

How-to #4: Layout and style

The appearance and layout of the text is important for our project, so we describe it using a formal language called Cascading Style Sheet Language (CSS). CSS is a modern computer standard, but its terminology embodies the history of western typography. We use CSS code inside the `@style` attribute to describe these features of the text.

Step 1: Alignment

Different components of the text (paragraphs, headings, running headers) will be *aligned* differently. You can capture this using the **text-align** property:

```
<head style="text-align: center;">Chap. I.</head>
```

Key values are **text-align: center | left | right**.

Note:

- The CSS code consists of a *property name* (here **text-align**), a *colon*, a *property value* (here **center**), then a *semi-colon*. Multiple property-value statements can be chained together in the same `@style` attribute.

Most paragraphs will have a small indent at the beginning of the first line, which can be encoded like this:

```
<p style="text-indent: 1em;">[...]</p>
```

- The size of the indent is measured in **ems**. This is basically the width of the letter **m** in the font of the text. We use ems because they are scalable: if we make the font bigger, the margins and spacing will also get bigger. You can use decimal fractions of an em for more precision: **1.25em**.

Sometimes you may see a *hanging indent* (the first line sticks out to the left rather than being pushed in).

```
<l style="margin-left: 2em;">To deck the fields sae braw;</l>
```

We handle this using two properties working together:

```
<p style="margin-left: 2em; text-indent: -2em;">[...]</p>
```

This says that the whole block is pushed in by 2ems, but the first line is pushed back out again. You may see this effect in chapter subheadings. In addition to **margin-left**, you can of course use **margin-right**, **margin-top**, and **margin-bottom**.

Step 2: Font features: style, size and variants

Early modern texts make common use of italics, small-capitals, and variations in font size. The bulk of our text

is in **blackletter**, so you don't need to specify that; it applies to the whole book. However, where blackletter gives way to roman type, you do need to encode this change. Here's an example:

...drugs which **<persName style="font-style: normal;">Mithrydates</persName>** boyld together... Normally, as in the example above, you can add the @style attribute to an XML element that already exists, such as **<head>**, **<persName>**, **<placeName>** or **<foreign>**. However, sometimes you will need to style a segment of text which is not enclosed in a tag. For this, you can use the **<hi>** element:

...more likerifh **<hi style="font-style: normal;">Epv curean</hi>** difhes...

Sometimes you may see text in small capitals, like this:

THIS TEXT IS IN SMALL-CAPS

To encode this, you must transcribe it in regular format, and then tag it with a style attribute specifying small-caps:

<hi style="font-variant:small-caps;">This Text is in Small-Caps**</hi>**

Step 3: Decorative initial capitals

Most chapters start with a decorative “drop-cap”. You can encode this using a shorthand that we have devised:

<seg type="decorInit">G**</seg>**

This will give you a simple default style for the drop-capital. But if you have time, you may want to override the default settings using CSS values to specify the font-size, the right-margin (between the drop-cap and the text to the right of it) and so on.

Basic CSS Properties and Values

Property	Possible/example values
text-align	left, right, center
text-indent	1em, 2em, 3.75em
margin-left margin-right margin-top margin-bottom	1em, 2em, 3.75em
font-style	italic, normal
font-weight	bold, normal
font-variant	small-caps, normal
font-size	smaller, larger, 150%, 75%
line-height	90%, 200%
float	left, right

(you will need float to make recto page-numbers appear on the right of the running header)	
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There are many other textual features that can be encoded using CSS. Check with the instructor if you come across something not covered in this handout, or look at some of the many tutorials for CSS available on the Web.