A new attribute is introduced (on certain elements) to activate the possibility to sort first level child elements:

<sectiondiv sorting="enabled"></sectiondiv>

This is the “sort-activated parent” node.

The first level child elements (to a sort-activated parent node) in need of being sorted are marked up using a <sort-as> child element.

<sectiondiv sorting="enabled">

<p><sort-as>Paris</sort-as>Paris is a great city...</p>

<p><sort-as>Stockholm</sort-as>Stockholm is one of the cleanest cities in the world...</p>

<p><sort-as>Rome</sort-as>Rome is a wonderful place to...</p>

</sectiondiv>

First level child elements could be marked up using a new attribute on every element, but then that element would clutter the view for all users how do not want to sort.

Then a sorting rule element is introduced as a first level child to a sort-activated parent node. The sorting rule element must be a sibling to the elements marked up to be sorted:

<sectiondiv sorting="enabled">

<sort-as-rule order=”Stockholm Paris Rome”/>

<p><sort-as>Paris</sort-as>Paris is a great city...</p>

<p><sort-as>Stockholm</sort-as>Stockholm is one of the cleanest cities in the world...</p>

<p><sort-as>Rome</sort-as>Rome is a wonderful place to...</p>

</sectiondiv>

When a sort-as-rule element is defined, the first encountered child level instance in a sort-activated parent node must be followed regardless of if there are several sort-as-rule elements defined as siblings or defined as child elements to other elements.

There must be a possibility to define several <sort-as-rule> elements in a “sort-activated parent” node and use conditionalizing attributes to define different outputs:

<sort-as-rule audience=”Frenchmen” order=”Paris Stockholm Rome”/>

<sort-as-rule audience=”Italians” order=”Rome Stockholm Paris”/>

<sort-as-rule audience=”Swedes” order=”Stockholm Paris Rome”/>

A complete instance could look like:

<concept>

...

<sectiondiv sorting="enabled">

<sort-as-rule audience=”Frenchmen” order=”Paris Stockholm Rome”/>

<sort-as-rule audience=”Italians” order=”Rome Stockholm Paris”/>

<sort-as-rule audience=”Swedes” order=”Stockholm Paris Rome”/>

<p>Europe has many great capitols...</p>

<p><sort-as>Paris</sort-as>Paris is a great city...</p>

<p><sort-as>Stockholm</sort-as>Stockholm is one of the cleanest cities in the world...</p>

<table>…

<p><sort-as>Rome</sort-as>Rome is a wonderful place to...</p>

<p>There are also other great capitols…</p>

</sectiondiv>

...

</concept>

There are probably several cases that need to be addressed, to not make the content model complex.