

Review S: Appendixes

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B Coding practices for DITA grammar files

This section **contains information about** creating modular DTD- or RELAX NG-based grammar files. **It explains how document-type shells, specialization modules, and element-configuration modules (constraint and expansion) are organized.**

B.1 File naming conventions

The OASIS DITA Technical Committee uses certain conventions for the names of XML grammar files. We suggest using these conventions as a way to facilitate the interchange of grammar files.

Globally unique identifiers

Vocabulary modules that are intended for use outside of a narrowly-restricted context should have one or more associated, globally-unique names by which the modules can be referenced without regard to their local storage location. The globally-unique names can be public identifiers, URNs, or absolute URLs.

Document-type shells

Document-type shells should be given a name that distinguishes their name, owner, or purpose, for example, `acme-concept.dtd`. The **document-type** shells that are provided by the DITA Technical Committee typically use the root element of the primary specialization as the basis for the file name. If necessary, a qualifier such as "base" is prepended to the name of the root element.

Module names

For structural modules, the module name should be the element type name of the top-level topic or map type that is defined by the module, such as "topic" or "map".

For element- or attribute-domain modules, the module name should be a name that reflects the subject domain to which the domain applies, such as "highlight" or "software". Domain module names should be sufficiently unique that they are unlikely to conflict with any other domains.

In addition, each element- or attribute-domain module has a short name that is used to construct entity names that are used in associated declarations. Modules can also have abbreviated names that further shorten the short name, for example "hi-d" for the "highlight" domain, where "highlight" is the short name and "hi-d" is the abbreviated name.

C Constraint modules

This section of the specification contains examples of constraint modules implemented using both DTD and RNG.

[Related concepts](#)

[Constraints](#)

D Expansion modules

This section of the specification contains examples of expansion modules implemented using both DTD and RNG.

[Related concepts](#)

[Expansion modules](#)

E 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

Specifies whether the element represents a complete translatable segment. The value "block" indicates that the element is a single segment, while the value "inline" indicates that the element is part of a larger 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

This column contains any additional information, including the following items. This column only appears in tables when it is needed.

- Whether the element has any attributes with values that might need translation
- If specializations of the element might need translation,
- If the element is a "subflow" element for the purposes of translation

Topic elements

The following table contains information about elements that are available within topics. Some elements are also available in DITA maps.

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<abstract>	block	block	yes	
<alt>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow (7) element.
<audience>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<audio>	block	block	yes	
<author>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<body>	block	block	yes	
<bodydiv>	block	block	yes	
<brand>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<category>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<cite>	inline	inline	yes	
<colspec>	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)	
<component>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<copyrholder>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<copyright>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<copyryear>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<created>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<critdates>	block (metadata)	block	yes	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<data>	n/a (metadata)	block	no	Specializations of <data> might contain translatable content.
<dd>	block	block	yes	
<ddhd>	block	block	yes	
<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 (7) 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 (7) element.
<foreign>	block	block	yes	The block vs. inline designation for the <foreign> element is likely to change for some specializations. The <foreign> element might contain DITA elements, such as <desc>, <object>, and <image>, in addition to non-DITA elements. Such elements can contain translatable content; 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 (7) element.

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<index-see-also>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow (7) element.
<indexterm>	block	block	yes	This element is considered a subflow (7) element.
<keytext>	block	block	yes	
<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	@ref title 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 (empty)	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)	
<note>	block	block	yes	@other type 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	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
<prodinfo>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prodname>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prognum>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<prolog>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<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 (7) 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	
<sli>	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	

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?	Notes
	block	block	yes	
<unknown>	block	block	no	
<video>	block	block	yes	
<vrm>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<vrmlist>	block (metadata)	block	yes	
<xref>	inline	inline	yes	

Comment by Kristen J Eberlein on 11 October 2022

We need to consider how we want to handle <image> and <hazardsymbol> (specialized from <image>). The current wording in the tables is awkward.

Also, Eliot pointed out the following in the Content Fusion review: "<image> is not a block for translation purposes, it is a container -- only the <alt> element within <image> contains translatable text. Localization of the image would be separate."

Disposition: Unassigned

Map elements

The following table contains information about the elements that are defined in the map module.

Element name	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<map>	block	block	yes
<navref>	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty)
<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)	n/a (empty)

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
	<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

Element name	Specialization base	Same behavior as specialization base?	Block/inline (presentation)	Block/inline (translation)	Translatable content?
<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 (7) 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?
<alt-text>	block	yes
<endflag>	block	yes
<prop>	block	yes
<revprop>	block	yes
<startflag>	block	yes
<style-conflict>	n/a (empty)	n/a (empty element)
<val>	block	yes

F Formatting expectations

DITA is a standard that supports the creation of human-readable content. Accordingly, DITA defines fundamental document components. Since there is a reasonable expectation that such document components be rendered consistently, we suggest the following formatting conventions.

Table 1: Formatting expectations for DITA elements

Element	Suggested formatting
	Apply bold highlighting to the contents of the element.
<cite>	Set citations apart from the surrounding text by a form of highlighting, for example, italics.
<dd>	See <dl>.
<dl>	Apply the following conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The term (<dt>) is against the starting margin of the page or column.• The description or definition (<dd>) is either indented and on the next line or on the same line after the term.• The <dlhead> looks like a table heading row.
<dlhead>	See <dl>.
<dt>	See <dl>.
	For Western languages, apply italic highlighting to the contents of the element.
<i>	For Western languages, apply italic highlighting to the contents of the <i> element.
	Apply the following conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In ordered lists, list items are indicated by numbers or alphabetical characters.• In unordered lists, list items are indicated by bullets or dashes.
<lines>	Render the contents of <lines> elements in a non-monospaced font.
<line-through>	Render the contents of the <line-through> element with a line struck through.
<lq>	Render the contents of the <lq> element as an indented block.
<note>	Render a label for notes. The content of the label depends on the values of the @type attribute. A note typically is formatted in a way that stands out from the surrounding content.
	See .
<overline>	Render a line above the contents of the <overline> element.
<pre>	Render the content of a <pre> element in a monospaced font.
<sl>	See <sli>.
<sli>	Apply the following conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The content of each simple list item is placed on a separate line.• The lines are not distinguished by numbers, bullets, or other icons.
	Apply bold highlighting to the contents of the element.

Element	Suggested formatting
<sub>	Render the contents of the <sub> element lower in relationship to the surrounding text and in a smaller font.
<sup>	Render the contents of the <sup> element higher in relationship to the surrounding text and in a smaller font.
<tt>	Render the contents of the <tt> element in a monospaced font.
<u>	Apply underlining to the contents of the <u> element.

G OASIS grammar files

This section provides information about the grammar files that are provided in the DITA base edition.

G.1 File names in the base DITA edition

The OASIS DITA Technical Committee uses certain conventions for the names of XML grammar files. We suggest using these conventions as a way to facilitate the interchange of grammar files.

DTD-based specialization modules

The DITA Technical Committee uses certain file-naming conventions for DTD-based specialization modules. While the grammar files shipped with DITA 2.0 do not include domain constraint or expansion modules, we suggest conventions for those modules also.

Module type	File name	Example
Structural	<i>moduleName.mod</i>	topic.mod
Element domain	<i>domainNameDomain.ext</i>	highlightDomain.ent highlightDomain.mod
Attribute domain	<i>attrNameAttDomain.ent</i>	deliveryTargetAttDomain.ent
Constraint	<i>qualifierTargetConstraint.mod</i>	strictTaskbodyConstraint.mod acmeHighlightDomainConstraint.mod
Expansion		acme-SectionExpansion.mod acme-CellPurposeAttExpansion.ent acme-otherpropsAttExpansion.mod example-dlentryModeAttExpansion.ent

Comment by Kristen J Eberlein on 19 September 2022

The names of the expansion modules listed in the "Example" column are taken from the example topics. They do not follow a consistent pattern. I suspect that the same is true for file names used in the constraint example topics.

Disposition: Unassigned

where:

- *moduleName* is the name of the element type, such as "topic" or "map".
- *domainName* is the short name of the domain, for example, "highlight" or "utilities".
- *attrName* is the name of the specialized attribute, for example, "deliveryTarget".
- *ext* is the file extension, for example, "ent" or "mod".
- *qualifier* is a string that is specific to the constraints module and characterizes it, for example, "strict" or "requiredTitle" or "myCompany-".
- *Target* is the target of the constraint with an initial capital, for example, "Topic" or "HighlightDomain".

RELAX NG-based specialization modules

The DITA Technical Committee uses certain file-naming conventions for RNG-based specialization modules. While the grammar files shipped with DITA 2.0 do not include domain constraint or expansion modules, we suggest conventions for those modules also.

Module type	File name	Example
Structural	<i>moduleNameMod.rng</i>	conceptMod.rng
Element domain	<i>domainNameDomainMod.rng</i>	highlightDomainMod.rng
Attribute domain	<i>attrNameAttDomain.rng</i>	deliveryTargetAttDomain.rng
Constraint	<i>qualifierTargetConstraintMod.rng</i>	strictTaskbodyConstraintMod.rng acmeHighlightDomainConstraintMod.rng
Expansion		sectionExpansionMod.rng cellPurposeAtt.rng acme-otherpropsAttExpansion.rng tableCellAttExpansion.rng

Comment by Kristen J Eberlein on 19 September 2022

The names of the expansion modules listed in the "Example" column are taken from the example topics. They do not follow a consistent pattern. I suspect that the same is true for file names used in the constraint example topics.

Also, is including "Mod" in element-domain or constraint files something we really want to do, or was it necessary for the RNG-to-DITA/XSD converter?

Disposition: Unassigned

where:

- *moduleName* is the name of the element type, such as "topic" or "map".
- *domainName* is the short name of the domain, for example, "highlight" or "utilities".
- *attrName* is the name of the specialized attribute, for example, "deliveryTarget".
- *qualifier* is a string that is specific to the constraints module and characterizes it, for example, "strict" or "requiredTitle" or "myCompany-".
- *Target* is the target of the constraint with an initial capital, for example, "Topic" or "HighlightDomain".

G.2 Globally-unique identifiers in the base DITA edition

Each DITA grammar file has a globally-unique identifier. This identifier can reference either the latest version or a specific version of the grammar file.

Each of the following grammar files has globally-unique identifier:

- Document-type shell
- Structural vocabulary module
- Element- or attribute domain module
- Element-configuration module (constraint or expansion)

DTD-based grammar files

The public identifiers for the DTD files that are maintained by OASIS use the following format:

```
"-//OASIS//DTD DITA version information-type//EN"
```

where:

- *version* either is the specific version number (for example, 2.0) or 2.x, which represents the most recent version of DITA 2.x. Omitting the version number entirely is also equivalent to the most recent version of DITA 2.x.
- *information-type* is the name of the topic or map type, for example, Base Topic.

Note that "OASIS" is the owner identifier; this indicates that the artifacts are owned by OASIS. The keyword "DITA" is a convention that indicates that the artifact is DITA-related.

RNG-based grammar files

The URNs for the RNG files that are maintained by OASIS use the following format:

```
"urn:pubid:oasis:names:tc:dita:rng:information-type.rng:version"
```

where:

- *version* either is the specific version number (for example, 2.0) or 2.x, which represents the most recent version of DITA 2.x. Omitting the version number entirely is also equivalent to the most recent version of DITA 2.x.
- *information-type* is the name of the topic or map type, for example, basetopic

Note that "oasis" is the owner identifier; this indicates that the artifacts are owned by OASIS. The keyword "dita" is a convention that indicates that the artifact is DITA-related.

G.3 Domains provided in the base DITA edition

The base DITA edition includes a set of attribute- and element-domain specializations. The attribute domains are available for use in both maps and topics, while the element domains vary as to where they can be made available.

Attribute-specialization domains

The following table lists the attribute specializations that are included in the base DITA edition.

Domain	Description
@audience	Attribute for conditional processing based on target audience
@deliveryTarget	Attribute for conditional processing based on target delivery mechanism
@otherprops	Attribute for conditional processing when an appropriate semantic is not developed
@platform	Attribute for conditional processing based on platform
@product	Attribute for conditional processing based on product

Element-domain specializations

The following table lists the **element-domain** specializations that are included in the base DITA edition.

Domain	Purpose	Where available	Short name
Alternative titles	Provides alternative titles for resources	Map & topic	alternativeTitles-d
DITAVAlref	Enables filtering a branch of a DITA map	Map	ditavalref-d
Emphasis	Provides and elements for indicating emphasis	Map & topic	emphasis-d
Hazard statement	Provides a hazard statement element that meets meets ANSI Z535 and ISO 3864 requirements	Map & topic	hazard-d
Highlighting	Provides typographic elements	Map & topic	hi-d
Map group	Provides convenience elements for use in DITA maps	Map	mapgroup-d
Utilities	Provides image maps and a sort key	Map & topic	ut-d

G.4 Document-type shells provided in the base DITA edition

The DITA specification contains a starter set of document-type shells. These document-type shells are commented and can be used as templates for creating custom document-type shells.

The following table lists the document-type shells that are included in the base DITA edition and the domains that are integrated into them.

Document-type shell	Domains included	Domains NOT included
Base map	All attribute domains The following element domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative titles • DITAVAl reference • Emphasis • Hazard statement • Highlighting • Map group • Utilities 	Not applicable
Base topic	All attribute domains and the following element domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative titles • Emphasis • Hazard statement • Highlighting • Utilities 	The following element domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DITAVAl reference • Map group
Subject scheme	All attribute domains The following element domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative titles • Emphasis • Highlighting 	The following element domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DITAVAl reference • Hazard statement • Map group • Utilities