How to publish your TEI documents

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XML's power comes from its use to describe structure, not appearance. But you need a way to render these structural elements so that the text is easy for humans to read and work with. Here is a grossly simplified view of your options.

● = yes   ⊛ = sort of   ○ = no

Tool	Produces	Can use standard web server	Can use any user agent (web browser, mobile device, etc.)	Notes
CSS	Webpages	●	● (Limitations and workarounds are widely known.)	While you need not display all text in your XML, it must stay in the same order as in your XML.
XSLT processed by browser	Webpages	●	⊛ (All major browsers support. Limitations and workarounds are not well known.)	Painfully slow to load each page. Can only process a single XML file at a time.
XML-aware publishing system (using XSLT and other technology)	Webpages	○	●	Can search specific XML tags. Can easily show portions of documents.
XSL-FO processed by server	PDFs	○	●	Open-source tools don't work well yet, and commercial tools are quite expensive.
epub-tools and other packages	ePub	○	● (Most ebook readers support.)	

XML-aware publishing systems for use with TEI are listed at http://wiki.tei-c.org/index.php/Category:Publishing_and_delivery_tools