The XeLaTeX Guide

Notes for getting started with fontspec

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2026年8月27日v1.0

Preface

This guide collects practical notes on typesetting with XeLaTeX: how `fontspec` selects fonts, and the small conventions that make a document easy to maintain as it grows.

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Choosing Fonts with fontspec

Main, Sans and Mono Families

XeLaTeX and LuaLaTeX both load system fonts directly through `fontspec`, rather than requiring a font to be installed as TeX metrics first [Knuth, 1984]. Table 1-1 lists the three families a document typically sets.

Command	Sets
`\setmainfont`	body text
`\setsansfont`	sans-serif emphasis
`\setmonofont`	code and verbatim text

Table 1-1: The three font families `fontspec` configures.

A Note on Missing Fonts

If a font a document asks for is not installed, `fontspec` raises an error rather than silently substituting one. This starter uses DejaVu Serif, DejaVu Sans and DejaVu Sans Mono, all installed here by default.

Structuring a Longer Document

Chapters, Marks and Running Heads

This class customises `\chaptermark` and `\sectionmark` so the running head names the current chapter and section, a convenience worth keeping even outside CJK typesetting [Knuth, 1984].

Closing the Document

The bibliography below is produced the same way it would be under a plain `book` class: a `natbib` style and a `.bib` file.

Bibliography

Donald E. Knuth. **The TEXbook**. Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1984.