Lotdiss.cls: A document class for LOT dissertations

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The LaTeX class lotdiss.cls is a style file for dissertations at the Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap (LOT). While most of the requirements of the LOT dissertation style are not particularly difficult to satisfy, doing so can be fairly time-consuming. This package takes care of the standard tasks, and solves several other common problems once and for all.

DISCLAIMER: **You** are responsible for ensuring that your dissertation complies with the current LOT dissertation style requirements. While the lotdiss class has been successfully used for numerous LOT dissertations over the years, it comes with no warranty. Besides, **things change.** Check that all addresses, canned text, and names of university officials are as they should be. If you discover that lotdiss does something wrong, please let me know and I will do my best to fix it when I get a chance—but no promises!

1 Quick start

Download the latest version of the main class file, lotdiss.cls, *plus the appropriate class option file (.clo)* for your institute. E.g., if you are in Utrecht you'll need utrecht.clo.[1] The files are on the package homepage:

`http://www.hum.uu.nl/medewerkers/a.dimitriadis/latex/lotdiss/`

The package comes with a sample file, lotdiss-template.tex, which you can rename and use as a template: Edit the definitions in the preamble, delete or ignore the comments, and you're ready to go.

In case something is still unclear or doesn't behave as expected, the following sections give a list of features and an overview of how to use the lotdiss class.

2 Features of the lotdiss class

The lotdiss class is not meant to provide a complete environment for writing about linguistics: It does not include an example package, macros for drawing trees, or a bibliographic citation style. Since the LOT style places no restrictions in these areas, you can continue to use your favorite packages for these functions.

[1] If you do not see your institute in the list, ask me to create an option for it.

The class does fix a multitude of small LaTeX glitches (see below), and sets up proper running heads and a non-default style for chapter headings. If you don't like them, you can override them with your own settings in the preamble to your main file, without editing the class file itself.

The following are the main features of the lotdiss class.

1. Generates the required front matter from a template: Title pages, promotor page, etc.
2. Page margins are set as required by the LOT style guidelines.
3. It is a LaTeX document class, based on book.cls.
4. Defines running page heads, using fancyhdr.sty.
5. Defines nicer chapter headings with titlesec.sty.
6. If figures or tables are used, a list of figures or list of tables is automatically generated.
7. "Preview" mode allows you to view your pdf document with the margins it will have when printed as a book, on "pages" measuring 16 x 24cm.

2.1 List of tweaks

The lotdiss style takes care of some other details, and fixes a number of latex and package quirks that are not specifically related to the LOT style. These are either shortcomings of latex or are caused by interactions among packages. Because of their often-cryptic nature, they can be very difficult for beginning users of latex to pinpoint and correct effectively. There's no harm in fixing them here, and there are quite a few of them.

1. European defaults: A4 paper, "french" spacing at the end of sentences.
2. The package fixltx2e fixes a number of latex bugs, which for compatibility reasons have not been removed from latex. We load it automatically.
3. Endnote.sty sets the running heads at the top of each page to say "Notes" on both sides. Endnotes in a book usually appear at the end of every chapter, so we make the endnotes sections behave like regular sections.
4. The various front matter sections are automatically added to the table of contents. This is accomplished by redefining `\chapter*` and `\section*`, to automatically make an entry in the table of contents. The command `\hidefromtoc` is provided to allow the old behavior when needed (e.g., to avoid listing the table of contents in the table of contents).
5. Counters declared to start over at each new chapter should also do so at unnumbered chapters— but they do not. We arrange for `\chapter*` to behave just like `\chapter`.

6. A new TOC entry style is defined for unnumbered chapters, since the default is too bold. Extra space is inserted at the beginning of the back matter.

7. If a chapter goes on for a couple of pages without a `\section`, latex leaves the even-page running head empty. We set it to "Chapter N" for this case.

8. New chapters often end up with a page number at the bottom of the page ("plain" page style), but they should have no footer text at all. We fix this.

9. When a blank page is inserted in order to start the next chapter on an odd page, latex adds the running heads on the blank page. We see to it that it is completely blank.

10. Suppressed a spurious warning when fancyhdr is used with 11pt or 12pt text.

11. Various packages (natbib, index, endnotes, etc.) don't manage their running heads properly: They upper-case them, or they let the previous running head continue. We fix the problems and rearrange some latex internals so that fewer packages screw up.

12. The start of the standard index environment is a disaster. Our version uses `\chapter*`, ensuring that it will behave like other unnumbered chapters (start on an odd page, appear in the TOC, set the running heads properly, and provide the expected amount of white-space after the chapter heading).

13. Our page width produces a lot of bad line breaks when combined with the default index columns. We set a better index columnn width.

14. Improved behavior of gb4e examples in footnotes: Examples and references to them will use small roman numerals *i, ii,* etc.

15. The numbering of gb4e examples is automatically reset to start over from (1) at each new chapter. (This is the standard behavior for examples produced by linguex, but gb4e did not have this feature.)

3 How to use the lotdiss class

3.1 Invocation

The package lotdiss is a *class file,* meaning you invoke it at the very start of your document instead of article or book, as follows:

```
\documentclass[utrecht]{lotdiss}
```

The option [utrecht] loads the "class option file" utrecht.clo, which contains institute-specific settings. You should download and invoke the option for your own institute.

The lotdiss class is an extension of the standard LaTeX class book.cls, and accepts all the usual class options for font size, etc. It also accepts these additional options:

[preview]. This option is useful if you're fine-tuning margins, titles, or other aspects of the document's appearance—or if you're just curious to see how it will look when bound into a book. It sets the generated pdf document to the LOT book paper size (24 x 16cm), allowing you to view your text with the correct margins. (It will only work properly when generating pdf. Dvi documents do not have a notion of paper size.)

This mode is not active by default because it may cause problems with printing, and because **it is not necessary:** The printing shop expects a document with A4 pages, and will cut them down to bind your dissertation.

[notitlesec] The lotdiss class uses the package titlesec.sty to customize chapter headings. You can use this option to suppress loading it. However, I don't recommend doing so: If you want to change the look of your chapter headings, titlesec is the best tool for the job.

3.2 Document structure

The master file for your dissertation should be a modified copy of the template file, lotdiss-template.tex. It sets up the basic structure of your document and includes numerous obligatory and optional declarations for customizing your front matter.

A large work like a dissertation is usually split up into several files for ease of editing. LaTeX users typically place each chapter in a separate file (with its name ending in .tex), and use a `\include` command to include them into the main file. The basic structure of your document, then, looks like this:

```
\documentclass[utrecht]{lotdiss}

% [Definitions giving your name, dissertation title, etc.]
% [Other style files and definitions]
\makeindex

\begin{document}
\FrontMatter  % Generates opening pages

\include{Acknowledgements}

\MainMatter  % Switches to regular page numbers

\include{Introduction}
\include{Chapter2}
\include{Chapter3}
\include{Conclusions}

\BackMatter
\bibliographystyle{linquiry2}
\bibliography{myreferences}

% If you'll have an index:
\printindex

% Required post-chapter sections:
% Dutch-language summary, curriculum vitae

\include{NLresume}
\include{CurriculumVitae}

\end{document}
```

See the file lotdiss-template.tex for the complete template.

3.3 Customizations

The design of the lotdiss style tries to make it easy to override various aspects of the document's appearance. The following are probably the most useful:

- The running heads at the top of each page are defined with the package fancyhdr.sty, and can be customized with the commands provided by the package.
- The chapter headings rely on titlesec.sty. You can use it to customize both the chapter and the section headings, or you can rely on one of several other packages. (If there are any conflicts with *titlesec,* use the class option [notitlesec]).
- The automatically generated pages at the beginning of the dissertation are each defined in a separate command: `\HalfTitlePage, \LOTpage, \TitlePage,` and `\PromotorPage`. If one of them does not suit your needs, you can always replace it with your own design in your document preamble:

```
\renewcommand\TitlePage{{\center
  \Huge    IT     \\[2cm]
  \Large   by     \\[2cm]
      Stephen King
}}
```

If you need more extensive customizations, the comments in the class file explain how. But don't edit lotdiss.cls itself; copy the necessary commands to your preamble and redefine them with `\renewcommand`, or just override them with your own creation.