LIS900G

Webmastering III: XML

2002–04–16

See http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/lis900gp02i for the latest online version of this file.

Course Description

This course introduces students to XML, the extensible markup language. XML is a W3C recommendation for a second-generation web language, but its importance goes for beyond that. XML is rapidly becoming the lingua franca for the exchange of structured information. This is the kind of data that librarians deal with. This course will be fundamental to any librarian going into technical services.

Much of XML's power rests on software that has yet to fully mature, and some of the contents of the course may be This course will deal in depth with XML as it can be used today. It will focus on applications rather than theory.

Course objectives

After taking this course students

- will have a basic grasp of XML;

- will be introduced to XML Schema to validate XML;

- will be introduced to XSLT as a means to translate XML to HTML.

Prerequisites

Students should be familiar with the World Wide Web, and should be able to use a MS Windows computer, i.e. click on an icon to run a program. Students should also be familiar with basic concepts of computer hardware and software, concepts like files, memory. In addition, basic familiarity with HTML will be an advantage. Students that have no prior exposure to HTML could take `lis900c`[1] as an introduction, but this is not a prerequisite, because that course does a lot of other things besides raw HTML. Everything that goes beyond that will be explained in class or by personal interaction with the instructor.

Instructor

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Class structure

Classes will be held in the computer lab in the Palmer School. Each class will have some presentation by the instructor. However a majority of time the class will work directly with their computers under the supervision of the instructor. Class details:

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[1]/home/krichel/courses/lis900cp02i

0	2002—08—12, morning	Introduction, Unicode, URIs
1	2002—08—12, afternoon	well-formed XML, and Namespaces
2	2002—08—13, morning	XSL I
3	2002—08—13, afternoon	XSL II
4	2002—08—14, morning	XSL III
5	2002—08—14, afternoon	XSL IV
6	2002—08—15, morning	XML Schema I
7	2002—08—15, afternoon	XML Schema II
8	2002—08—16, morning	XML Schema III
9	2002—08—16, afternoon	XML Schema IV

Readings

There are literally tons of books on XML around, choose one that you like. Castro (2001) is a good initial book. However it is not sufficent for the course. To cover the course topic and beyond, you should look for books that cover XSLT and XML Schema extensively, or buy two separate books. On XSLT, **?**). I am not convinced as to its virtues for an audience with little prior exposure to computing. On XML Schema, I found that Duckett et al. (2001) is a very good book. Most of the material used in class are the tutorials by `Roger L. Costello`[2].

References

Castro, Elizabeth (2001). *XML for the World Wide Web: Visual QuickStart Guide* (3rd ed.). Peachpit Press.

Duckett, Jon et al. (2001). *Professional XML Schemas*. Wrox Press.

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[2]http://www.xfront.com