Multilingualism and multiscriptism in TEI publishing: DH2022

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Language-based markup

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We have published the book of abstracts of DH2022 Tokyo using XSL-FO software suite provided by ADHO. The abstracts contain a large number of names and phrases in multiple Asian languages, which are not supported by the default setup. We thus decided to make a large expansion on its multilingual function.

Locale-specific typefaces





We prepared different font files for CJK languages, namely: Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Unlike Western European languages, each region has varied standard for same characters, and there is no "neutral" shape that all local standards can agree with.

(source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Source Han Sans Version Difference.svg)

We performed an automatic find-and-replace job to bracket out Asian text against around 500 abstract XMLs on Oxygen, then manually assigned them correct language information if needed



Yuan, Yiguo van Zaanen, Menno Zafar, Huma Zaghouani, Waidi Zandbank, Itay 633, 634 Zarei, Alireza variants based on manual 473, 527 Zarrieß (Zarriess), Sina Zhan, Hanna Yaqing

(2) Ideally, the language of the text should be specified in @lang

in TEI, but we added them via custom @rend values following the

existing style processing logic of TEI to PDF Book Creator.

Author index is improved to accept tailored name sorting and normalization of spelling annotation in TEI files.

we needed to select a working

font for our environment.

There are also passages of medieval Latin abbreviation. Sanskrit, and Thai found in the source files, that we needed to find specific fonts for. For the complex layout scripts, some fonts seemed to have minor incompatibilities with the processor (Apache FOP), and

of letter elements (right to left, e.g. k+i) the stroke order (left to right, e. g. 1+36, irregularly typeset dots, which indicate (anusvāra), and some lengthy consonan as (त्स्न्य, rtsnv-a). Focusing on these ina were insufficiently handled by the prece

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CJK languages are accustomed to use different fonts for each locale, but most Cyrillic fonts implement regional variants through the fonts' OpenType features. That would make localization difficult in XSL-FO processing with Apache FOP, which currently does not support OpenType features.

Mixed-script typesetting

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Intertextuality has b In the tight line setting of the book of abstracts, we needed some adjustment to the vertical position of CJK text, lest it disrupt the consistent line height of surrounding alphabet lines. The balancing can be only done on a case-bycase basis, depending on what fonts are combined.

Edge case: some Thai typefaces are designed smaller to allow the safe margin for stacking nuwat ทาริน ค diacritics. Thai letters were enlarged lest be awkwardly undersized among ordinary

Roman typefaces. Although our abstracts contain small portions of Hebrew, RTL

scripts did not cause us problems as far as we know, mostly because the default Times New Roman font supports Hebrew out of the box. We did not test how markup-based font specification interacts with RTL intermixing.

Our modified version of TFI to PDF Book Creator program for DH2022 is available at:

https://github.com/747/tei-to-pdf-dh2022/