Compatability of DITA Design Priciples with Localization Requirements

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DITA TC 20-December-2005

General Points

- DITA Offers a significant advantage for both authoring and translation
- Granularity level guarantees maximum possible reuse of XML document objects
- Write once, translate once, reuse many times
- Publish to multiple formats:
    - PDF
    - XHTML
    - WAP
    - Virtual Documents
- Fundamantally an excellent approach to document design for localization

Good points

- Use of 'standard' components (XHTML, CALS etc.)
- Topic (Task/Concept/Reference) allows for a good practical definition for granularity
- Document Maps as XML documents can also be localized in a standard way
- There is **NOTHING** more difficult or complex in localizing DITA documents than XHTML, DocBook, OpenOffice or any other well designed XML documents
- Greater granularity in fact makes DITA documents substantialy easier to localize

Things to Consider

- Nesting elements that can contain PCDATA
  - Problems regarding linguistic integrity
  - Problems regarding segmentation
  - Need to clearly define what are true 'inline elements'
- Use of:
  - Translate="no" and inheritance
  - Await W3C ITS www.w3.org/TR/its/ recommendation
- Use of:
  - xml:lang

Inline Elements

audience, b, boolean, cite, codeph, colspec, coords, copyryear,

created, delim, fig, filepath, fragref, i, image, indexterm,

Indextermref, keywords, menucascade, msgnum, msgph,

no-topic-nesting, object, oper, othermeta, param,

permissions, ph, q, repsep, resourceid, revised,

sep, spanspec, state, sub, sup, synnoteref, synph,

systemoutput, term, tm, tt, u, uicontrol, userinput, var, vrm, xref

DITA Practical Requirements

- Use of CMS is mandatory
  - Tracking version
  - Providing mechanism for controlling the document lifecycle