

# Lecture Notes in Computer Science

Edited by G. Goos and J. Hartmanis

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## T<sub>E</sub>X for Scientific Documentation

Second European Conference  
Strasbourg, France, June 19–21, 1986  
Proceedings

Edited by Jacques Désarménien

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## PREFACE

In this volume, the reader will find the texts of the contributions presented by the participants at the second European conference on *T<sub>E</sub>X* for scientific documentation, held in June 1986 at the *Centre culturel Saint-Thomas* in Strasbourg. *T<sub>E</sub>X*, a registered trademark of the American Mathematical Society, is the system for typesetting scientific texts by computer, created at Stanford by D. Knuth.

One will notice by reading the list of participants, that the European audience of *T<sub>E</sub>X* is so important that this system is being recognized as the reference in its field. Furthermore, it is significant to mention that researchers in other disciplines have used *T<sub>E</sub>X* for composing their works. Actually, one of the conclusive advantages of *T<sub>E</sub>X* seems to me to be its printing quality, comparable to that of texts composed by traditional means, but at much lower cost. This point is of course particularly important for scientific texts, as well as for texts with limited circulation. The presentation of R. Wonneberger proves this point. He suggested that all philologists interested in *T<sub>E</sub>X* should establish contact with him.

*T<sub>E</sub>X* is a bare product. That is its strength but also its weakness. First of all the strong point: It allows a great portability to all materials and for all operating systems; the final product depends only on the initial source and, of course, on the quality of the printer. The weakness then: The utilization of *T<sub>E</sub>X* alone is no doubt difficult; this is why most of its users have integrated it into a general environment of document preparation. Most of the contributions presented at the conference were related to this issue. This is the final evidence of the growing interest on *T<sub>E</sub>X*.

Moreover, the publisher Addison-Wesley displayed at the conference, and for the first time, the five volumes of the series *Computers and Typesetting* by D. Knuth. These assemble all original texts on *T<sub>E</sub>X* and on its companion METAFONT. This latter software was the heart of the report given by R. Southall. It is probable that before the next conference METAFONT will have been experimented by several people, possibly in conjunction with the problem of storing the character fonts needed by the laser printers.

In conclusion, I should like to thank those who helped me with the success of this conference: The *Centre national de la recherche scientifique* and the *Société mathématique de France* for their financial support, the *Université Louis-Pasteur*,

the members of the Program Committee and of the Organizing Committee, and especially Ray Goucher who advertised this conference in the *TUGboat*—the T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group journal. I was also able to profit from Dario Lucarella who organized the preceding conference in Como. Finally, I think that all of the participants appreciated the efficiency and kindness of the secretary of the conference, Karen Trantham.

Strasbourg, June 1986

J. DÉSARMÉNIEN

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