



ePUB Hyperlinked Index Script User Guide

Overview

There is one serious drawback to “native” Adobe InDesign export with respect to index export and hyperlinking. As we know, index “markers” are entered, compiled and then generated from the Index menu.

If exported as an interactive PDF, these the index page number will hyperlink to the corresponding page. However, when we export that document, these pages do not appear at all. Until now, any index functionality would need to be manually coded.

Ben Milander (retired Adobe Engineer) developed an InDesign script that creates index pages and hyperlinks them on all mobile devices.

Required Experience

Let’s assume that you are already familiar with most of the publication facets we just described:

- The InDesign Index panel and export dialogue
- The Book panel
- Native ePUB export dialogue
- The InDesign Scripts panel

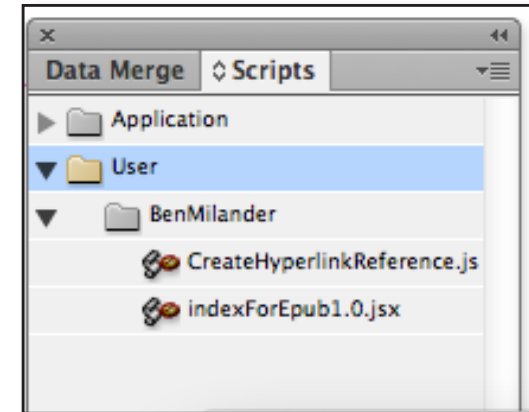
Script Access

The InDesign Indexing script for a stand-alone document is offered free of charge on Ben’s [Script](#) web page.

The quickest way to load your script into the Window/Utilities/Scripts panel:

- Right-click (PC) or Control-click (Mac) on the User Folder in the Scripts panel
- Click on “Reveal in Finder” (Mac) or “Reveal in Explorer” (PC) to open the correct application folder
- Download the desired Script from the website
- Un-Zip the folder to extract the .jsx file
- Drag the file into the script window

Note: This script will work with both InDesign generated and third-party Indexing software.



InDesign Scripts Panel

About Ben Milander

Ben is a Software and Hardware engineer with many years in the printing and publishing business. He also does website, software, and database development in the publishing realm. Ben has extensive, practical expertise with the Adobe Creative Suite and Microsoft Office applications. If you are in need of help on a problem or product, feel free to contact him.





Suggested Process

You can build the print or PDF layouts and create the Index as usual. Once completed, you can duplicate the document or InDesign book. As you will see, executing the Script will change the document configuration somewhat.

InDesign Notes are added on each page (they do not print) and the index pages are duplicated on a new non-printing layer. Formatting will be different on the duplicated index but this does not matter for the ePUB.

1-Vital Considerations

There are two stylesheets required to create the ePUB Hyperlinked Index. In our example, we created the ePUB-IndexHead Paragraph style.

Important! This paragraph style cannot be used anywhere else within the document (or book).

We've also created a unique Character style called ePUB-Hyperlink.

Here's the expanded Generate Index dialogue with the required selections. If necessary, display More Options to reveal the entire dialogue shown here

The rest of the choices are arbitrary and can be exactly the same as the print or PDF version. Click OK to generate the index.

Exclusive Paragraph style

Character Style





2-Begin Script

Once the Index has been generated, double-click the IndexForEpub.jsx script and review the dialogue shown. In our example, we are using the InDesign generated index.

From the pull-down we need to specify the Paragraph style we used when we generated the index.

Note: The Paragraph Style cannot be part of a Style group, but rather “free standing.”

Important! You should not have the index number character style set as default in the character style panel. This may cause the first couple of text paragraphs having that character style applied. Does not cause harm but will show as reference not found at the end.

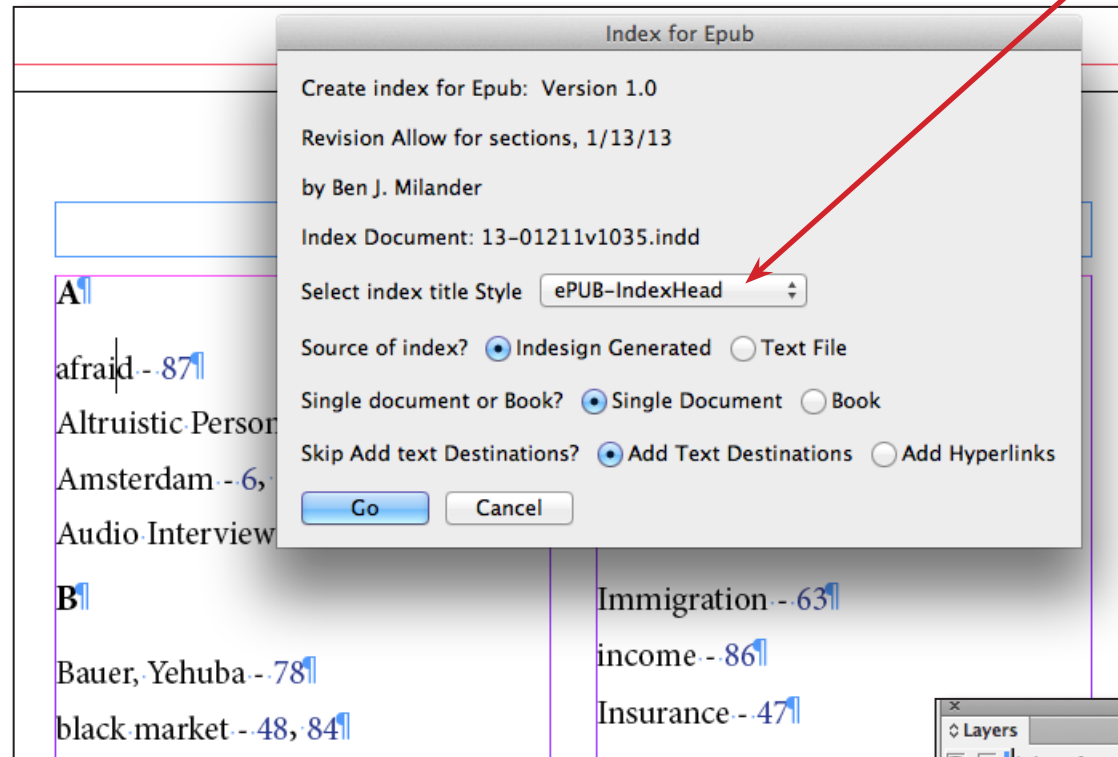
Click GO to begin processing.

Note: The script creates a “clone” of each frame on a non-printing layer. This frame will also become an InDesign Hyperlink Destination that will appear in the Hyperlink panel.

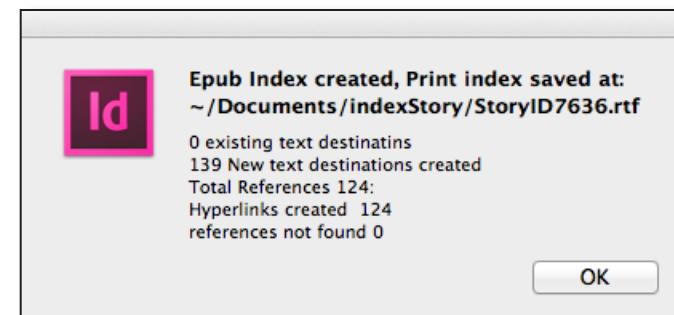
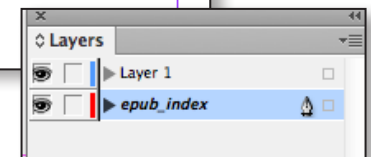
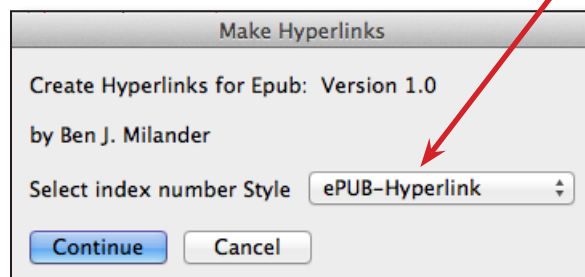
3-Continue Script

Choose the character style for the hyperlink and click Continue. A report dialogue will display when complete.

Exclusive Paragraph style



Designated Character style





Export and Test ePUB

We're not cover any ePUB export dialogue options here. These are a couple of quick options to determine the functionality of our hyperlinked index.

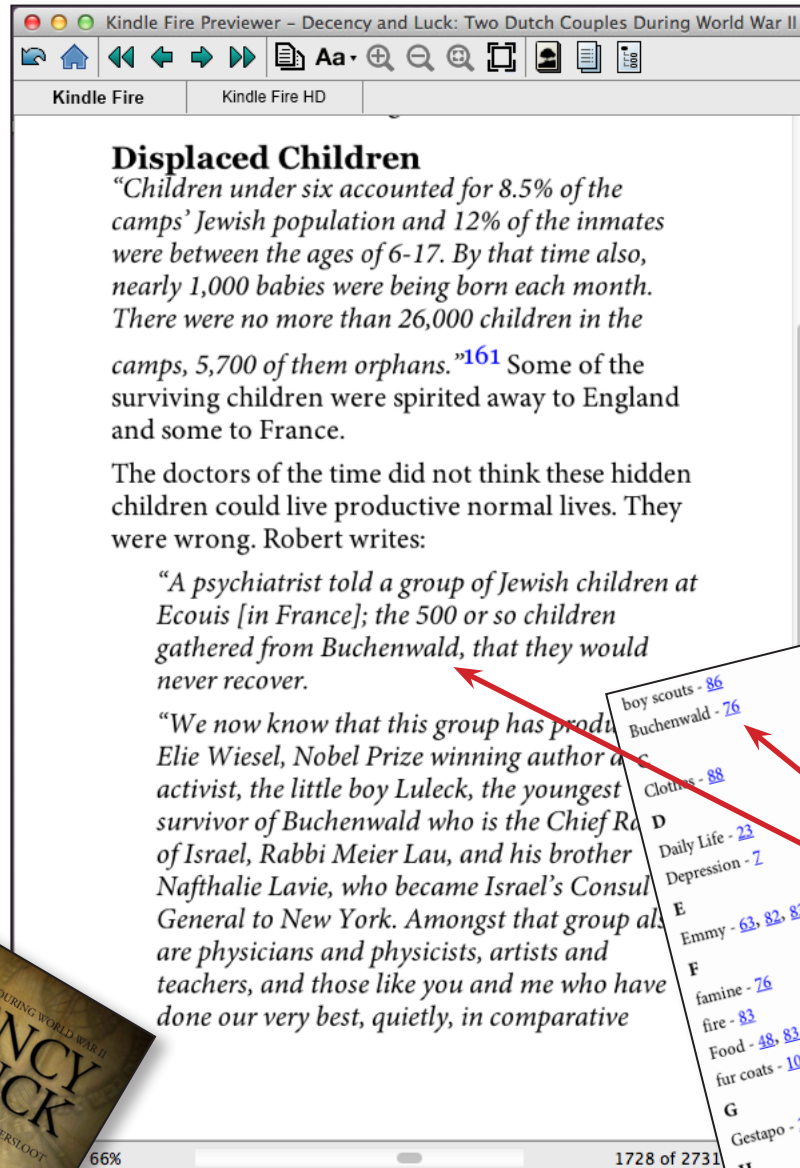
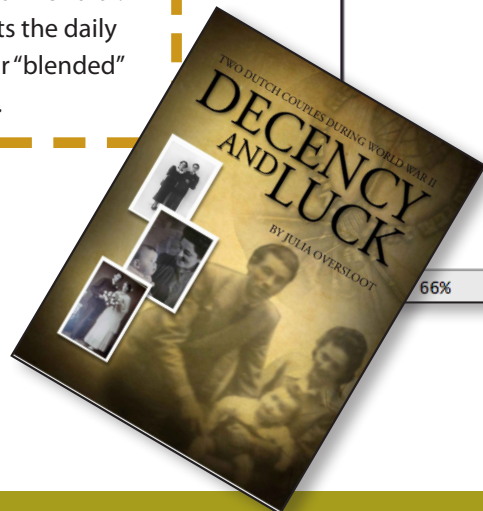
Export with Kindle Plug-In

Download the Kindle **Plugin** for Adobe InDesign and install. You then can Export for Kindle from the InDesign File menu.

The Kindle **Previewer** will display the (.mobi) file on your desktop.

Our Sample Documents...

...come from the soon to be released book by Julia Oversloot-Berg. Her dad was one of the righteous gentiles from the Netherlands who sheltered a Jewish family from the atrocities of the Nazis during WWII. He was awarded the Yad Vashem medal as a result of his valor. *Decency and Luck* recounts the daily struggles and fears of their "blended" family during those times.



Desktop Display in
Kindle Previewer

Outstanding ePUB Feature

Observe the footnote reference. The text "body" displays for uncluttered reading. Click it to hyperlink to the footnote, then click again to return to your original location.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| boy scouts - | 86 |
| Buchenwald - | 76 |
| Clothes - | 88 |
| Daily Life - | 23 |
| Depression - | 7 |
| Emmy - | 63, 82, 83, 103 |
| Famine - | 76 |
| fire - | 83 |
| Food - | 48, 83 |
| fur coats - | 10, 49, 86, 88 |
| Gestapo - | 24 |
| Haarlem - | 7, 10 |
| Health - | 6 |
| Henk - | 6, 88 |
| Hil - | 83 |
| Human Commandments - | 78 |
| Immigration - | 63 |

Click Hyperlinked
Index Entry and
Jump to Page

Id

ID

ID



The InDesign “Book” ePUB Index

The “Mechanics” for building the ePUB index is exactly the same as that of the individual document. You can construct the conventional index for print and PDF, keeping in mind that an interactive PDF version is already hyperlinked.

If we used the unique stylesheets that we described earlier for the conventional versions, you needn’t re-run the index before using the Book version of the script.

1-Suggested Workflow

We always create a duplicate version of the ePUB book. This gives us a lot of styling flexibility for the ePUB. The best way to create one, is to use the Book Panel menu to “Package Book For Print...” and save in an alternate location.

Note: After you run the script, you will have a non-printing layer for each page. Only the index pages are placed on that layer. None of the content pages are noticeably modified, but will have a non-printing note inserted. These can be removed using the Notes panel.

In Theory: You could still print or export this book for PDF. We recommend using an alternate version, since ePUB documents often need adjustment (like image anchoring) for best performance on mobile devices.

2-Book Construction

The script allows for a lot of flexibility. For the best ePUB experience, we suggest:

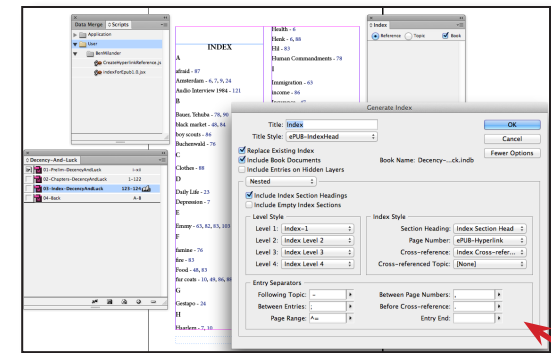
- Keeping the Index in a separate document, though it does not need to be the last document.
- Making sure that the Index frames are not threaded to any non-Index frames

Important! Make sure the Index file is Open and “active” before starting the script, or an error message will pop up.

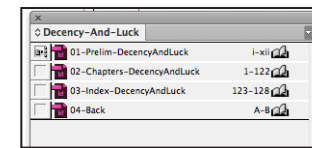
3-Run “Book” Version of the Index Script

Make sure you’ve downloaded and installed the Book version of the ePUB Index Script, then:

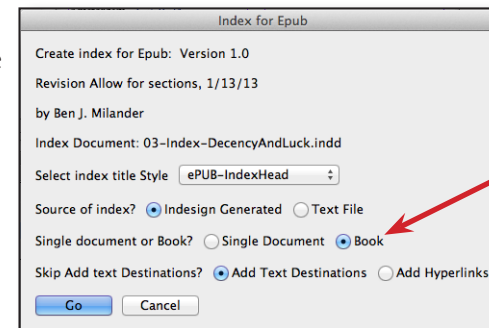
- Double click to access the script dialogue as shown
- Be sure to select the “Book” radio button in the dialogue
- NEW Create Text Anchor dialogue. All book chapters will be displayed. You can de-select any chapters that will not need a “text” anchor. For instance, the Cover, TOC and other preliminary pages seldom have index markers, so you can omit them here.
- If you accept the default and CONTINUE, there is no harm, just additional processing time



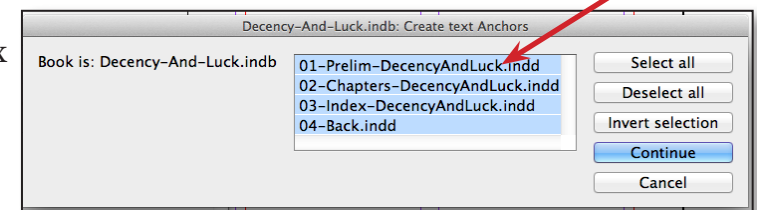
Verify Exclusive Styling



Book Construction



Choose the Book button



De-select Unnecessary Chapters



4-Review Hyperlinking Status

At the end of the hyperlinking process, a status message will appear and a text file named “log.txt” will be generated in the index directory. If some pages could not be linked, you can open the log file and address them manually.

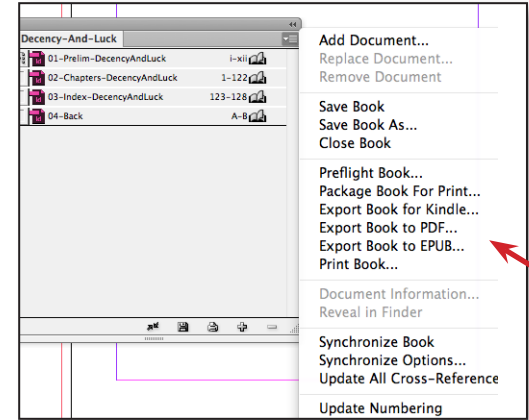
Export and Test ePUB

We need to export the entire Book for ePUB from the InDesign Book menu. If you’ve downloaded the and installed the Kindle plugin, you will have that option displayed in the menu options. In this case we are going to choose the “Export Book to EPUB...” option.

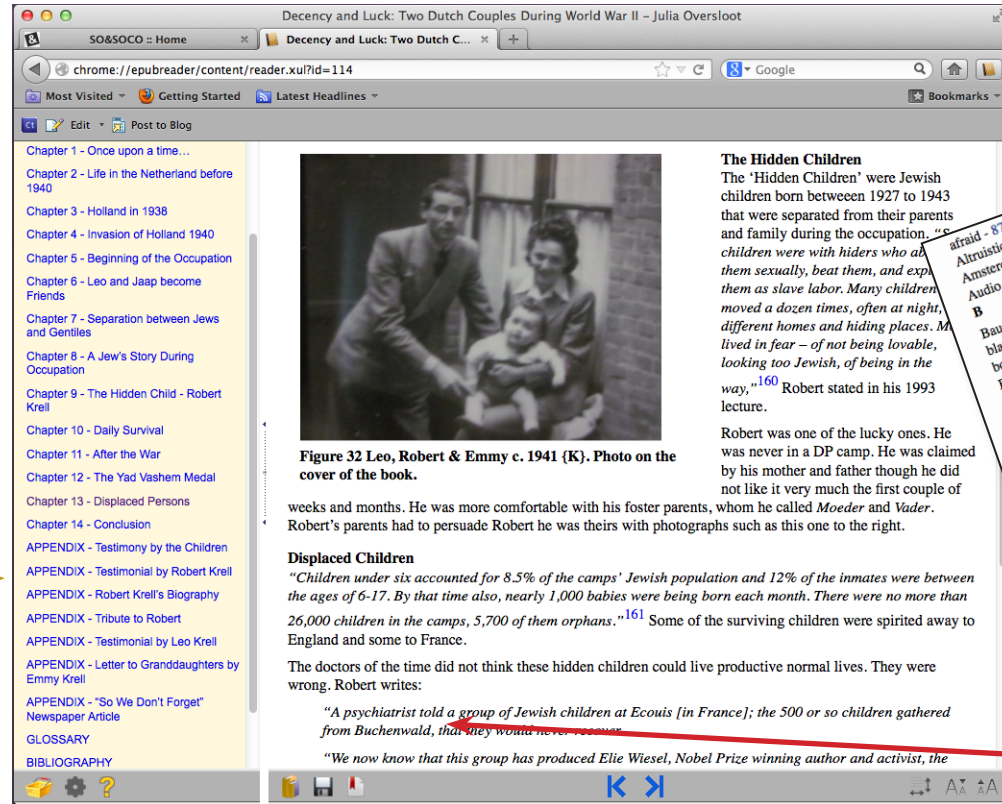
Rather than have to “link and sync” to check functionality, we are going to use the free Firefox ePUB Reader add-on.

ePUB Reader Add-on

This link to the EPUBReader [manual](#) gives you a complete overview of the features and functionality. From there, click on the [Install](#) button to get started. Once installed in Firefox, you only need to drag the resulting (.epub) document into the browser window to open.



Book Export Options



Firefox® Library Toolbar Button

Click Hyperlinked Index Entry and Jump to Page

ePUB “Proofing” Tip

Check the functionality and integrity of the Table of Contents and external Hyperlinks without having to go to a mobile device until you are ready to verify Styling, etc.

SO&SO Co LLC plays a pivotal role in mobile-device and conventional publication development.