Larcier Group, automating legal and professional publishing.

Distinguished European publishing company uses Abobe FrameMaker to keep justice professionals up-to-date on law-related content.
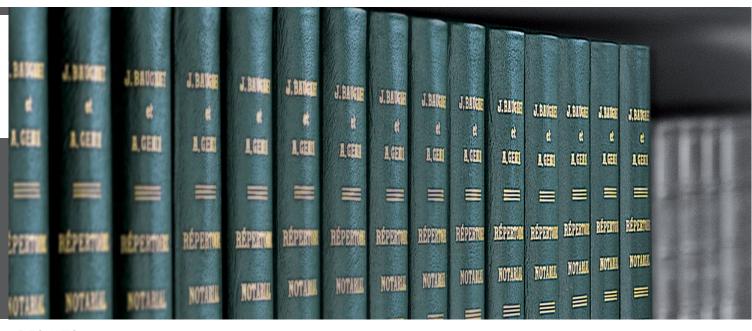
larcier group

"Adobe FrameMaker helps us keep our core products affordable for our target customer base and profitable in a tight marketplace."

Paul Wallemacq, Production Director, Larcier Group

SOLUTION
Adobe FrameMaker

RESULTS

60% FASTER

FASTER WORKFLOW
Accelerated publishing cycles by up to 60% and achieved a valuable gain in quality, reducing the need for manual control

CURRENT CONTENT
Provided up-to-date material regarding legislation, codes, and directories to professionals throughout Belgian legal communities

LONGEVITY
Carried on 100-year tradition of successfully servicing legal professionals in two languages with an expanded selection of publications

INTEGRATION
Integrated with content management system and developer scripting tools for turning XML data into page layouts

The Larcier Group

Established in 1839

Employees: 140

Brussels, Belgium

www.larciergroup.com

CHALLENGES

· Carry on publishing tradition in the highly competitive, specialized field of legal publishing

· Continue to hone automation to accelerate publishing cycle

· Leverage in-house expertise to keep training and support costs low

"We evaluated other products on the market and no other solution offers the flexibility and speed of implementation that Adobe FrameMaker does to improve our publishing system."

Jacques Pinpin, Project Manager, Larcier Group

Upside for specialized publishing

A European publishing tradition since 1839, the Larcier Group provides the Belgian legal community with up-to-date legal journals, laws, codes, and news for all disciplines of the law under its different brands: Larcier, Bruylant, Promoculture-Larcier, and Larcier Business. Specialized publications such as the *Codes Larcier*, the *Notarial Directory*, and court journals are marketed to judges, lawyers, notaries, bailiffs, and other justice system staff across the private and public sector—professionals who rely on time-sensitive, job-related content to carry out the law and its interpretation. In addition to its traditional print publications, Larcier Group offers online tools that provide one-click access to more than three million documents.

As law content typically has a short lifecycle, rapid publishing of up-to-date legal material is a constant challenge at Larcier Group, where several hundred thousand pieces of content are pushed out every month in French and in Dutch. While Adobe FrameMaker software has been in use to complement the firm's content management system for over a decade, the Larcier Group continuously explores new ways to use FrameMaker to further streamline its structured data workflow.

Larcier Group always keeps an eye out for other technical publishing products, but none have gone past the discussion stage. "We evaluated other products on the market and no other solution offers the flexibility and speed of implementation that Adobe FrameMaker does to improve our publishing system," says Jacques Pinpin, Project Manager, Larcier Group.

Using Adobe FrameMaker to turn XML data into final page layouts and to generate PDF files for the web and for print, the company has dramatically increased the quantity of legal content it publishes, and has cost-effectively introduced new titles on specific topics stemming from single-source content.

Streamlined workflow

Adobe FrameMaker has remained Larcier Group's technical publishing solution of choice for so many years because of the software's superior development capabilities in a structured data environment, its comprehensive automatic page setting capabilities, and smooth integration with FrameScript—a user-oriented, macro language that integrates with FrameMaker to produce scripts in simple text. Many Larcier Group staff members have master level FrameMaker skills. The company leverages that in-house expertise to keep learning curves short and provide support among co-workers when needed, resulting in lower cost of ownership and operation.

"The development of different publishing formats and their evolution require constant attention and a specific business knowledge in order to respond quickly to changes requested by publishers and the market. Having our own experts is an undeniable asset in term of responsiveness," says Wallemacq, Larcier Group.

"Automating our technical publishing process with Adobe FrameMaker in conjunction with several content management systems has kept us growing continuously and steadily and it will continue to do so as the platform advances to meet the evolving needs of our technical publishers."

Paul Wallemacq, Production Director, Larcier Group

SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

· Adobe FrameMaker

· Adobe Creative Cloud. Apps used include:

  · Adobe Illustrator CC

  · Adobe InDesign CC

  · Adobe Photoshop CC

  · Adobe Acrobat Pro DC

For more information
www.adobe.com/products/framemaker. html?promoid=DJDWK

Adobe Systems Incorporated
345 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110-2704
USA
www.adobe.com

About 20 people at Larcier Group work with Adobe FrameMaker in a team environment consisting of subject matter experts, designers, and developers. Legal content is created and maintained using an in-house multilingual content management tool, where raw legislative data is manually verified and automatically converted to XML with metadata attached. The XML data is then exported to Adobe FrameMaker, where the content is treated into final page layouts.

Using FrameMaker, Larcier Group developers have streamlined workflows by making extensive use of structured application settings, scripting, easy menu access to XSLT for styling, and SmartPaste to copy HTML content from browsers and formatted content from Microsoft Office applications and transform it to valid XML right at the insertion point.

Templates that contain document type definitions and element definitions are used to handle nearly all cases of repetitious data, such as variables. If a variable definition needs modification, FrameScript is used. Indexes, glossaries, and other generated lists such as case lists, court lists, specific abbreviations, and bibliographies have specific XML structures typically handled by FrameMaker templates. In some cases, FrameScript is used to manage footnote calls and associated text, while footnotes in other publications are handled inside FrameMaker.

In addition to FrameMaker, the Larcier Group uses tools in Adobe Creative Cloud software such as Adobe Photoshop CC, Adobe Illustrator CC, and InDesign CC to design book covers, colophons, title pages, and frontispiece pages and Adobe Acrobat Pro for PDF review cycles and general administrative purposes throughout the firm.

Further automation ahead

As Larcier Group strives to advance its technical publishing system, plans are being discussed to evaluate the use of FrameMaker for native XML authoring. FrameMaker Publishing Server has been integrated with a Microsoft Word authoring tool for automatic proof generation. This new monography workflow management tool is helping Larcier Group manage more than 200,000 pages a year in a structured FrameMaker environment.

"Adobe FrameMaker helps us keep our core products affordable for our target customer base and profitable in a tight marketplace," says Wallemacq. "Automating our technical publishing process with Adobe FrameMaker in conjunction with several content management systems has kept us growing continuously and steadily and it will continue to do so as the platform advances to meet the evolving needs of our technical publishers."