

USFM

Unified Standard Format Markers

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UBS ICAP





USFM

- ✿ Examples of USFM markers:
 - ♦ `\c` = chapter number
 - ♦ `\mt` = main title
 - ♦ `\s` = section heading
 - ✿ Backslash markers identify portions of text
 - ✿ USFM defines content *not* format
 - ✿ Independent of software
 - ✿ Agreed standard across UBS globally, also adopted by SIL and users of DBL
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USFM – Looks like this...

```
\id LUK 43LUKRSV52.PTX, Revised Standard Version, June 2003
\h Luke
\mt2 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
\mt1 Luke
\c 1
\p
\v 1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative
\v 2 just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beg
\v 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely
\v 4 that you may know the truth concerning the things of which
\p
\v 5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest nan
```

- ✱ Creates unambiguous structure
- ✱ Text can easily be re-used or re-formatted for different outputs (print, web, electronic)
- ✱ There is nothing “unnecessary” in the text which could negatively affect output to print/e-pub



Basic markers

✿ Mandatory markers:

`\id \c \v \p`

It is possible to create a whole book using only these markers. You don't need to know lots of markers to get started.

✿ Other common markers:

`\h \mt \s \r \ms \mr \q \b`

`\imt \ip \is`





Note and character markers

☀ Footnote and cross reference markers:

`\f ... \f*`

`\f + This is a simple note\f*`

`\f + \fr 6.7 \fq silver coins: \ft ... \f*`

`\x ... \x*`

`\x - \xo 1.6: \xt Mt 3.1; Mk 1.4\x*`

☀ Character markers:

`\nd ... \nd*`

`\qt ... \qt*`

`\tl ... \tl*`

`\bk ... \bk*`



Principles of USFM

- ✿ 3 styles:

- ❖ Paragraph: applies until the next paragraph style (`\p`)
- ❖ Character: applies until the corresponding closing marker (`\tl ... \tl*`)
 - ✿ Verse: applies until the space following verse number
- ❖ Note: Footnote or cross reference; applies until the closing marker. May have other note markers within the note (`\f ... \f*`)

- ✿ Each paragraph & verse marker starts on a new line

Principles of USFM

- ✱ If you use numbered markers, use them everywhere:

<code>\s</code>	or	<code>\s1, \s2, \s3</code>	
<code>\q</code>	or	<code>\q1, \q2, \q3</code>	etc.

- ✱ `\id` and `\h` only entered once at the top of the file
- ✱ Be careful with spaces before and after markers
- ✱ Order of markers: `\c \s \r \p \v`

USFM documentation

<http://paratext.org/about/usfm>

http://paratext.ubs-translations.org/system/files/usfmReference2_2.pdf - Windows Internet Explorer

http://paratext.ubs-translations.org/system/files/usfmReference2_2.pdf

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5 Chapters and Verses

Markers in this section:

`\c \ca... \ca* \cd \cp \cd \v \va... \va* \vp... \vp*`

`\c_#`

- Chapter number
- The marker is followed by the chapter number #.
- No text should follow this marker.

Example

Text - Matthew 1 (GNT)

`\v 1 The last week in and near Jerusalem (21.1-27.66)`
`\v 1 The resurrection and appearances of the Lord (28.1-20)`
`\c 1`
`\v 1 The Ancestors of Jesus Christ`
`\v (Luke 3.23-38)`
`\p`
`\v 1 This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.`

Formatting Example

The Ancestors of Jesus Christ
(Luke 3.23-38)

1 This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.

2-6 From Abraham to King David, the following ancestors are listed: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and his brothers; then Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar), Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz (his mother was Rahab).

`\ca_# \ca*`

- Alternate (second) chapter number.
- Used for marking the chapter number used in an alternate versification scheme. Required when different versification traditions need to be supported in the same translation text.

Example

Text - Psalm 54 (GNT - markup adapted)

`\c 54 \ca 53 \ca*`
`\v 1 A Prayer for Protection from Enemies`
`\v 1 A poem by David, \va 2 \va* after the men from Ziph went to Saul and told him that David was hiding in their territory.`

Formatting Example

Psalm 54 (53)

A Prayer for Protection from Enemies

1 A poem by David, 2 after the men from Ziph went to Saul and told him that

Done

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Any questions?

