

Creating Accessible PDFs With Adobe Indesign

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Make Them Right to Begin With

- Making a PDF accessible after it has been created is difficult, sometimes impossible
- Use the capabilities of your publishing program to enable it to generate accessible PDFs

What Assistive Technology Needs

- Language
- Structure
- Flow
- Tagged text
- Headers
- Alt text for graphics

Workflow

The InDesign CS5.5-to-Accessible PDF Workflow at a Glance



- Paragraph Styles mapped to Export Tags
- Images anchored in text flow
- Alt text assigned to images
- Bookmarks/TOC/Hyperlinks/Cross-references
- Content order defined in Articles panel
- File metadata added

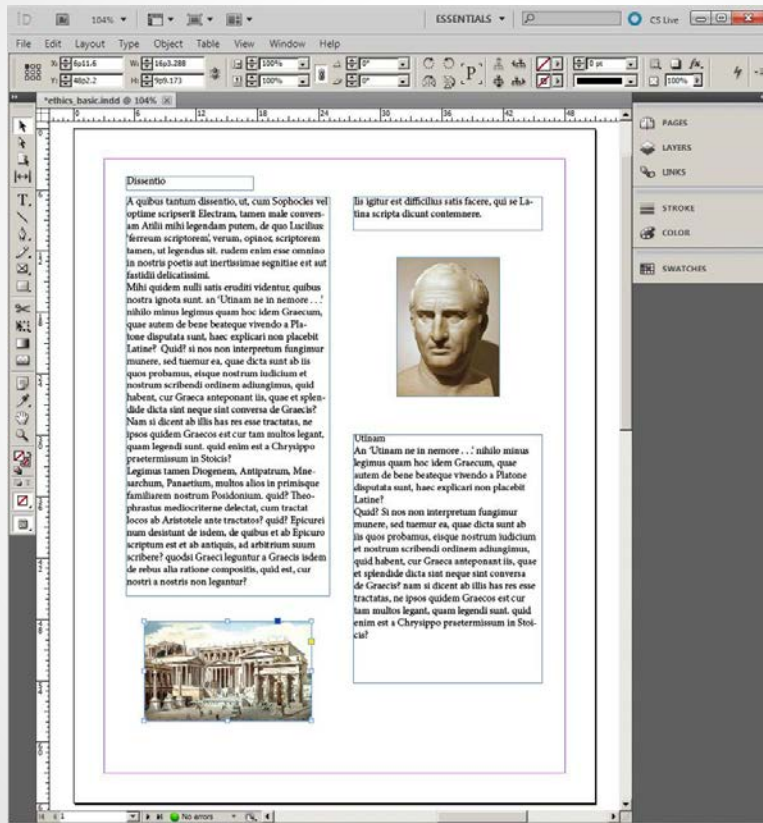


- Language assigned
- Tab Order set to Use Document Structure
- Accessibility check

Steps in InDesign

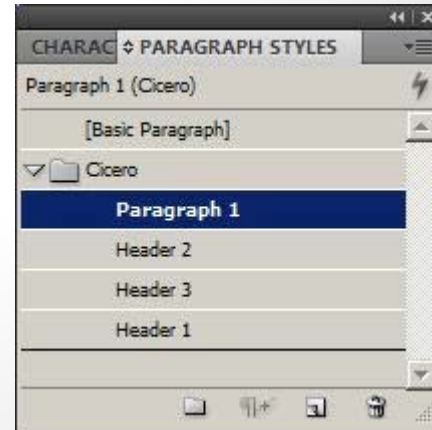
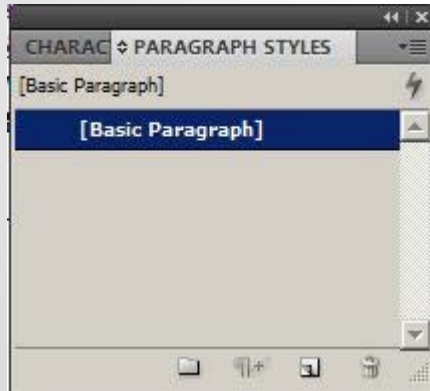
- Setup paragraph styles
- Map paragraph styles to export tags
- Thread text frames
- Anchor images in text flow
- Assign alt text to images
- Assemble content into articles

An Example: Cicero



Setup Paragraph Styles

Define the element styles you will be using within your document (or in all your documents, these style sets can be shared once they are defined)



Paragraph Style Options

Paragraph Style Options

Style Name:

Location: Cicero

Basic Character Formats

Font Family:

Font Style:

Size: Leading:

Kerning: Tracking:

Case: Position:

☐ Underline ☒ Ligatures ☐ No Break

☐ Strikethrough

☐ Preview

OK Cancel

Paragraph Style Options

Style Name:

Location: Cicero

Indents and Spacing

Alignment:

☐ Balance Ragged Lines

☐ Ignore Optical Margin

Left Indent: First Line Indent:

Right Indent: Last Line Indent:

Space Before: Space After:

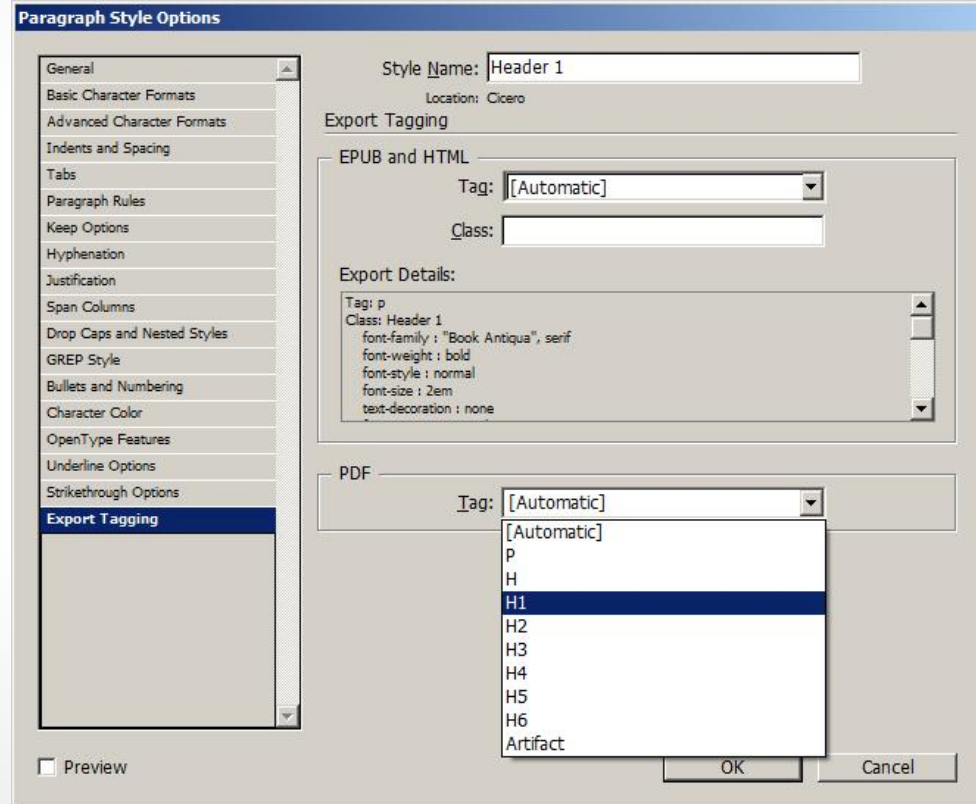
Align to Grid:

☐ Preview

OK Cancel

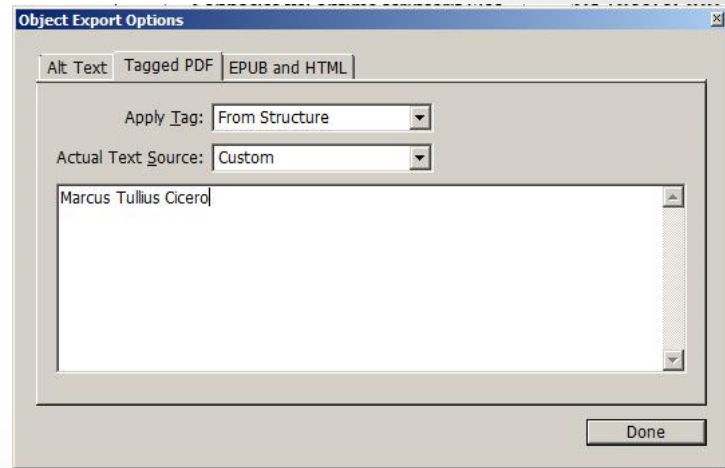
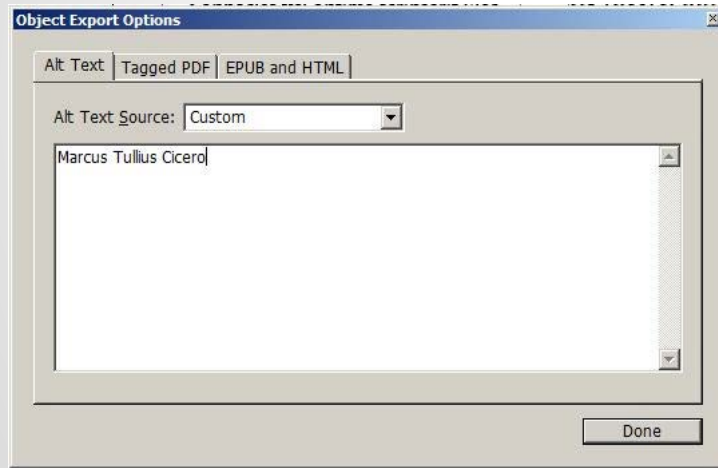
Set Export Tagging

For each of the paragraph styles you have defined, set how that element type should be tagged when it is exported.



Object Export Tags for Graphics

For each graphic, set the ALT text and Tagged PDF text



Steps in Adobe Acrobat Pro

Get the latest version, preferably Adobe Acrobat Pro XI

1. Set language
2. Set tab order to Document Structure
3. Run accessibility check

Evaluating Accessibility - Basic

The screenshot displays the Adobe Acrobat Pro interface with the Accessibility Checker tool open. The document being checked is 'ethics_basic.pdf'. The Accessibility Checker panel on the left lists various issues categorized by type (Document, Page Content, Forms, etc.). The main content area shows a page with Latin text and two images: a bust of a man and a classical building. The right-hand pane shows the 'Accessibility' section expanded, listing various accessibility options and tools.

ethics_basic.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

File Edit View Window Help

Create [Icons] Customize [Icon]

1 / 1 51.8% [Icons] Tools Sign Comment

Accessibility Checker

- Document (4 issues)
 - Accessibility permission flag - Passed
 - Image-only PDF - Passed
 - Tagged PDF - Passed
 - Logical Reading Order - Needs more action
 - Primary language - Failed
 - Title - Failed
 - Bookmarks - Passed
 - Color contrast - Needs more action
- Page Content (1 issue)
 - Tagged content - Passed
 - Tagged annotations - Passed
 - Tab order - Failed
 - Character encoding - Passed
 - Tagged multimedia - Passed
 - Screen flicker - Passed
 - Scripts - Passed
 - Timed responses - Passed
 - Navigation links - Passed
- Forms
 - Alternate Text (1 issue)
 - Figures alternate text - Failed
 - Nested alternate text - Passed
 - Associated with content - Passed
 - Hides annotation - Passed
 - Other elements alternate text - Passed
 - Tables
 - Lists
 - Headings

Document Content:

Discentio

A quibus tantum dissentio, ut, cum Sophocles vel optimis scriptis Electram, tamen male conversam Attili mihi legendum putem, de quo Lucianus "ferreum scriptorem", verum, opinor, scriptorem tamen, ut legendus sit, rudem enim esse omnino in nostro poetis aut iocundissimae sententiae est, aut fastidii delicatissimi.

Mihi quidem nulli satis eruditū videntur, quibus nostra ignota sunt: an "Ultimam ne in memore..." nihil minus legimus quam hoc idem Graecum, quae autem de bene beaque vivendo a Platone disputata sunt, haec explicant non placebit Latine? Quid? Si non non interpretum fungimur munere, sed tuetur ea, quae dicta sunt ab his quos probamus, etque nostrum iudicium et nostrum scribendi ordinem adiungimus, quid habent, cur Graeca anteposantur, quae et splendide dicta sunt neque sint conversa de Graeco? Nam si dicent ab illa has res esse tractatas, ne ipse quidem Graecus est cur tam multos legant, quum legendi sunt, quid enim est a Chrysippo praetermissum in Stoicis?

Legimus tamen Diogenem, Antipatrum, Menarchum, Panaetium, multos alios in primisque familiarem nostrum Posidonium, quid? Theophrastus medicorum dedit, cum tractat locos ab Aristotele ante tractatos? quid? Epicurei num desunt de idem, de quibus et ab Epicuro scriptum est et ab antiquis, ad eburnum nostrum scribent? quid? Graeci legatur a Graeco idem de rebus alta ratione compositis, quid est, cur nostra a nostris non legantur?

Imagines:

- Bust of a man (likely a philosopher or historical figure).
- Classical building (likely a temple or public building).

Right-hand pane (Accessibility section):

- Content Editing
- Pages
- Interactive Objects
- Forms
- Action Wizard
- Text Recognition
- Protection
- Accessibility
 - Change Reading Options
 - Full Check
 - Open Accessibility Report
 - Add Tags to Document
 - Set Alternate Text
 - Run Form Field Recognition
 - Add Tags to Form Fields
 - Touch Up Reading Order
 - Setup Assistant

Evaluating Accessibility - Structured

The screenshot displays the Adobe Acrobat Pro interface with the file 'ethics_structured3.pdf' open. The 'Accessibility Checker' panel is active on the left, showing a list of checks for the document. The main content area on the right shows a page titled 'Dissentio' with Latin text and two images: a bust of a man and a classical building.

ethics_structured3.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro
File Edit View Window Help

Tools Sign Comment

Accessibility Checker

- Document (2 issues)
 - ✓ Accessibility permission flag
 - ✓ Image-only PDF - Passed
 - ✓ Tagged PDF - Passed
 - ? Logical Reading Order - Needs man
 - ✓ Primary language - Passed
 - ✓ Title - Passed
 - ✓ Bookmarks - Passed
 - ? Color contrast - Needs man
- Page Content
 - ✓ Tagged content - Passed
 - ✓ Tagged annotations - Passed
 - ✓ Tab order - Passed
 - ✓ Character encoding - Passed
 - ✓ Tagged multimedia - Passed
 - ✓ Screen flicker - Passed
 - ✓ Scripts - Passed
 - ✓ Timed responses - Passed
 - ✓ Navigation links - Passed
- Forms
 - Alternate Text
 - Tables
 - Lists
 - Headings

Dissentio

A quibus tantum dissentio, ut, cum Sophocles vel optime scripserit Electram, tamen male conversam Atilii mihi legendam putem, de quo Lucilius: 'screum scriptorem', verum, opinor, scriptorem tamen, ut legendus sit. rudem enim esse omnino in nostris poetis aut inertissimae segritiae est aut fastidii delicatissimi.

Mihi quidem nulli satis eruditi videntur, quibus nostra ignota sunt. an 'Utinam ne in memore...' nihilo minus legimus quam hoc idem Graecum, quae autem de bene beateque vivendo a Platone disputata sunt, haec explicari non placebit Latine? Quod? si nos non interpretemur fungimur munere, sed tamen ea, quae dicta sunt ab iis quos probamus, eisque nostrum iudicium et nostrum scribendi ordinem adiungimus, quid habent, cur Graeca anteponant iis, quae et splendide dicta sint neque sint conversa de Graecis? nam si dicent ab illis has res esse tractatas, ne ipsos quidem Graecos est cur tam multos legant, quam legendi sunt. quid enim est a Chrysippo praetermissum in Stoicis?

Iis igitur est difficulus satis facere, qui se Latina scripta dicant continere.

Utinam

An 'Utinam ne in memore...' nihilo minus legimus quam hoc idem Graecum, quae autem de bene beateque vivendo a Platone disputata sunt, haec explicari non placebit Latine?

Quid? Si nos non interpretemur fungimur munere, sed tamen ea, quae dicta sunt ab iis quos probamus, eisque nostrum iudicium et nostrum scribendi ordinem adiungimus, quid habent, cur Graeca anteponant iis, quae et splendide dicta sint neque sint conversa de Graecis? nam si dicent ab illis has res esse tractatas, ne ipsos quidem Graecos est cur tam multos legant, quam legendi sunt. quid enim est a Chrysippo praetermissum in Stoicis?

Resources

- Creating Accessible PDF Documents With Adobe InDesign CS6 (Adobe) - <http://www.adobe.com/content/dam/Adobe/en/products/indesign/pdfs/creating-accessible-pdf-documentw-with-adobe-indesign-cs6-v3.pdf>
- InDesign Accessibility (PennState) - <http://accessibility.psu.edu/indesign>