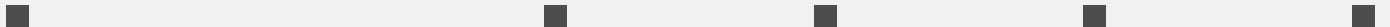# Thoughts on typesetting a novel

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Workflow

- Receive book as a docx file.

- load into LibreOffice and apply styles to book and save as an odt file.

- Export as epub and load into Sigil.

- Tweak the xhtml files and save as new epub.

- Unzip the epub so that xhtml files can be input into Context.
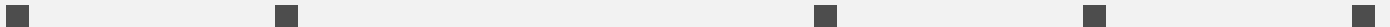
- Create xmlsetups and other setups and run.

Debug the output

- Various trackers available to help in debugging,e.g.

  ```
  \enabletrackers [builders.hpack.quality],
  \enabletrackers[builders.hpack.overflow],
  \enabletrackers[layout.vz]
  ```

- I deal with overfull and underfull hboxes using the new parpass.

- Sometimes some underfull boxes can be quite sticky.

- Foreign words or names can be a problem. Most solved by using

  ```
  \hyphenation {Lu-tten}
  ```

Debug the output

- Use

  `\doublehyphendemerits` `\finalhyphendemerits`

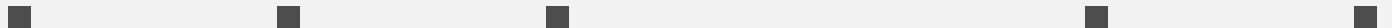 for removing consecutive lines ending with hyphens or on the final line in a paragraph.

- Widows and orphans. Widows and club penalties can be applied

- Twins. Avoiding the same words at the begining and end of lines or successive lines, or stacking. See Hans.
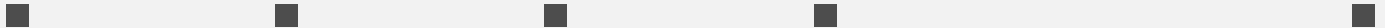
- Toddlers. See Hans.

- Are twins and toddlers a big problem in novel writing?

- Rivers. Already mentioned.

Debug the output

- Change one thing can cause problems elswhere.

- Ultimately one has to balance the good with the bad.

Further Reading

- White Spirit by Carol McKay.

- The ConTeXt Garden Wiki.

- The Low Level TEX Manuals, in particular, Lines.