Generating Documentation

Chapter 1 is an introduction. Ampersand leaves it practically empty so the author can make an introduction specifically suited to the situation.

Chapter 2 is meant for business stakeholders. It assumes the reader has no knowledge of Ampersand, information systems design, or methodology. This chapter describes business processes as a set of business rules. The reader can check for correct language and correct use of business rules.

Chapter 3 is a diagnosis, meant for the author to see where the document needs more work. It can be used by peers to get an impression of the status of the work at a glance. It can be used by managers and auditors to monitor progress.

Chapter 4 is a conceptual analysis of the business rules. It is meant for the author and his peers to validate the formalization of the business rules.

# The business language

Chapter 2 of the functional specifications is written for stakeholders in the business. They have a concern to know how an information system perceives the business. To suit these concerns, the system must “understand” the business and behave accordingly. For this purpose, chapter 2 describes the language of the business. Before a system is built, business stakeholders may validate the interpretation of information systems designers by scrutinizing the language described in chapter 2. In situations where that language is based on written authoritative sources, such as law, contracts, or corporate policy , the author can refer to those.

This chapter is organized in themes, to let each business user can focus on her own specialism. Each pattern in the Ampersand source describes one theme, so the author must consider to which specific audience he targets that pattern. Each theme contains a list of concepts and a list of phrases. Together, these lists define the language of the business.

* The purpose of a PATTERN is printed as the first paragraph of the corresponding theme, to let the author introduce the theme to the target audience.
* Each CONCEPT-statement leads to one definition, which is shown in the theme in which it is used for the first time in the document. If there are multiple CONCEPT-statements for the same concept, their definitions and references are all shown.
* Each VIEW-statement leads to one phrase, which too is shown in the theme in which it is used for the first time in the document. A VIEW-statement that is defined inside a pattern, is documented in the theme that documents that pattern.
* PRAGMAs are not used in this chapter[[1]](#footnote-1).
* The purpose of every concept is printed just before its definitions. If a concept has multiple purposes, they are all printed in that location.
* Note that a purpose and a definition are kept together by the concept name only. So if a concept has two purposes and three definitions, there is no way to make a purpose specifically for one of these definitions.

1. In previous editions, PRAGMAs were used to form phrases. This mechanism is considered obsolete, because it can be done better by means of VIEWs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)