

Using Org Mode to Write and Organize a Book

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1 Set Up Your Project Structure

Start by creating a dedicated directory for your book project. Inside this directory, you can create a main Org file (e.g., `book.org`) that will serve as the backbone of your book.

1.1 Directory Structure Example

```
~/Desktop/Org/BookProject/
```

```
book.org
chapters/
  chapter1.org
  chapter2.org
  chapter3.org
notes.org
```

2 Outline Your Book

Use headings to outline your book's structure. Each top-level heading in your main `book.org` file can represent a chapter. You can then use subheadings for sections within each chapter.

2.1 Example Outline

```
* Chapter 1: Introduction
** What This Book Is About
** Who Should Read This Book
** How to Use This Book

* Chapter 2: The Basics
** Key Concepts
** Fundamental Ideas
```

3 Link to Separate Files for Chapters

If you prefer to keep each chapter in its own file, you can link from your main `book.org` to individual chapter files using Org mode's powerful linking system.

3.1 Example of Linking Chapters

```
* Chapter 1: Introduction
[[file:chapters/chapter1.org] [Chapter 1]]

* Chapter 2: The Basics
[[file:chapters/chapter2.org] [Chapter 2]]
```

4 Use Org-Babel for Embedded Code (Optional)

If your book includes code snippets, you can use Org-Babel to embed and execute code directly within your Org files. This is especially useful for technical books.

4.1 Example

```
#+BEGIN_SRC python
print("Hello, World!")
#+END_SRC
```

5 Manage Tasks and Deadlines

Integrate task management into your writing process. Use TODO states to track progress on each chapter or section.

5.1 Example

```
* TODO Chapter 1: Introduction
** TODO Write the first draft
** DONE Outline the key points
** TODO Review and edit

* TODO Chapter 2: The Basics
```

You can also add deadlines to help you stay on track:

```
** TODO Write the first draft
    DEADLINE: <2024-08-15 Thu>
```

6 Capture Ideas and Notes

Use the capture feature to quickly jot down ideas or research notes related to your book. You can have a separate `notes.org` file where you capture all your thoughts, which you can then refile to the appropriate chapter.

6.1 Example

```
(setq org-capture-templates
  '(("b" "Book Note" entry (file "~/Desktop/Org/BookProject/notes.org")
    "* %? :BOOK:\n%U\n")))
```

7 Organize Research Materials

If you have research materials, such as articles, references, or links, you can store and link them within your Org files. Use tags to categorize them, making it easier to find and reference them later.

7.1 Example

```
* Research
** [[https://example.com][Interesting Article]]
:PROPERTIES:
:AUTHOR: John Doe
:NOTES: Relevant to Chapter 2
:END:

** [[file:~/Desktop/Org/BookProject/research-paper.pdf][Research Paper]]
:PROPERTIES:
:AUTHOR: Jane Smith
:NOTES: Discusses key concepts in Chapter 3
:END:
```

8 Exporting Your Book

Org mode allows you to export your book to various formats, including PDF, HTML, or even LaTeX. You can export the entire file or specific sections.

8.1 Example of Exporting to PDF

- Export the entire book: `C-c C-e 1 p` (LaTeX to PDF).
- Export just a chapter: Narrow to the section (`C-x n s`) and then export.

9 Version Control with Git

Use Git to version control your book. This way, you can track changes, experiment with different versions, and collaborate with others if needed.

9.1 Basic Git Commands

```
git init
git add .
git commit -m "Initial commit"
```

10 Keep a Writing Log

Maintain a log of your writing sessions in Org mode. You can create a dedicated section or file for this, logging the date, time, and what you accomplished.

10.1 Example Writing Log

```
* Writing Log
** <2024-08-11>
    - Wrote 500 words in Chapter 2
    - Revised Chapter 1 introduction
```

11 Mind Mapping and Brainstorming

Org mode can be used for brainstorming and mind mapping. Use plain text to outline ideas or even visualize them with Org's native tools like `org-mind-map`.

12 Editing and Revising

Org mode supports collaborative editing with comments, and you can also highlight areas that need revision.

12.1 Example Comment

```
* Chapter 1: Introduction
** TODO Write introduction
    COMMENT This needs more detail about the target audience.
```