

Position Paper: W3C eBooks: Great Expectations for Web Standards Workshop

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HarperCollins Publishers has produced eBook products in standard reflowable ePub, Fixed Format ePub, B&N ePib, B&N Page Perfect, mobi, KF8, and Apple iBA formats. In addition, HarperCollins also produces Enhanced eBook products for various retailers and devices. The proliferation of devices, markets, platforms, and the speed (or lack thereof) that retailers and device manufacturers have adapted to new specifications, particularly ePub 3 spec, has and will continue to pose a significant challenge to our business, both from a production and resource availability perspective. Additional issues we've experienced include legacy device adaptability and degradation of our files to fit the "lowest common denominator."

Given this information, HarperCollins Publishers is particularly interested in the W3C eBook Workshop topics of:

- Production:
 - Standardization issues
 - Layout definition and Control
- Presentation:
 - Device descriptions
 - Conformance
 - Widgets definitions, standardization
- Distribution:
 - Unique identification of eBook
 - Metadata storage and vocabularies

Every publisher should be able to greatly benefit from having a clearer picture of the landscape of device manufacturers and their plans on fully enabling ePub 3.0 functionality, particularly since the adoption of ePub 3.0 capabilities has been on an "a la carte" basis across eReader devices. HarperCollins Publishers takes the position that the widespread adoption and implementation of the IDPF ePub 3.0 specifications across device manufacturers and retailers should be the major focus and priority of this workshop and the governing associations (IDPF, BISG, AAP, etc.) of the publishing industry.