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**XQuery FLWOR Expressions** 

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# What is FLWOR?

FLWOR (pronounced "flower") is an acronym for "For, Let, Where, Order by, Return".

- For selects a sequence of nodes
- Let binds a sequence to a variable
- Where filters the nodes
- Order by sorts the nodes
- **Return** what to return (gets evaluated once for every node)

# The XML Example Document

We will use the "books.xml" document in the examples below (same XML file as in the previous chapter).

View the "books.xml" file in your browser.

# How to Select Nodes From "books.xml" With FLWOR

Look at the following path expression:



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The expression above will select all the title elements under the book elements that are under the bookstore element that have a price element with a value that is higher than 30.

The following FLWOR expression will select exactly the same as the path expression above:

```
for $x in doc("books.xml")/bookstore/book
where $x/price>30
return $x/title
```

The result will be:

```
<title lang="en">XQuery Kick Start</title>
<title lang="en">Learning XML</title>
```

With FLWOR you can sort the result:

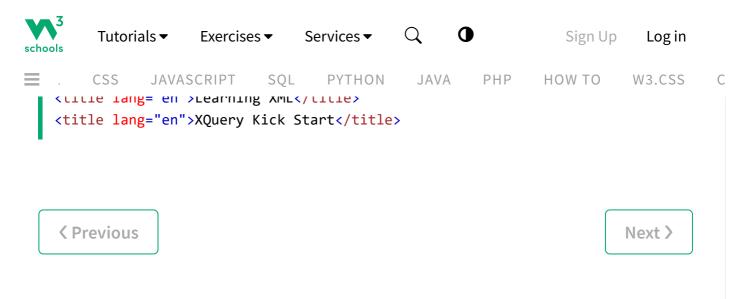
```
for $x in doc("books.xml")/bookstore/book
where $x/price>30
order by $x/title
return $x/title
```

The for clause selects all book elements under the bookstore element into a variable called \$x.

The **where** clause selects only book elements with a price element with a value greater than 30.

The **order by** clause defines the sort-order. Will be sort by the title element.

The **return** clause specifies what should be returned. Here it returns the title elements.



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