Exercise: CSS and XML

Sebastian Rahtz

July 2001

1. Our practice data

Our exercise will be based on making a stylesheet for the XML file we created earlier, although of course you are welcome to work on your own material. The aim is to produce an acceptable rendition of the document when viewed in the Opera web browser. A complete TEI stylesheet in CSS is provided, on which you can build.

2. First look at using XML and CSS

We will remind ourselves see how the tools work. Firstly, you have a stylesheet file called `teixlite.css` in your working directory. Edit the ballads.xml file which you made earlier, and add a line before the DTD declaration as follows:

```
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/css" href="teixlite.css"?>
```

When you have saved the file, load it into the Opera web browser (File/Open), and check that something reasonable is displayed.

3. Developing the stylesheet

Below are a series of suggestions for ways in which you can enhance the stylesheet. We will give a worked solution for the first one, then leave you on your own to try the rest.

1. Change the style of headings. You should see the division headings in red on yellow. If you open `teixlite.css`, you will find a rule for `<head>` elements inside `<div>` elements inside `<div>` inside the `<body>` element:

   ```
   body > div > div > head {
     display: block;
     font-size: 120%;
     padding-top: 14pt;
     padding-bottom: 10pt;
     color: red;
     background-color: yellow;
     font-weight: bold;
     margin-bottom: 0.5em;
     margin-top: 1em;
   }
   ```

   Edit this to remove the 'background-color' line, and change the 'red' to 'black'. Save the file, and reload your XML in the browser. The headings should now look more conventional.
2. Put space before and after (`margin-top` and `margin-bottom`) each line group (`<lg>`)
3. Make the contents of `<name>` elements appear in a sans-serif typeface
4. Make the `<teiHeader>` visible, but come out on a blue background.
5. Put line numbers in front of each line (not quite as hard as it may seem)
6. Implement the `<l rend="right-align">` markup