

Using XLIFF to translate DITA documents

Abstract

The proposed article will describe how to translate DITA documents using XLIFF (XML Localisation Interchange File Format) as intermediate format. Brief statements on the problems that the article will try to address will be included in the final abstract.

1. What is DITA?

Brief introduction to DITA. This section could be omitted if the article is published in a DITA specific site.

2. Translation Process

Simple outline of a translation process. Description of a localisation workflow from source document creation to the generation of a translated document.

3. XLIFF format

Description of XLIFF format, including skeletons and inline tags.

4. Converting DITA to XLIFF

Comments on the difference between regular XML files and DITA files, like the "translate" attribute and specialisation.

4.1 Translatable elements

Brief description of the different kind of elements that a DITA document may contain (translatable, untranslatable, inline or subflow)

5. Conversion options

Brief comparison of the possible routes to take when converting DITA documents to XLIFF:

- Conversion using XSL transformations (i.e. xliiffRoundtrip Tool)
- Conversion using specially designed filters
- Conversion using xml:tm as intermediate format

6 Reverse conversion

Description of the process used to convert XLIFF files into DITA documents.

6.1. TM maintenance

Considerations on the importance of exporting the translated XLIFF file to TMX format for feeding the TM database.

Summary

Article summary in 2 paragraphs.

Resources

Links to related external resources, like:

- DITA and XLIFF official web sites
- xliiffRoundtrip Tool
- xml:tm web site

Appendices

A. Table of DITA Elements