

Position paper: W3C Workshop on Electronic Books and the Open Web Platform

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Participant's Interest

Sony has more than 20 year experience in eBook and eDictionary business, and produced various portable reading devices and formats.

Now Sony is running eBook store in many countries and each store distributes ePub titles to variety of portable devices, including mobile phones, Tablets and video game devices.

To create an ePub which support those devices in high quality, it might be required to create an ePub title for each device. Fixed Layout titles might provide the same appearance in each device but it also provides different user experience in each device. It would be hard to read the contents in small screen devices.

To solve the issue, we need mechanisms to write those styles into one ePub package. IDPF has launched Advanced Hybrid Layout WG and I am proposing so called rendition selection which works with CSS media queries in the WG as one of the solutions.

Point of View

EPUB format utilizes W3C standards, and most of EPUB Reading systems render ebook contents like as Web browsers with “book” interface.

Both HTML5 and CSS3 offer a lot of features and enable Web content creators to create “Responsive Web Design” pages to support various types of screens.

eBook has the same aspect, but has some difficulties to create effective Responsive eBook Design titles.

Suggestion

- Queries for Paged Media

EPUB3 specification supports CSS Media Queries and epub creators can use the

feature to create Responsive Design titles and support some screen sizes. On the other hand, they have no ways to set specific layout for each viewing mode, for instance, two-page-spread, pagination view-mode and scroll view-mode. I think the combination of the ebook view-mode queries and other CSS3 features enable content creators to produce much more flexible layout.