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Troff

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The MLA Format and *Troff*

This document is meant to be a (short) example of typesetting a document using *troff* using the mla macro package. It is meant to be compatible with *troff* Plan 9" edition first and GNU *troff* second. It does not support everything one could possibly want to do; it does beat, however, installing more than one hundred megabytes of mostly junk to use the MLA package (is that is the right word? It has been awhile) for LaÄµÇ. This package uses the ms macros as its inspiration for macro name. If you are using *troff* Plan 9 edition, you can use UNICODE" characters instead of the various strings (of which there are many); the mla macro package has nothing to do with that. Everything on Plan 9 is just better like that. Part of the word part is underlined.

This paragraph contains an example of a block quote.

> Every person may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right, and no laws shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions or indictments for libel, the truth may be given in evidence, and if it shall appear to the jury that the matter charged as libelous be true, and was published with good motives and for justifiable ends, the party shall be acquitted; and the jury shall have the right to determined the law and the fact.

A shorter quote: We, the people of Wisconsin, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings, form a more perfect government, insure domestic tranquility and promote the general welfare, do establish this constitution.

The rest of the paragraphs are supposed to have some meaning; they will, however, be fairly rambly in order to get this paper to beyond two pages. There may only be one paragaph after this sentance, but adding both the information that there will be and there may not be takes up more room. The reason for that is to make sure that the header macro works. It works with the works cited page, but you can never be too sure. *Troff*, compared to LaÄµÇ is tiny and more popular (if only in its use behind-the-scene in typesetting manual pages). It is also more sane. LaÄµÇ, and probably ÄµÇ, is very complex. I (first person!) think it is a fair assessment to say that it it is easier to expand *troff* to new tasks. LaÄµÇ hides the user from the machinary. How in the world does one change the aspects of a paragraph in LaÄµÇ? The general response is that what LaÄµÇ does is right and you should not want to change it. While this may be true, it may not matter if it does not do what you want it to do. Because I took the time to write this paragraph paragraph, I did notice a bug in the paragraph macro that is mentioned the *troff* user manual: No bottom margin (Ossanna 34). This has since been fixed.

Works Cited

Duff, Tom. Rc A Shell for Plan 9 and UNIX Systems." Proc. of the Summer 1990 UKUUG Conf. Londan: July 1990.

Ossanna, Joseph; Kernighan, Brian. Troff User’s Manual." Plan 9 Programmer’s Manual. Volume 2. Lucent Technologies Bell Laboratories. Murray Hill, NJ: 2002.