

LibrePress PDF Style Guide

Purpose: Establish consistent, elegant, print-ready standards for LibrePress digital and print PDFs. These standards privilege readability, typographic seriousness, and historical resonance while remaining technically robust for POD platforms (e.g., Lulu).

1. Trim Size & Page Geometry

Primary Trim Size:

- **A5** — 148 × 210 mm (5.83 × 8.27 in)

Orientation:

- Portrait only

Bleed:

- No bleed required for standard interiors
- If used: 0.125 in (3 mm) on all sides

2. Margins (Interior Pages)

Optimized for perfect binding and long-form reading.

- **Inner (Binding):** 0.75 in (19 mm)
- **Outer:** 0.5 in (13 mm)
- **Top:** 0.6 in (15 mm)
- **Bottom:** 0.75 in (19 mm)

Mirror margins: Enabled

3. Typography

LibrePress typography balances classical book design with modern digital clarity.

3.1 Primary Fonts

Body Text:

- *EB Garamond*
- Weight: Regular
- Optical Size: Enabled (if supported)

Titles & Display:

- *Libre Baskerville*
- Weight: Bold

Optional Secondary (for apparatus, footnotes):

- EB Garamond Italic or Small Caps

3.2 Font Sizes & Leading

Element	Font	Size	Line Spacing
Body text	EB Garamond	10.5–11 pt	1.25–1.35
Chapter titles	Libre Baskerville	18–22 pt	Single
Section heads	Libre Baskerville	13–15 pt	1.2
Running headers	Libre Baskerville	8.5–9 pt	Single
Footnotes	EB Garamond	8.5–9 pt	1.2

4. Paragraph Styling

Body Paragraphs:

- First-line indent: **0.25 in (6 mm)**
- No extra space between paragraphs
- Do **not** indent first paragraph after:
 - Chapter titles
 - Section breaks

Alignment:

- Justified
- Hyphenation: On (language-correct)

Widows/Orphans:

- Prevent both

5. Headings & Hierarchy

Chapter Openers

- Start on recto (right-hand) pages
- No running header on chapter opening pages
- Optional ornamental spacing (no images)

Chapter Title Format:

- Font: Libre Baskerville
- Size: 20 pt
- Case: Title Case or Small Caps
- Alignment: Centered or Left (choose once per book)

Section Headers

- Font: Libre Baskerville
- Size: 13–15 pt
- Spacing: 1–1.5 line breaks above

6. Running Headers & Folios

Running Headers:

- Font: Libre Baskerville
- Size: 8.5–9 pt
- Outer top margin
- Odd pages: Book title
- Even pages: Author name or section title

Page Numbers (Folios):

- Bottom center or bottom outer
- Arabic numerals
- No folio on:
 - Title page
 - Copyright page
 - Chapter openers

7. Front Matter Order

1. Half title (optional)
2. Title page
3. Copyright / colophon
4. Dedication (optional)
5. Table of contents

6. Preface / introduction

Pagination:

- Roman numerals (i, ii, iii...)

8. Back Matter

- Endnotes / footnotes (consistent choice)
- Afterword (optional)
- Bibliography (if applicable)

Pagination continues in Arabic numerals.

9. Ornamentation & Graphics

LibrePress favors restraint.

- No decorative borders
- No drop caps unless historically justified
- Ornaments only if typographic (public-domain or original)
- Images: Grayscale only, 300 DPI

10. Color

Interior PDFs:

- Black only (100% K)

No RGB or color elements permitted in standard editions.

11. PDF Export Standards

Format:

- PDF/X-1a or PDF/X-3 preferred

Font Embedding:

- All fonts fully embedded

Resolution:

- Text: Vector
- Images: 300 DPI

Transparency:

- Flattened

12. Naming Conventions

Interior PDF:

Title_Manuscript_YYMMDD.pdf

Revisioning:

- Increment version numbers only for print-affecting changes

13. Aesthetic Principles (Non-Negotiable)

- Serious typography over novelty
- Legibility over compression
- Silence over decoration
- Historical continuity without pastiche

LibrePress books should feel *inevitable*, not designed.

Maintained by: LibrePress

Last updated: 2026