

# GUIDELINE FOR CREATING IDPF-CONFORMING EBOOKS

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This document contains the guidelines for creating optimum performance from EPUB eBooks and should be used in the conversion of PDF files and to build eBooks from the ground up. The use of these guidelines will insure that documents created will render correctly on conformant devices.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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The IDPF spec contains the complete list of XHTML elements and CSS attributes that must be supported to be conformant. It also lists several guidelines regarding how the device can gracefully degrade features it does not support. In order to be accurately displayed on a variety of different sized viewing surfaces, usable for audio or other media, and maintain high quality, it is necessary to use the range of XHTML elements that have been defined. Therefore, always follow these two guiding principles:

1. Label all elements with conforming tags that properly represent the role of the element. If it is a headline, for example, label it with the appropriate `<h#>` element name. Do not label it as a `<p>` element with a class that identifies it as a headline.
2. Use classes to distinguish elements that are not properly defined or are alternate views of elements that can be defined. Ideally, use as few classes as possible, and apply them to multiple elements. For example, the `.floatleft` class could be applied to any block or image element.
3. Use the referenced CSS style sheets as a default from which to build or edit styles for your book.



















## STRUCTURE OF BOOKS

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In preparing EPUB files, use separate XHTML files for each front matter and chapter element for conversions and creation of new eBooks. For ease in managing these files, name these XHTML files with a publication name or number prefix and standard suffix whenever possible. (Not every book has the same elements, so there is, of course, some variance in the suffixes.)







In the following book file structure, we use as an example the eBook A *Kindergarten Story Book*, and establish the publication prefix of KINDER-. These are the expected files in the structure.

 KINDER-cover.xhtml	541 B
 KINDER-credits.xhtml	1 K
 KINDER-copyright.xhtml	613 B
 KINDER-titlepage.xhtml	936 B
 KINDER-dedication.xhtml	719 B
 KINDER-introduction.xhtml	1 K
 KINDER-preface.xhtml	2 K
 KINDER-contents.xhtml	1 K
 KINDER-chapter1.xhtml	6 K
 KINDER-chapter2.xhtml	9 K
 KINDER-chapter3.xhtml	3 K
 KINDER-chapter4.xhtml	7 K
 KINDER-chapter5.xhtml	6 K
 KINDER-chapter6.xhtml	8 K
 KINDER-chapter7.xhtml	5 K
 KINDER-chapter8.xhtml	6 K
 KINDER-chapter9.xhtml	3 K
 KINDER-chapter10.xhtml	2 K

The simpler the file-naming structure – while still maintaining clarity as to the book and its parts – the better the structure will be. The industry is moving toward standardized file names so that machine readers can quickly extract cover thumbnails, author info, edition info, etc. Clear English terms are much better than numeric references in filenames, and will help facilitate this process.

You may use separate style sheets for specific sections of the book; these should be similarly named:

CSS File Name	Size
 KINDER-default.css	7 K
 page-template.xpgt	1 K
 KINDER-ruby.css	1 K
 KINDER-iphone.css	2 K

Base all the style sheets on the default style sheet for the book, which should be named with the same prefix: KINDER-default.css.

## CONTENT STRUCTURE

Designate chapter level structure with a `<div class="chapter">` element. Making the element at this level allows special treatment at the top of the chapter no matter what heading level is used for the chapter heading.



We expect IDPF conformant running headers throughout the book, beginning on the second page of the first chapter. Running headers and footers are used to set top and bottom margins for the text. The standard header is 3 ems deep with the title of the book in SMALL-CAPS centered at the top of the header. The bottom footer is set to a default of 4 ems deep with any content centered in the middle of the footer. The following is the expected element structure for a chapter.

```
<body>
  <div class="chapter">
    <div class="foot">&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;</div>
    <div class="head">For Blood or Money</div>
    <h1>Chapter 1</h1>
    <p>I PICKED UP A TAIL at the..
```

This structure will cause the running foot to start at the end of the first page and the running head to start at the beginning of the next page. No special class information needs to be added to the head because it is simply the first element in the chapter. If a drop cap is intended, use `<p class="first">` for the first paragraph.



The header and footer elements do not need to be repeated at the beginning of every chapter unless the content is to change, as in "For Blood or Money – Part One." Footers may change within chapters as well, by simply putting the `<div class="foot">` element immediately preceding the content that will appear on the page the footer does. This is especially useful for changing a footer to



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correspond to sections within chapters, like scenes within acts of a drama, subsections in non-fiction books, etc.

**NOTE: RUNNING HEADS AND FOOTERS WILL APPEAR ONE TIME AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST CHAPTER OF AN EPUB BOOK DISPLAYED ON SONY READER OR ADOBE DIGITAL EDITIONS BECAUSE FULL SUPPORT FOR THE IDPF ELEMENT HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON THOSE PLATFORMS.**

