

DITA Best Practices for Localization

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General Principles

- Generic rules for XML localization:
 - <http://www.idealliance.org/proceedings/xml04/papers/49/paper.html>
- Keep it simple – KIS
 - Keep granularity level as low as practically possible
 - Try not to nest elements
- Use XML aware CMS system for workflow and document management

What to avoid

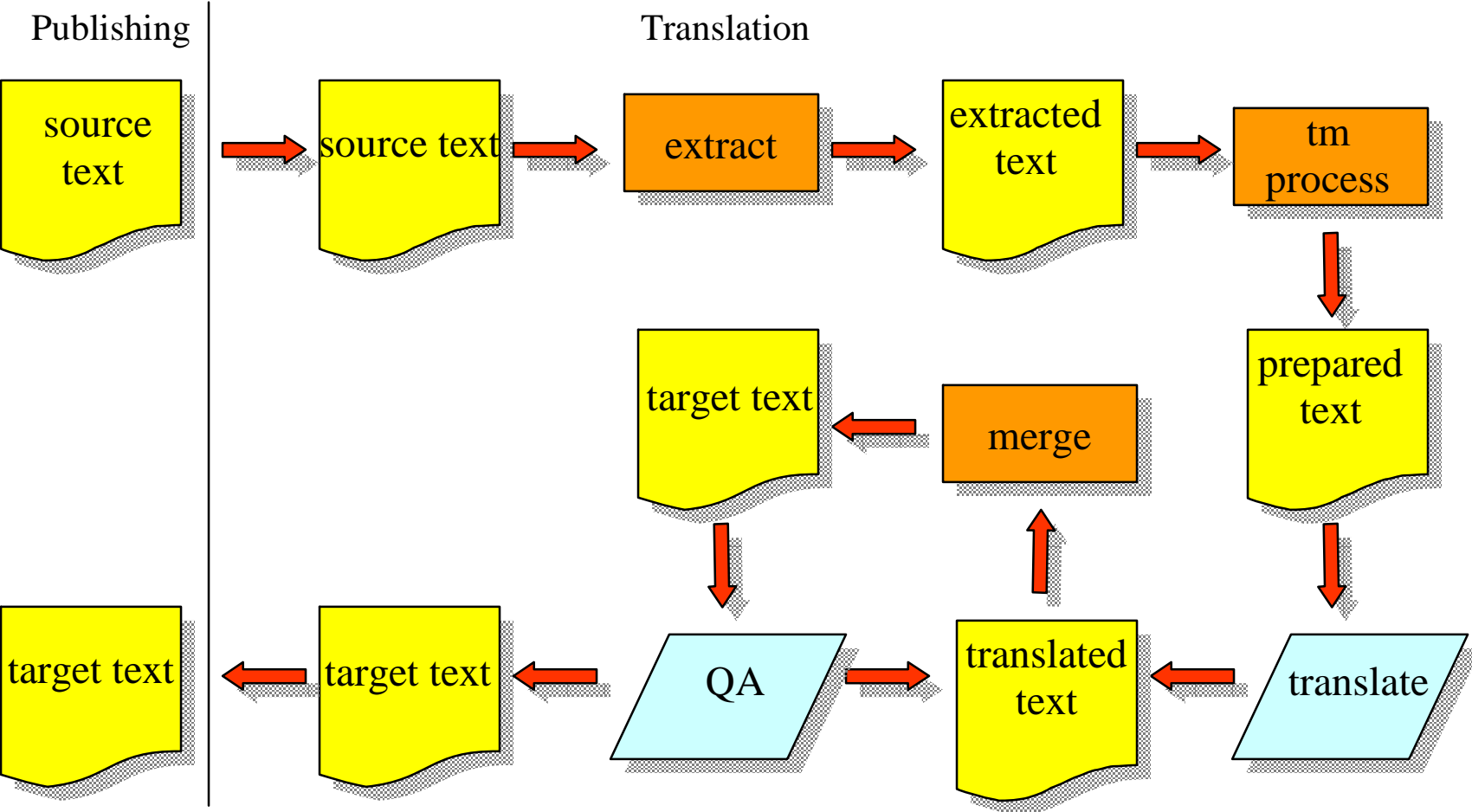
- Breaking linguistic integrity for nested elements:
 - `<p> PCDATA PCDATA <p>
PCDATA</p>PCDATAPCDATA</p>`
- Unnecessary nesting of elements
- Translatable attributes
- Be careful with:
 - `Translate="no"`
- Use `xml:lang` only if you absolutely have to

What to do

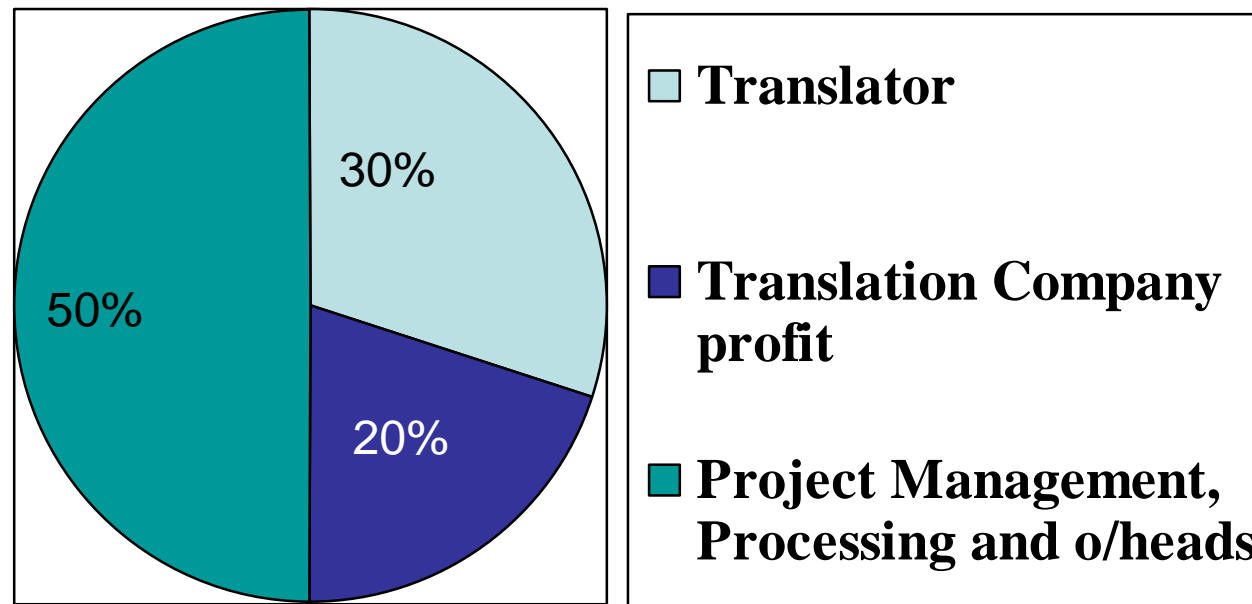
- Clearly define *true* inline elements
- Clear guidelines re linguistic integrity and nested elements
- Use Automated Localization Workflow
 - Use Integrated CMS TM
 - Use automated TM
 - Control your own matching and word counts
- Produce XLIFF files for translation
 - Protect DITA document structure
 - Language Service Providers have to handle only one standard format



Traditional Electronic Document Translation Scenario



Breakdown of Translation Costs



Source Professor Reinhard Schäler LRC - ASLIB 2002

Automated Translation Scenario

