

# DAISY XML: Not Just Accessible

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## DAISY Vision and Mission

**"The DAISY Consortium envisions a world where people with print disabilities have equal access to information and knowledge, without delay or additional expense."**

**"The DAISY Consortium's mission is to develop and promote international standards and technologies which enable equal access to information and knowledge by all people with print disabilities and *which also benefit the wider community.*"**

## DAISY XML = DTBook

- The DTBook DTD is the DAISY XML element set which borrows from HTML for elements relevant to publishing, going further to define those elements that are 'book-centric'
- The DTBook DTD "strikes such a good balance between simplicity and complexity"
- Designed to support both complex textbook publication and all that is less complex: publishers' choice
- DAISY XML is not a complete DAISY book, it is the textual component

## DAISY: the Underlying Principle

Structure, semantics and meaningful access to the content are the foundation of the DAISY Standard and are the basis for the DTBook DTD and DAISY XML.

Digital publishing is here to stay, and DAISY is the "Best way".

### DAISY is different because it, 1:

- Focuses on the semantics rather than what it looks like
- Supports navigation through and to the content by headings, paragraphs, list items, tables, etc.
- Supports page numbers mirroring the pagination in the print version, enabling navigation by page and to specific page numbers

### DAISY is different because it, 2:

- Provides an accessible **multimedia** reading experience
- Facilitates comprehension and reinforces meaning through synchronized audio and text components

Semantic relevance and the *meaning* of the content, are critical for those who cannot use the visual presentation to get this information. Clear structural relationships, rapid access to specific points in the content, and easy movement through the content support learning and comprehension.

# "Save as DAISY" In Every Authoring Application

- Microsoft Office: free, open source, downloadable add-in for Word XP, Word 2003, and Word 2007
- Open Office with MathML support: open source, now under development
- InDesign Creative Suite 4: we're told that InDesign 4 will support output to EPUB - the author/publisher can specify HTML or DAISY XML (both are supported vocabularies in the EPUB spec)
- **Goal: that every authoring application developer includes a "Save As DAISY" output option**

## Keys: Tools and Transformations

- XSLT transform from any XML vocabulary to DAISY XML
- Word to DAISY XML
- DAISY XML to EPUB
- DAISY XML to complete DAISY file set
- DAISY XML to XHTML
- Forward/backward DAISY content migration

You can transform from your existing XML processes, but you must identify semantically important items in the markup.

## Wider "Incorporation" of DAISY XML

- NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) was adopted in 2005; it is the required standard for K - 12 publishers in the U.S, and is a baseline element set of DAISY XML (8,300 titles from K-12 publishers)
- OPS 2.0 (Open Publication Structure) became an official IDPF industry standard for eBook publishing in September '07; OPS 2.0 incorporates the DAISY XML element vocabulary and the DAISY navigation model using the NCX (the 'navigation center' - the heart of a DAISY book)
- DAISY XML has been formally recommended as the required format for publishers of educational material by the Minister of Higher Education and Research in France

## DAISY in the World Now

- DAISY is the most successful, most widely adopted access technology for reading in the world
- Hardware players (including SD card players), software players, cell phone playback, PDA's (personal digital assistant), [\*commercial MP3 players and browsers with screen readers]
- Hundreds of thousands more DAISY users than there are screen reader users

## XML is the Way to Go, DAISY XML is the Best Way

DAISY Consortium tag line: "The Best Way to Read, The *Best Way to Publish*"

The DAISY Standard is alive and well, and continues to be developed with input from the mainstream publishing community and from disability groups outside of the original blind and print disability community (the original focus of the DAISY Standard).

## The Bottom Line

DAISY **is** the "Best Way to Publish". The writing is on the wall regarding laws that require digital accessibility. Educational publishers are or will be required to provide files of their publications in an accessible format. Produce DAISY content, offer it as a digital format and sell it along with or separately from the print publication. Why not increase your markets? *Everyone Wins.*

## End Notes

- Global Library Initiative
- Open source
- DAISY Pipeline
- DAISY Structure Guidelines
- Collaboration: Join us as a Friend: Publisher, Educator, and Advocate Membership