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L-IDM: answering some key design questions



Continuing the dialogic methafor:

- Sometimes topics (of a given kind) are "big": What should be said about each (kind of) topic? Which are the self-contained units of dialogue about a topic (of a given kind)?
- What should be said about each (multiple) group of topics?
- What should be said at each "switch of subject", i.e., when the dialogue flows from one topic to a different one (by effect of a relevant relationship)?

L-IDM key concept:DIALOGUE ACT

DIALOGUE ACT (from linguistics) = "A dialogue act is a **unit** in the communicative behaviour in dialogue" "Dialogue is a flow of dialogue acts between actors – senders and receivers"

In web applications:

DIALOGUE ACT = a unit (i.e., atomic element) of content offered by the application to the user during the dialogue

 asymmetric definition: we consider here system's generated dialogue acts only

L-IDM key concept:DIALOGUE ACT

Dialogue = navigation

hence

Navigation flow = flow of system's generated dialogue acts

- requests of informations expressed by the user (through the interface)
- informative or persuasive (or operational) content offered by the application

DIALOGUE ACT



Different roles for dialogue acts:

- Talking about a **TOPIC** (of a given kind) **exhaustively**
 - **■** Example
- Talking about a "CHARACTERISTIC" of a TOPIC (of a given kind)
 - **■** Example
- Introducing a **GROUP OF TOPICS**
 - Example 1 (compare with Example 2)
- Introducing a a SWITCH from a TOPIC to a (set of) DIFFERENT one(s)
 - Example (Museum Room->ArtWorks in the room)

DIALOGUE ACT



Very often (NOT always) dialogue act =page

Examples:

- One act=> One page
- Multiple acts => one page
- Multiple acts=>one page
- One act=> multiple pages (to avoid)

⁺DIALOGUE ACT



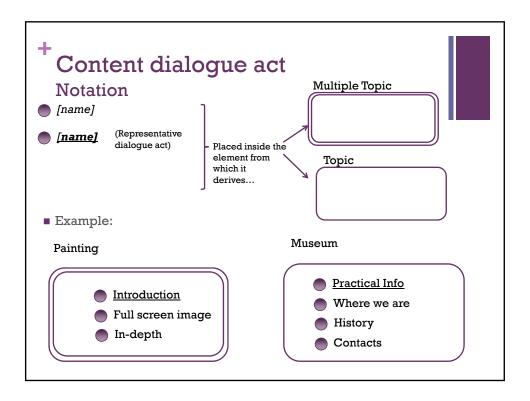
Three categories – and related terminology:

- **Content Dialogue Act:**
 - A dialogue unit about a topic (of a given kind)
- **■** Transition Act
 - A dialogue unit about a switch of subject, i.e, a relevant association
- Introductory act:
- A dialogue unit about a group of Topics (within multiple group of topics)

*Content Dialogue Acts (CDAs)



- Example:
 - Topics of Kind Paitings are fragmented in Content Dialogue Acts: Introduction, (Narrative) Full screen image, bibliography, exhibition history, provenance
- CDAs can be
 - mandatory (default) or optional (must be explicitly specified)
 - single (default) or multiple (must be specified)
- REPRESENTATIVE (or DEFAULT) CDA
 - Usually, one "fragment" (CDA) is "more important", more "representative" than others, and is mandatory, i.e., always present in all topics of a given kind
 - In P-design, entry points for navigation



+ From Topic to CDS: Fragmentation Criteria & Design Issues ■ FRAGMENTATION IS A SUBJECTIVE somehow arbitrary ACTIVITY ■ EG. Fragmenting in C-IDM or in L-IDM? Ex: Fragmenting single topics may be equivalentent to defining many single topics in C-IDM and avoiding any fragmentation in L-IDM (C-IDM) (L-IDM) Museum Museum Practical Info Where we are History Contacts OR Museum Practical Info History History Museum Practical Info Contacts Contacts Where we are

From Topic to CDS: Fragmentation Criteria & Design Issues



- ■Some fragmentation criteria
 - ■Content size (large amount of content should be split to be more readable, more usable....)
 - Content nature
 - User profile
 - ■Multiple media

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From Topic to CDS: Fragmentation Criteria & Design Issues



Example Multiple Topic "Print" can be fragmented:

- By size:
 - CDAs "Introduction", "Further details"
- By content nature:
 - CDAs "Subject" "Technical info", "Historical info", "Artistic comments"
- By user profile:
 - CDSs "Description (for non experts)" "Description (for experts)"
- By media:
 - CDA "Textual + Small image description" "Full screen Image" "Animated Image".

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Transition Dialogue Act (TDA)



- Goal: Introducing/Explaining a change of dialogue subject
- Induced by relevant relationships having max cardinality >1
 - E.g. From a Technique to the Prints created using that technique
- Non always necessary (depends on cardinality)
- Seldom necessary when cardinality is [1:1] or very low
 - Eg. From a Print to its (only) related Technique
- It has usually some content inside, more often:
 - A list of items (for the related Topics) each one described by a "preview" of the Topic (name, thumbnail image, ...

and, or

- A descriptive/explanatory text for the whole set of related items
 - Example "Titian's paintings" or "Drypoint Prints"

