**


Draw a symbol, and the website tells you which Unicode symbols it might be.

**\TeX{} Resources on the Web**

\TeX{} Users Group. *\TeX{} Resources on the Web.* [URL: http://tug.org/interest.html](http://tug.org/interest.html).

A large collection of links to numerous resources.

**Source code**

The source code for \LaTeX{}2ε itself is also included in the distribution.
The \TeX\ Sources \hfill Braams et al.

Johannes Braams et al. \emph{The \TeX\ Sources}. 955 pp. \url{https://ctan.org/pkg/source2e}.

Occasionally useful for figuring out how something really works. (\texttt{texdoc source2e}).

List of internal \LaTeX\ Macros useful to Package Authors \hfill Scharrer

Martin Scharrer. \emph{List of internal \LaTeX\ Macros useful to Package Authors}. 14 pp. \url{https://ctan.org/pkg/macros2e}.

A list of the core \LaTeX\ macros, each of which is linked to the source code. (\texttt{texdoc macros2e}).

International languages

Multiple languages

The following are available in several languages. Also see CTAN’s topic for each language for additional translations of package and other documentation.

Free Programming Books \hfill Foundation


A variety of \TeX\-related and other programming books and documents.

\LaTeX\ : An unofficial reference manual \hfill Greenwade et al.


A thorough but concise reference manual for \LaTeX, available in several languages. (\texttt{texdoc -l latex2e-help}).

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\ \hfill Oetiker

Tobias Oetiker. \emph{The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX}. Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongol, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese. 2015. 153 pp. \url{https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort}.

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (\texttt{texdoc -l lshort}).

Learn\LaTeX.org \hfill Wright et al.

Joseph Wright et al. \emph{Learn\LaTeX.org}. Catalan, German, English, French, Marathi, Portuguese, Vietnamese. 2021. \url{https://www.learnlatex.org/}.

Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.
**Brazilian Portuguese**

**Guia Rápido \LaTeX2ε**


A quick-reference guide for \LaTeX and Bib\TeX. (texdoc latexcheat-ptbr).

**\LaTeX2ε Via Exemplos**


A study course.

**Bulgarian**

**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX2ε**


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**Catalan**

**Learn\LaTeX.org**

Joseph Wright et al. *Learn\LaTeX.org*. Catalan, German, English, French, Marathi, Portuguese, Vietnamese. 2021. [url: https://www.learnlatex.org/].

Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

**Chinese**

(Also see the Chinese category of the package list: p. 31)

**\TeX 急就帖**


A tutorial and reference for \TeX, plain \TeX, and Eplain. (texdoc impatient-cn).

**Asymptote 范例教程**


A tutorial for asymptote in the form of a graphical FAQ. (texdoc asymptote-by-example-zh-cn).
CTEX FAQ (常见问题集)  吴凌云


FAQ from the Chinese TEX Society.  (texdoc ctex-faq).

一份简短的关于\TeX安装的介绍  王然


Installing \TeX and compiling documents, using various operating systems.  (texdoc install-latex-guide-zh-cn).

Asymptote 中的常见问题 (FAQ)  译者


A translation of the Asymptote FAQ.  (texdoc asymptote-faq-zh-cn).

\LaTeX Notes v 1.20  胡


An introduction to \TeX and \LaTeX, including the use of Chinese fonts.  (texdoc latex-notes).

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε  奥特克


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package.  (texdoc -l lshort).

Czech

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε  奥特克


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package.  (texdoc -l lshort).

Dutch

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε  奥特克

Tobias Oetiker. The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε. Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian,
Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongol, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukranian, Vietnamese. 2015. 153 pp. URL: https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort.

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**Estonian**

*The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\* 2ε


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**Finnish**

*Käytännöllistä Latexia*


A practical manual in Finnish (texdoc latexia).

*The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\* 2ε


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**French**

Also see Online communities.

*TEX pour l’Impatient*


A tutorial and reference for \TeX, plain \TeX, and Eplain. (texdoc impatient-fr).

**Apprends \LaTeX!**

Marc Baudoin. *Apprends \LaTeX!*. French. 2012. 222 pp. URL: http://www.babafou.eu.org/Apprends_LaTeX.

A full textbook written for École Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Initiation à \LaTeX</strong></th>
<th>Bouzigues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A guide on \LaTeX — for beginners or advanced users.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th><strong>Visual PSTricks</strong></th>
<th>Casteleyn</th>
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<td>A visual FAQ consisting of a small example for each effect. (texdoc -l visualpstricks).</td>
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<th><strong>Rédaction avec \LaTeX</strong></th>
<th>Goulet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An introductory course prepared for Université Laval, Québec, Canada. (texdoc formation-latex-ul), (texdoc formation-latex-ul-diapos).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>\LaTeX 2ε: An unofficial reference manual</strong></th>
<th>Greenwade et al.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>A thorough but concise reference manual for \LaTeX 2ε, available in several languages. (texdoc -l latex2e-help).</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th><strong>Tout Ce Que Vous Avez Toujours Voulu Savoir Sur \LaTeX Sans Jamais Oser Le Demander</strong></th>
<th>Lozano</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A book for beginners.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε</strong></td>
<td>Tobias Oetiker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package.</td>
<td>(\texttt{texdoc -l lshort}).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilisation de Graphiques Importés dans \LaTeX 2</strong></td>
<td>Keith Reckdahl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to import graphics in \LaTeX 2ε.</td>
<td>(\texttt{texdoc fepslatex}).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apprendre à programmer en \TeX</strong></td>
<td>Christian Tellechea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic programming of \TeX, with examples.</td>
<td>(\texttt{texdoc apprendre}).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TeXniques. Groupe francophone des Utilisateurs de \TeX, \LaTeX et logiciels compagnons</strong></td>
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<td>A collection of resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Joseph Wright et al.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>(Also see Users groups, and Online communities.)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>\LaTeX 2ε Befehlsübersicht</strong></td>
<td>Winston Chang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A quick-reference guide for \LaTeX and Bib\TeX.</td>
<td>(\texttt{texdoc latexcheat-de}).</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeXe


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

The DANTE \TeX Users Group Frequently Asked Questions

*The DANTE \TeX Users Group Frequently Asked Questions*. German. url: [https://ctan.org/pkg/faq-de](https://ctan.org/pkg/faq-de).

Farbige Mathematik


Math in color. In German, but with easy-to-use examples. (texdoc voss-mathcol).

Anleitung


Using \LaTeX, Mik\TeX, and TrueType fonts.

Learn\LaTeX.org


Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

Indian

A practical guide to \LaTeX and polyglossia for Indian Languages


Discusses Marathi, but also relevent to other Indian langauges. (texdoc latex-mr).

Italian

Manuale utente per il pacchetto amsmath


Manual for amsmath. (texdoc amsldoc-it).
<table>
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<th>Title</th>
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<td></td>
<td>(Also see the Japanese category of the package list: p. 31)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\LaTeX\2e for authors</td>
<td>\LaTeX\3 Project Team</td>
<td>An overview of the new features of \LaTeX\2e compared to \LaTeX\2.09.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.latex-project.org/help/documentation/usrguide_jpn.pdf">https://www.latex-project.org/help/documentation/usrguide_jpn.pdf</a></td>
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The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX \textregistered Oetiker


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Marathi

Learn\LaTeX.org Wright et al.


Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

Mongol

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX \textregistered Oetiker


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Persian

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX \textregistered Oetiker


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Polish

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX \textregistered Oetiker


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Portuguese

Introdução ao Uso do Preparador de Documentos \LaTeX Campani

A tutorial as PDF slides. (texdoc cursolatex).

**The Not So Short Introduction to L\(\LaTeX\)\(\varepsilon\)**


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**LearnL\(\LaTeX\).org**


Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

**Russian**

Basic \(\LaTeX\)


A tutorial in Russian.

**The Not So Short Introduction to L\(\LaTeX\)\(\varepsilon\)**


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**Slovenian**

The Not So Short Introduction to L\(\LaTeX\)\(\varepsilon\)


Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

**Spanish**

CervanTeX (Spanish TeX Group) FAQ

**Programming \LaTeX — A survey of documentation and packages**

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**Acordeón para \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε**


A quick-reference guide for \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε and Bib\TeX. (\texttt{texdoc latexcheat-esmx}).

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**\LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε: An unofficial reference manual**

George D. Greenwade et al. *\LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε: An unofficial reference manual*. English, French, Spanish. 246 pp. URL: [https://latexref.xyz](https://latexref.xyz).

A thorough but concise reference manual for \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε, available in several languages. (\texttt{texdoc -l latex2e-help}).

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**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε**

Tobias Oetiker. *The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε*. Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongol, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese. 2015. 153 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort](https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort).

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (\texttt{texdoc -l lshort}).

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**Learn\LaTeX.org**

Joseph Wright et al. *Learn\LaTeX.org*. Catalan, German, English, French, Marathi, Portuguese, Vietnamese. 2021. URL: [https://www.learnlatex.org/](https://www.learnlatex.org/).

Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

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**Thai**

**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε**

Tobias Oetiker. *The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε*. Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongol, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese. 2015. 153 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort](https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort).

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (\texttt{texdoc -l lshort}).

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**Turkish**

**The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε**

Tobias Oetiker. *The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX\textsuperscript{2}ε*. Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mongol, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese. 2015. 153 pp. URL: [https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort](https://ctan.org/pkg/lshort).

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (\texttt{texdoc -l lshort}).
Ukrainian

The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Vietnamese

Hướng dẫn sử dụng gói amsmath
American Mathematical Society et al.


The Not So Short Introduction to \LaTeX 2ε

Covers introductory material, customizations, and a simple package. (texdoc -l lshort).

Learn\LaTeX.org

Sixteen lessons with examples, in multiples languages.

Journals

The PracT\TeX Journal
T\TeX Users Group


The online journal of the T\TeX Users Group. Twenty issues, from 2005–2012.

TUGBoat
T\TeX Users Group


The Communications of the T\TeX Users Group. Published since 1980. Articles covering every aspect of T\TeX.
**Interviews**

**TUG Interview Corner**


A large collection of interviews and articles about people related to T\(\LaTeX\). Includes links to more than 250 lectures and other recordings by Donald Knuth, and various historical information.

**Typesetting examples**

- A large collection of examples: [https://texample.net/](https://texample.net/)
- A collection of small examples: [http://tug.org/texshowcase/](http://tug.org/texshowcase/)

**General typesetting theory**

Discussion about general typesetting theory, presented by various \(\LaTeX\)-related authors.

For a list of non-\(\LaTeX\)-specific books, see [https://www.texfaq.org/FAQ-type-books](https://www.texfaq.org/FAQ-type-books).

**Package canoniclayout**


Documentation for the canoniclayout package. Also includes ideas regarding text-block proportions. (texdoc canoniclayout).

**Publication-quality tables in \(\LaTeX\)**


Documents the booktabs package, and also includes thoughts on the design of tabular layouts in general. (texdoc booktabs).

**KOMA-Script — The Guide**


Documentation for the KOMA-Script package. Also includes discussion about the page layout of a book. (texdoc typearea).

**The Octavo Package**

Design principles and guidelines emulating books from the Renaissance. (texdoc octavo).

**The TikZ and PGF Packages**


As well as documenting the packages, this manual also includes “General guidelines and principles concerning the creation of graphics for scientific presentations, papers, and books”. (texdoc pgfmanual).

**A TUFTE-STYLE BOOK**


Documentation for the Tufte-L\(\TeX\) document classes. Also includes layout ideas from the books of Edward R. Tufte. (texdoc tufte-latex).

**A Few Notes on Book Design**


More than 100 pages of discussion about book design and typography. (texdoc memdesign).

**Accessing embedded information**

**texdoc and mthelp**

A large amount of documentation is included in a \(\TeX\) distribution. For TeXLive distributions, package documentation can be accessed with the *texdoc* program. Enter “\texttt{texdoc -l <name>}” to search for matching package, file, or program names. In some cases the same document is available in both letter or A4 paper sizes, or in several languages. *texdoc* is also available online, with popular packages sorted by category. ([http://www.texdoc.net/](http://www.texdoc.net/))

For Mik\(\TeX\), the *mthelp* program accesses package documentation. Enter “\texttt{mthelp <name>}”.

**kpsewhich**

The program *kpsewhich* may be used to find out where a file is located. *kpsewhich* \texttt{filename} searches for and returns the path to the given filename.

*kpsewhich* can also return directories, such as:

\begin{verbatim}
kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFROOT
kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFDIST
kpsewhich -var-value TEXMFLOCAL
\end{verbatim}

Some package authors choose not to include the source code in the package documentation. To view the source code:

1. To locate and read a package's .\texttt{sty} file:

\begin{verbatim}
kpsewhich package.sty
\end{verbatim}

Usually these files have their comments removed, so it is better to use the .\texttt{dtx} file instead.
2. The `.dtx` file is usually available, and will have the package's source code.

   \texttt{kpsewhich package.dtx}

   If it is not installed on your local system, it will be necessary to download the `.dtx` file from CTAN (see the next section).

   The comments are not yet typeset and so will not be as easily read.

3. To typeset the documentation with the source code, copy the `.dtx` file and any associated image files somewhere local and then look for \OnlyDescription in the source. This command tells the \texttt{ltxdoc} package not to print the source code.

4. Remove \OnlyDescription, then process the `.dtx` file with

   \texttt{pdflatex package.dtx}

   Barring unusual circumstances, this will create a new documentation .pdf file with the package source code included.

### Obtaining packages — Comprehensive \TeX\ Archive Network (CTAN)

\TeX\ Live installations use the \texttt{tlmgr} program to obtain packages. Mik\TeX\ installations automatically install packages as needed. Where \TeX\ is installed by an operating-system package manager, that manager should be used to install additional packages.

For custom installations, it may be necessary to manually install packages downloaded from the Comprehensive \TeX\ Archive Network (CTAN), which provides a master collection of packages. A search function is available, which is useful when you know the name of a package or its author, and a list of topics is also provided. There are so many topics, however, that finding the right topic can be a problem in itself. One useful method to find what you are looking for is to search for a related package you may already know about, then look at its description on CTAN to see what topics are shown for it. Selecting these topics then shows you related packages.

(https://ctan.org/)

### Useful classes, packages, and programs

Use \texttt{texdoc} or \texttt{mthelp} to access information about each of the following.

### General-use packages and classes

**Classes:**
- \texttt{memoir}, \texttt{koma-script}

**Page layout and headings:**
- \texttt{fancyhdr}, \texttt{geometry}, \texttt{microtype}, \texttt{nowidow}, \texttt{titleps}

**Fonts:**
- \texttt{font-change-xetex}, \texttt{fontspec}, \texttt{mathspec}, \texttt{unicode-math}

**Sectioning:**
- \texttt{epigraph}, \texttt{fncychap}, \texttt{quotchap}, \texttt{sectionbreak}, \texttt{sectsty}, \texttt{titlesec}, \texttt{tocvsec2}

**Table of contents:**
- \texttt{etoc}, \texttt{minitoc}, \texttt{multitoc}, \texttt{shorttoc}, \texttt{titletoc}, \texttt{tocbibind}, \texttt{tocdata}, \texttt{tocloft}, \texttt{tocvsec2}

**Title page:**
- \texttt{authblk}, \texttt{titling}

**Front and back matter:**
- \texttt{abstract}, \texttt{appendix}

**Indexing:**
- \texttt{makeindex}, \texttt{xindy}, \texttt{xindex}, \texttt{gindex}, \texttt{hvindex}, \texttt{idxlayout}, \texttt{imakeidx}, \texttt{index}, \texttt{makeidx}, \texttt{splitidx}, \texttt{varindex}, \texttt{xindex}

**Glossary:**
- \texttt{glossaries}, \texttt{nomencl}

**Bibliography:**
- \texttt{bibtex}, \texttt{biblatex}, \texttt{custom-bib}
Cross-referencing:
    cleveref, hyperref, url, xr-hyper, xurl, zref

Foot notes, margin notes, page notes:
    bigfoot, endheads, endnotes, footmisc,
    manyfoot, marginfit, marginfix, marginnote,
    pagenate, parnotes, sidenotes

Math:
    amsmath, amssymb, breqn, mathtools,
    resizegather, nicematrix, scalerel, stackrel

Theorems:
    amsthm, apxproof, ntheorem, shadethm,
    theorem, thmbox, thmtools

Units and fractions:
    nicefrac, siunitx, xfrac

Floats:
    caption, dblfloatfix, endfloat,
    fewerfloatpages, float, floatrow, hypcap,
    keyfloat, newfloat, placeins, rotfloat, stfloats,
    subcaption, subfig, subfloat, wrapfig

Tabular:
    array, booktabs, colorlbr, longtable, ltxtable,
    multirow, supertabular, tabularx, tabulary,
    threeparttable, threeparttablex, widetable,
    xltabular, xtab

Graphics:
    asymptote, curves, fitbox, graphicx, pict2e,
    pstricks, tikz, xy

Color:
    normalcolor, xcolor

Lists:
    enumerate, enumitem, paralist

Minipages:
    eqparbox, minibox, pbox, shapepar

Quotations and verse:
    csquotes, epigraph, quoting, verse

Verbatim:
    fancyverb, ftextra, moreverb, shortverb,
    upquote, verbatim

Frames:
    boxedminipage2e, fancybox, fbox, framed,
    mdframed, niceframe, shadow, tcolorbox

Embellishments:
    fancypar, fancytabs, fourier-orns, lettrine,
    pgfornament, p-st-vectorian, sectionbreak

Multi-column:
    adjmulticol, multicol, multicolrule, vwcol

Margins:
    fullwidth, hanging, midpage

Line numbering:
    linenno

Algorithms and listings:
    algorithm2e, algorithmicx, listings,
    listingsutf8, minted

Acronyms:
    acro, acronym

Ordinals:
    engord, fmtcount, nth

Direct formatting:
    cancel, ellipsis, embrac, enparen, hyphenat,
    lips, lua-check-hyphen, luacolor, pdfcol,
    pdfcolmk, pdfrender, realscripts, relsize,
    seqsplit, soul, soulpos, soulutf8, stackengine,
    textfit, thinspace, trimclip, truncate, ulem,
    umoline, underscore, uspace, xellipsis

Symbols:
    academicons, amssymb, bbding, chemgreek,
    dingbat, euro, eurosym, fontawesome,
    fontawesome5, fourier-orns, gensymb,
    latexsym, marvosym, metalogo, metalogox,
    pffont, textalpha, textcomp, textgreek,
    typicons, unicode

Files:
    attachfile, attachfile2, hyperxmp, intopol,
    pdfpages, pdfx, xmpincl

Admonitions:
    awesomebox, notes

Editorial:
    changebar, changelog, changes, easy-todo,
    easyReview, ed, errata, fixme,
    fixmetodonotes, pdfcomment, pdfmarginpar,
    todo, todonotes, tram, xchangepage

Accessibility:
    accessibility, accsupp, axessibility,
    pdfcomment, repletext, tagpdf

Presentations:
    beamer, powerdot

Multi-language:
    babel, beamer-rl, bidi, polyglossia
Automatic compiling
The programs arara and latexmk automatically recompile as necessary to resolve all dependencies.

Converting to HTML and other document formats
Using \LaTeX{} to generate the HTML:
The \texttt{lwp} package and the \texttt{tex4ht} program each use native \LaTeX{} to interpret the document and generate HTML. More of \LaTeX{} is supported compared to the translators listed below.

\texttt{lwp} package:
Supports hundreds of packages. Generates HTML, and provides indirect assistance for EPUB conversion and copy/paste into a word-processor. \url{https://ctan.org/pkg/lwp}

\texttt{tex4ht} program:
Generates HTML, EPUB, ODT, and Docbook. \url{http://tug.org/tex4ht/}

Translators:
These systems use external programs to translate a subset of \LaTeX{} syntax into HTML. Search for each on CTAN (\url{http://ctan.org}).

\texttt{HEVe}:
\url{http://hevea.inria.fr/}

\texttt{TTh}:
\url{http://hutchinson.belmont.ma.us/tth/}

\texttt{GELLMU}:
\url{http://www.albany.edu/~hammond/gellmu/}

\texttt{LaTeXXML}:
\url{http://dlmf.nist.gov/LaTeXML/}

\texttt{PlasTeX}:
\url{https://github.com/tiarno/plastex}

\texttt{LaTeX2HTML}:
\url{http://www.latex2html.org/} and \url{http://ctan.org/pkg/latex2html}

\texttt{TeX2page}:
\url{http://ds26gte.github.io/tex2page/index.html}

\LaTeX{} math to HTML:
Glad\TeX{} takes a \LaTeX{} math expression and generates the corresponding HTML.

Glad\TeX{}:
\url{http://humenda.github.io/GladTeX/}

Programming \LaTeX{}
A number of packages are especially useful for \LaTeX{} programmers: (\texttt{texdoc <packagename>})
**Creating and documenting new packages**

Documentation for those interested in creating their own package or class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>\LaTeX X</strong> for class and package writers</th>
<th><strong>\LaTeX X3 Project Team</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>\LaTeX X3 Project Team. \LaTeX X for class and package writers.</strong> 33 pp.</td>
<td>url: <a href="https://ctan.org/pkg/clsguide">https://ctan.org/pkg/clsguide</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programming a package or class. (texdoc clsguide).

**Rolling your own Document Class: Using \LaTeX X to keep away from the Dark Side**  

An overview of the article class.

**How to develop your own document class — our experience**  

A comparison of developing class vs. package files.

**The doc and shortvrb packages**  

Packages for documenting packages. (texdoc doc).

**The DocStrip program**  
The program which processes .dtx and .ins files to generate documentation and .sty files. (texdoc docstrip).

**Good things come in little packages: An introduction to writing .ins and .dtx files**

Pakin


How and why to create your own .dtx and .ins files.

**How to Package Your \LaTeX\ Package**

Pakin


**Wikibooks**


**Users groups**

**\TeX Users Group**: [http://tug.org](http://tug.org)

Lists of international users groups:

- [http://tug.org/usergroups.html](http://tug.org/usergroups.html)
- [https://ctan.org/lugs](https://ctan.org/lugs)
- [http://www.ntg.nl/lug/](http://www.ntg.nl/lug/)

**Online communities**

**English forums:**

- **\TeX — \LaTeX Stack Exchange**: Almost any question has already been asked, and a quick web search will find answers, ranked by vote. [http://tex.stackexchange.com](http://tex.stackexchange.com)
- **\LaTeX Community**: A traditional forum with quick replies to your questions [http://www.latex-community.org](http://www.latex-community.org)

**German forums:**

- **TeXwelt**: [http://texwelt.de/wissen/](http://texwelt.de/wissen/)
- **goLaTeX**: [http://golatex.de](http://golatex.de)

**French forums:**

- **TeXnique.fr**: [http://texnique.fr](http://texnique.fr)

**Mailing lists**: Several dozen, spanning a wide range of \TeX-related topics. [http://tug.org/mailman/listinfo](http://tug.org/mailman/listinfo)

**Newsgroup**: comp.text.tex
Online editing and collaboration

Overleaf: Collaborative editing of \LaTeX documents online. [https://www.overleaf.com/](https://www.overleaf.com/)

Distributions — \LaTeX for various operating systems

- TeXLive: [http://tug.org/texlive](http://tug.org/texlive) — Unix and Windows
- MiKTeX: [https://miktex.org](https://miktex.org) — Windows and Mac

Change log

- **2017/03/06:** Initial version.
- **2017/10/04:** Added users groups, mailing lists, distributions, Lua\TeX, \XeLaTeX, chktex. Organization and formatting improvements.
- **2017/10/14:** More information about accessing embedded documentation.
- **2018/01/18:** Added texdoc.net.
- **2018/01/21:** Added latex-veryshortguide, first-latex-doc, beginlatex, intro-scientific, guide-latex-fr.
- **2018/03/24:** Added interface3, dickimaw-novices, dickimaw-thesis.
- **2018/04/01:** Added TeXnique.fr.
- **2018/06/28:** Added sections for non-English documents and general typesetting theory. Updated host and name for \TeX FAQ. Added latex-via-exemplo and Ebook Foundation free programming books.
- **2018/10/18:** Updated URL for \LaTeX2ε: An unofficial reference manual.
- **2020/12/14:** Improved bibliography. Added categories for math and music; startlatex2e; items written in French, German, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Vietnamese; Dante users group.
- **2021/01/02:** Now uses biblatex. Added mthelp, many international documents, and categories for FAQs and cheat sheets, graphics, tables, and fonts. Added lists of packages by category. Added Overleaf.
- **2021/01/09:** Added several resources from TUG including journals and interviews, and more for the list of packages.
- **2021/12/30:** Added usrguide3, learnlatex.org, latex3-tutorial, many international resources.