

Library gains columns, wraps nothing round anything

Five columns, a rule in every gutter, and a photograph the story declines to flow around

By a Staff Reporter

Readers of this page will notice that the text is set in five columns of equal width, justified, with a rule down each gutter. None of that is automatic. The formatter is given one rectangle and told how many columns to divide it into, and it fills each in turn before moving on to the next. Where the columns meet is arithmetic the caller has to repeat if it wants to draw anything there. The photograph below is not flowed round either. Nothing in the library wraps text about an object, so the story is drawn twice - once into the space above the picture and once into the space below it - and the break between them is chosen by measuring rather than by counting words. It is more work than a single call, and it is the honest amount of work for what is being asked.

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ALSO INSIDE

This box is clipped to its own rectangle, so the long paragraph inside it is cut off at the edge rather than running over the column beside it. The clip is undone by restoring the graphics state, because there is nothing else that will undo it.



Two readers consider the gutter rules, which are drawn rather than provided.

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