

Technology Inquiry: Easy Production of Side-By-Side English Translation with Greek or Latin?

Post by "Cassius" of March 10, 2025 at 3:26 PM

We are regularly running into the need for easy production of html pages which allow the side-by-side display of English translation with the original Greek or Latin.

I think the target probably needs to be two or three column - probably two so that it will be usable on portrait size portable devices.

It also probably needs to be somehow divisible by "cells," in that the English translation is frequently longer than the Greek or Latin, and so to keep the passages of text together it's necessary to be able to have the end result look almost like a "spreadsheet" so that the English and original passages stay together. It's possible that links or tags could be used to jump from place to place, but ultimately side-by-side is probably the most usable.

Optimum would be the ability to easily change out the columns, so that for example the first column could be Latin, then the second switchable between Bailey, Munro, etc., with the switching function not causing you to lose your place in the text.

Since we're talking wish-list here, what we need is a system wherein the texts can be prepared and edited either locally or on the internet version, and then the result easily convertible to an html page for posting.

Currently one system I am using is Emacs org-mode, where I can prepare a text and then export the result to an html page [like so](#). It's possible that emacs could do what we want but it has a steep learning curve.

I'd like to employ such a system to deploy side-by-side versions of Lucretius, rather than individually [as we currently have it](#).

I made an early effort in the direction of multi-column pages [here](#). This is somewhat usable, but it's not by any means optimum. The columns don't stay together and the system I used was not user friendly.

I know others would probably find suggestions useful, as Don (for one) is thinking about side-by-side versions of his letter to Menoecus.

I don't have any illusions that this will be easy to do, but if we start the thread now then maybe over time people will come across examples of other sites that are usable for such a project and we can explore how they are made.

Post by “TauPhi” of March 10, 2025 at 5:44 PM

If you're looking for something like that:

[Side By Side viewer](#)

you may want to follow the link to the source code given in 'About' section. I didn't investigate it closely but it looks like there are some instructions how to create similar projects. There are also author's contact details there, if needed.

Post by “Cassius” of March 10, 2025 at 6:14 PM

WOW that is impressive!

[Joshua](#) and [Don](#) you'll be interested to take a look at this.

Thanks Tau Phi!

Post by “Cassius” of March 10, 2025 at 7:29 PM

Ok I have a short section of Book One of Lucretius running as an example of what the software can do and its usability by someone who is not a programming expert (me).

This will require much more effort to implement the full book, but it is definitely doable, and being based in github, it can be set up to work on as a joint project:

[Side By Side viewer](#)

Post by “Joshua” of March 10, 2025 at 8:20 PM

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4330-technology-inquiry-easy-production-of-side-by-side-english-translation-with-gree/>

Very impressive software, thank you [TauPhi](#)

Post by “Cassius” of March 11, 2025 at 7:51 AM

One particularly nice thing about the software is that you once you find a section in the text that you want to reference somewhere else, you can copy the URL and share it and that url will take you to the specific section - kind of like the archive.org link to a pdf will take you to a particular page. I haven't previously had a good way to link to specific sections of a text version of Lucretius or other texts so using a system like this would be a good way to provide that.

[Side By Side viewer](#)

Post by “TauPhi” of March 12, 2025 at 8:02 PM

For those who don't want to post anything online but want to use this software for personal projects where side by side texts comparison is needed, here's the easiest way to do it.

Step 1: Download the zip file and unpack it where you want it. It's basically a webpage template that allows you to display the texts side by side.

<https://github.com/tasuki/sbs/archive/gh-pages.zip>

Step 2: Create a local HTTP server. This will create a local environment for your webpage. There are different way to do it but the simplest is to run below command in the directory where `index.html` is. (Make sure Python is installed and you run the command in the correct directory)

```
python -m http.server
```

Step 3: Edit `index.html` to make sure `base href` is set to current directory: `<base href="/">` or simply remove this line as default is current directory anyway.

Step 4: Copy of the files from `tests/the_raven` folder into the folder where `index.html` is. These files are the example to show you how things are done. For your own projects, modify these files or create your own.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4330-technology-inquiry-easy-production-of-side-by-side-english-translation-with-gree/>

Step 5: Open your web browser with this address: `http://localhost:8000/`. This is how you access the local server where your newly created website is.

That's it. Now the world is your oyster. You can put your own texts, compare, re-arrange or even change how things look like by modifying `all_min.css` file in `styles` directory. (The file is obfuscated but there are ways to deobfuscate it so it's easy to modify to your liking). After you're happy with the results, you can print as pdf in the browser and you have a nice looking document. Have fun.