

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO/IEC 23736-3

First edition  
2020-02

---

---

## Information technology — Digital publishing — EPUB 3.0.1 —

### Part 3: Content documents

*Technologies de l'information — Publications numériques — EPUB  
3.0.1 —*

*Partie 3: Documents de contenu*



Reference number  
ISO/IEC 23736-3:2020(E)

© ISO/IEC 2020



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO/IEC 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <http://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) (as EPUB Content Documents 3.0.1) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 23736 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

[This is a preview - click here to buy the full publication](#)



## Recommended Specification 26 June 2014

### THIS VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub/301/spec/epub-contentdocs-20140626.html>

### LATEST VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub3/latest/contentdocs>

### PREVIOUS VERSION

<http://www.idpf.org/epub/301/spec/epub-contentdocs-20140228.html>

A [diff of changes](#) from the previous version is also available.

Please refer to the [errata](#) for this document, which may include some normative corrections.

Copyright © 2010-2013 International Digital Publishing Forum™

All rights reserved. This work is protected under Title 17 of the United States Code. Reproduction and dissemination of this work with changes is prohibited except with the written permission of the [International Digital Publishing Forum \(IDPF\)](#).

EPUB is a registered trademark of the International Digital Publishing Forum.

### Editors

Markus Gylling, International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF)

William McCoy, International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF)

Elika J. Etemad, Invited Expert

Matt Garrish, Invited Expert

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### 1. Overview

1.1. Purpose and Scope

1.2. Relationship to Other Specifications

1.2.1. Relationship to HTML5

1.2.2. Relationship to SVG

1.2.3. Relationship to CSS

1.2.4. Future Maintenance

1.3. Terminology

1.4. Typographic Conventions

1.5. Conformance Statements

1.6. Namespace prefix mappings

#### 2. EPUB Content Documents

2.1. XHTML Content Documents

2.1.1. Content Conformance

2.1.2. Reading System Conformance

2.1.3. HTML5 Extensions

2.1.3.1. Semantic Markup

- [2.1.3.1.1. Semantic Inflection](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.1.1. Introduction](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.1.2. The `epub:type` Attribute](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.1.3. Vocabulary Association](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.1.4. Processing Requirements](#)
- [2.1.3.1.2. Semantic Enrichment](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.2.1. Introduction](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.2.2. Content Conformance](#)
  - [2.1.3.1.2.3. Processing Requirements](#)

#### [2.1.3.2. SSML Attributes](#)

- [2.1.3.2.1. Overview](#)
- [2.1.3.2.2. The `ssml:ph` attribute](#)
- [2.1.3.2.3. The `ssml:alphabet` attribute](#)

#### [2.1.3.3. Content Switching](#)

- [2.1.3.3.1. Introduction](#)
- [2.1.3.3.2. Definition](#)
  - [2.1.3.3.2.1. The `epub:switch` Element](#)
  - [2.1.3.3.2.2. The `epub:case` Element](#)
  - [2.1.3.3.2.3. The `epub:default` Element](#)
- [2.1.3.3.3. Processing](#)

#### [2.1.3.4. The `epub:trigger` Element](#)

- [2.1.3.5. Alternate Style Tags](#)
- [2.1.3.6. Custom Attributes](#)
- [2.1.3.7. The `aria-describedby` Attribute](#)

### [2.1.4. HTML5 Deviations and Constraints](#)

- [2.1.4.1. Embedded MathML](#)
  - [2.1.4.1.1. Introduction](#)
  - [2.1.4.1.2. Content Conformance](#)
  - [2.1.4.1.3. Reading System Conformance](#)
  - [2.1.4.1.4. Alternative Content](#)
- [2.1.4.2. Embedded SVG](#)
  - [2.1.4.2.1. Embedded SVG and CSS](#)
- [2.1.4.3. Unicode Restrictions](#)
- [2.1.4.4. Discouraged Constructs](#)
- [2.1.4.5. Special Considerations](#)
  - [2.1.4.5.1. The `body` element](#)

## [2.2. EPUB Navigation Documents](#)

- [2.2.1. Introduction](#)
- [2.2.2. Content Conformance](#)
- [2.2.3. Reading System Conformance](#)
- [2.2.4. EPUB Navigation Document Definition](#)
  - [2.2.4.1. The `nav` Element: Restrictions](#)
  - [2.2.4.2. The `nav` Element: Types](#)
    - [2.2.4.2.1. The `toc nav` Element](#)
    - [2.2.4.2.2. The `page-list nav` Element](#)
    - [2.2.4.2.3. The `landmarks nav` Element](#)
    - [2.2.4.2.4. Other `nav` Elements](#)
  - [2.2.4.3. The `hidden` attribute](#)

## [2.3. SVG Content Documents](#)

- [2.3.1. Introduction](#)
- [2.3.2. Content Conformance](#)
- [2.3.3. Restrictions on SVG 1.1](#)
- [2.3.4. Reading System Conformance](#)
- [2.3.5. Semantic Inflection](#)

## [2.4. Scripted Content Documents](#)

- [2.4.1. Scripting Contexts](#)
- [2.4.2. Content Conformance](#)
- [2.4.3. Reading System Conformance](#)
- [2.4.4. Security Considerations](#)
- [2.4.5. Event Model Considerations](#)

## [2.5. Fixed-Layout Documents](#)

- [2.5.1. Introduction](#)
- [2.5.2. Reading System Conformance](#)

[2.5.3. Viewport Rendering](#)

This is a preview - [click here to buy the full publication](#)

[2.5.4. Content Dimensions for XHTML and SVG](#)

[2.5.4.1. Expressing ICB Dimensions in XHTML](#)

[2.5.4.2. Expressing ICB Dimensions in SVG](#)

### [3. EPUB Style Sheets](#)

[3.1. Content Conformance](#)

[3.2. Reading System Conformance](#)

[3.3. EPUB 3 CSS Profile](#)

[3.3.1. CSS 2.1](#)

[3.3.2. CSS 2.0](#)

[3.3.3. CSS 3.0 Speech](#)

[3.3.4. CSS Fonts Level 3](#)

[3.3.5. CSS Text Level 3](#)

[3.3.6. CSS Text Decoration Level 3](#)

[3.3.7. CSS Writing Modes](#)

[3.3.8. Selectors](#)

[3.3.9. Media Queries](#)

[3.3.10. CSS Namespaces](#)

[3.3.11. CSS Multi-Column Layout](#)

[3.3.12. Ruby Positioning](#)

[3.3.13. Display Property Values `oeb-page-head` and `oeb-page-foot` \[DEPRECATED\]](#)

### [4. PLS Documents](#)

[4.1. Overview](#)

[4.2. EPUB Publication Conformance](#)

[4.3. Content Conformance](#)

[4.4. Reading System Conformance](#)

### [A. JavaScript `epubReadingSystem` Object](#)

[A.1. Syntax](#)

[A.2. Description](#)

[A.3. Properties](#)

[A.4. Methods](#)

[A.4.1. `hasFeature`](#)

[A.4.1.1. Syntax](#)

[A.4.1.2. Description](#)

[A.4.1.3. Features](#)

### [B. `-epub-fullsize-kana` Character Mapping Reference](#)

### [C. Acknowledgements and Contributors](#)

### [References](#)

## › 1 Overview

---

### › 1.1 Purpose and Scope

#### **This section is informative**

This specification, EPUB Content Documents 3.0.1, defines profiles of HTML5, SVG, and CSS for use in the context of EPUB® Publications.

This specification is one of a family of related specifications that compose EPUB 3, the third major revision of an interchange and delivery format for digital publications based on XML and Web Standards. It is meant to be read and understood in concert with the other specifications that make up EPUB 3:

- The EPUB 3 Overview [[EPUB3Overview](#)], which provides an informative overview of EPUB and a roadmap to the rest of the EPUB 3 documents. The Overview should be read first.
- EPUB Publications 3.0.1 [[Publications301](#)], which defines the semantics and overarching conformance requirements for each Rendition of an EPUB Publication.
- EPUB Open Container Format (OCF) 3.0.1 [[OCF301](#)], which defines a file format and processing model for encapsulating a set of related resources into a single-file (ZIP) EPUB Container.
- EPUB Media Overlays 3.0.1 [[MediaOverlays301](#)], which defines a format and a processing model for synchronization of text and audio.

This specification supersedes EPUB Content Documents 3.0 [[ContentDocs30](#)]. Refer to [[EPUB3Changes](#)] for information on differences between this specification and its predecessor.