
Element-by-element recommendations for translators

This topic contains a list of all elements in the base DITA edition. It includes recommendations on how to present the element type to translators, whether the element contents are likely to be suitable for translation, and whether the element has attributes **with values that** are likely to be suitable for translation. Examples of content that is not suitable for translation include code fragments and mailing addresses.

Notes on the tables below

- Note that an element might be a block element in one context and an inline element in another. In addition, specialized element types might be rendered in a way that varies from their specialization base. Accordingly, the distinctions presented in the tables are provided only as a guide to known behavior with the base DITA. For element specializations that are not distributed by OASIS, the suggested default is to fall back to the closest ancestor element that is part of the OASIS distribution.
- For all elements, the `@translate` attribute overrides the suggested defaults specified in the tables below.
- Certain block-level elements might appear in the middle of a translation segment. They are considered *subflow* elements in regard to translation. When located in the middle of a translation segment, these element should not be translated as part of that segment. Whenever possible, such elements should be placed only at sentence boundaries in order to aid translation. The subflow elements in base DITA are `<draft-comment>`, `<fn>`, `<idex-see>`, `<index-see-also>`, `<indexterm>`, and `<required-cleanup>`
- The `<keyword>` element (as well as specializations of `<keyword>`) is an inline, phrase-like element when it appears in the body of a document. It can also appear in the `<keywords>` element in `<topicmeta>` (for maps) or in the `<prolog>` (for topic). When it appears in the `<keywords>` element, each `<keyword>` represents an individual segment. In that location, `<keyword>` is considered a subflow element.

Explanation of column headers

The following list explains the headers for the columns:

Element name

The name of the element.

Specialization base

The element from which the current element is specialized. This column only appears in tables for the domain elements.

Same behavior as specialization base?

Indicates whether the element has the same behaviors in regard to translation as its specialization base. The behaviors are whether the element is formatted as a single block or as an inline element, whether the element represents a complete translatable segment, and whether the element contains translatable content. This column only appears in tables for the domain elements.

Block/inline presentation

Indicates whether the element is rendered in output as a single block or as an inline element. Metadata typically is not rendered, and so metadata elements are listed as "n/a (metadata)."

Block/inline translation

Indicates whether the element represents a complete translatable segment. For example, the element `<cmd>` is presented inline with other elements, but it represents a complete translation segment.

Translatable content?

Whether the element contains one or both of the following:

- Text content that can be translated
- Child elements that contain content that can be translated

Notes

Extra needed information, including whether the element has any attributes with values that might need translation, if specializations of the element might need translation, or if the element is a "subflow" element for the purposes of translation. This column only appears in tables when it is needed.

Topic elements

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<code><abstract></code>	block	block	yes	
<code><alt></code>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.
<code><audience></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><audio></code>	block	block	yes	
<code><author></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><body></code>	block	block	yes	
<code><bodydiv></code>	block	block	yes	
<code><brand></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><category></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><cite></code>	inline	inline	yes	
<code><colspec></code>	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<code><component></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><copyrholder></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><copyright></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><copyryear></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><created></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><critdates></code>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<code><data></code>	n/a (metadata)	block	no	Specializations of <code><data></code> might contain translatable content.
<code><dd></code>	block	block	yes	
<code><ddhd></code>	block	block	yes	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<desc>	block	block	yes	
<div>	block	block	yes	
<dl>	block	block	yes	
<dlentry>	block	block	yes	
<dlhead>	block	block	yes	
<draft-comment>	block	block	no	This element is considered a subflow element.
<dt>	block	block	yes	
<dthd>	block	block	yes	
<entry>	block	block	yes	
<example>	block	block	yes	
<fallback>	block	block	yes	
<featnum>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<fig>	block	block	yes	
<figgroup>	block	block	yes	
<fn>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.
<foreign>	block	block	no	The block vs. inline designation for the <foreign> element is likely to change for some specializations. The <desc>, <object>, and <image> elements inside <foreign> should still be translatable; they provide an alternative display if the foreign content cannot be processed.
<image>	block when @placement=break, otherwise inline	block when @placement=break, otherwise inline	yes	
<include>	inline	inline	yes	
<index-see>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.
<index-see-also>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.
<indexterm>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.
<keytext>	block	block	yes	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<keyword>	inline	inline (except when within <keywords> – see note above the table)	yes	
<keywords>	block	block	yes	
	block	block	yes	
<lines>	block	block	yes	
<link>	block	block	yes	
<linkinfo>	block	block	yes	
<linklist>	block	block	yes	
<linkpool>	block	block	yes	
<linktext>	block	block	yes	
<lq>	block	block	yes	@reftitle can specify translatable content.
<media-source>	block	block	n/a	
<media-track>	block	block	n/a	
<metadata>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<no-topic-nesting>	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<note>	block	block	yes	@othertype can specify translatable content.
<object>	block	block	yes	
	block	block	yes	
<othermeta>	block (metadata)	block	yes	@content can specify translatable content.
<p>	block	block	yes	
<param>	block	block	n/a	
<permissions>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<ph>	inline	inline	yes	
<platform>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<pre>	block	block	yes	
<prodinfo>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prodname>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prognum>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prolog>	block (metadata)	block	yes	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<publisher>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<q>	inline	inline	yes	
<related-links>	block	block	yes	
<required-cleanup>	block	block	no	This element is considered a subflow element.
<resourceid>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<revised>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<row>	block	block	yes	
<section>	block	block	yes	
<series>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<shortdesc>	block	block	yes	
<simpletable>	block	block	yes	
<sl>	block	block	yes	
<сли>	block	block	yes	
<source>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<state>	inline	inline	yes	@value can specify translatable content.
<stentry>	block	block	yes	
<sthead>	block	block	yes	
<strow>	block	block	yes	
<table>	block	block	yes	
<tbody>	block	block	yes	
<term>	inline	inline	yes	
<text>	inline	inline	yes	
<tgroup>	block	block	yes	
<thead>	block	block	yes	
<title>	block	block	yes	
<titlealt>	block	block	yes	
<tm>	inline	inline	yes	
<topic>	block	block	yes	
	block	block	yes	
<unknown>	block	block	no	
<video>	block	block	yes	
<vrml>	block (metadata)	block	yes	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<vrmlist>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<xref>	inline	inline	yes	

Map elements

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<map>	block	block	yes
<navref>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<relcell>	block	block	yes
<relcolspec>	block	block	yes
<relheader>	block	block	yes
<relrow>	block	block	yes
<reltable>	block	block	yes
<shortdesc>	block	block	yes
<topicmeta>	block	block	yes
<topicref>	block	block	yes
<ux-window>	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)	no

Alternative title domain elements (alternativetitles-d)

There are no translatable attributes or other special considerations for elements in this domain. With the exception of the <subtitle> element, all elements represent metadata.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<linktitle>	<titlealt>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	yes
<navtitle>	<titlealt>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	yes
<searchtitle>	<titlealt>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	yes
<subtitle>	<titlealt>	yes	block	block	yes
<titlehint>	<titlealt>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	yes

Emphasis domain elements (emphasis-d)

There are no translatable attributes or other special considerations for elements in this domain.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes

Hazard statement domain elements (hazard-d)

There are no translatable attributes or other special considerations for elements in this domain.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<consequence>	<div>	yes	block	block	yes
<hazardstatement>	<note>	yes	block	block	yes
<hazardsymbol>	<image>	yes	block when @placement=break, otherwise inline	block when @placement=break, otherwise inline	yes
<howtoavoid>	<div>	yes	block	block	yes
<messagepanel>	<div>	yes	block	block	yes
<typeofhazard>	<div>	yes	block	block	yes

Highlight domain elements (hi-d)

There are no translatable attributes or other special considerations for elements in this domain.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<line-through>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<i>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<overline>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<sub>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<sup>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<tt>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes
<u>	<ph>	yes	inline	inline	yes

Utilities domain elements (ut-d)

There are no translatable attributes for elements in this domain.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<area>	<figgroup>	yes	block	block	yes	
<coords>	<ph>	no	inline	inline	no	
<imagemap>	<fig>	yes	block	block	yes	This element can contain translatable alternate text.
<shape>	<keyword>	no	inline	inline	no	
<sort-as>	<data>	no	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow element.

DITAVALref domain elements (ditavalref-d)

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<ditavalmeta>	<topicmeta>	yes	block	block	yes
<ditavalref>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes
<dvrKeyscopePrefix>	<data>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	no
<dvrKeyscopeSuffix>	<data>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	no
<dvrResourcePrefix>	<data>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	no
<dvrResourceSuffix>	<data>	yes	n/a (metadata)	block	no

Map group domain elements (mapgroup-d)

There are no translatable attributes or other special considerations for elements in this domain.

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<keydef>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes
<mapref>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes
<mapresources>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes
<topicgroup>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes
<topichead>	<topicref>	yes	block	block	yes

DITAVAL elements

There are no translatable attributes in the DITAVAL element set. The only element that directly contains translatable text is `<alt-text>`.

Element name	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<code><alt-text></code>	block	yes
<code><endflag></code>	block	yes
<code><prop></code>	block	yes
<code><revprop></code>	block	yes
<code><startflag></code>	block	yes
<code><style-conflict></code>	block	n/a (empty element)
<code><val></code>	block	yes