Reference Guide for writing GeoNetwork documentation

By the developers

V 0.1

Table of Contents

Part I. First Part

1. Writing GeoNetwork opensource documentation

1.1 Introduction

The GeoNetwork documentation is written in DocBook[1] format. DocBook is a collection of standards and tools for technical publishing. DocBook was originally created by a consortium of software companies as a standard for computer documentation. But the basic “book” features of DocBook can be used for other kinds of content, so it has been adapted to many purposes. DocBook is an XML format. An example of the source of Chapter 2 of this document can be seen in Part II of this document.

Using DocBook as the documentation format has some big advantages. The format allows us to

- integrate new documentation relatively easy
- keep content separate from layout/formatting
- generate HTML and PDF documents (and possibly others) from one set of source documents
- stay away from complex and/or proprietary document formats
- maintain versions of the documentation
- integrate the build process of the output documents in the standard software compilation process based on `Ant`[2]

The Document is split up into Parts that serve different user groups. These groups are the general visitor, spatial data and information managers, system administrators, system integrators and software developers.

Each Part is split up in Chapters. Chapters are saved as separate files. A prefix is added to the filenames and the filename reflects the Chapter title. Chapters have sections that cover a limited topic.

1.2 Writing DocBook documentation

The documentation should be written using only a limited number of the available DocBook `<elements>`. A brief overview of the most commonly used elements is provided in the next chapter.

The easiest way to write DocBook XML documents is to use an XML editor. XML editors will normally suggest what elements you can use, close elements for you and give warnings when you make errors.

Popular XML editors are available as plugins to Eclipse[3], see the XML section on the Eclipse Plugin Central[4].

You can also use text editors to edit DocBook files.

Warning

Be careful that the documents you write are well formed and valid DocBook XML.

[1] http://www.docbook.org
[3] http://www.eclipse.org
[4] http://www.eclipseplugincentral.com/

1.3 Generating the documentation in HTML and PDF

To generate the final documentation in HTML or PDF, `Ant` is required to be installed on your computer.

Open a Terminal window and `cd` (change directory) into the `docs` folder. Type `ant` and hit Return. All the documentation should now be compiled and a new Manual.pdf file and new content in the HTML folder should be generated.

To only generate the PDF document you can run `ant pdf`, while you can run `ant html` to only generate the HTML files. To generate the Javadoc source code documentation run `ant javadoc`.

2. Chapter Title

2.1. Section 1 Title

This document illustrates what elements are used in the GeoNetwork documentation. It can be used as a reference to understand what elements to use and what not. This is done to keep writing the guidelines a simple process

Text goes in `para` elements

Formal paragraph. Sometimes you don't want a section to highlight something. Use a `formalpara` instead.

Section 2 title

Important things that have to end up in the Index use the `indexterm`. You can find more options (for sorting and hierarchy for example) here [1].

Buttons in the GUI are surrounded by the literal element: `Save`

To highlight text, use (with care!) the **emphasis** element.

If you want to add a footnote, add a `footnote` element. [2]

If you want to make references between text and figures for instance, use the `xref` element pointing to the id of the element you want to link to: (Figure 2.1, “The GeoNetwork opensource logo”).

Figure 2.1. The GeoNetwork opensource logo

Use the `programlisting` to show code or XML:

```
<gmd:language>
    <gco:CharacterString>eng</gco:CharacterString>
</gmd:language>
```

Important

Important stuff here!

Warning

This is a warning :-)

[1] http://www.sagehill.net/docbookxsl/GenerateIndex.html
[2] This footnote was added in the text.

Part II. Second Part

3. The DocBook XML of Chapter 2

This is the XML (source) representation of the previous chapter 2.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE book PUBLIC "-//OASIS//DTD DocBook XML V4.4//EN"
                      "http://www.docbook.org/xml/4.4/docbookx.dtd">
<book>
    <chapter id="docbook_guidelines_chapter2">
        <title>Chapter Title</title>
        <sect1>
            <title>Section 1 Title</title>
            <para>
                This document illustrates what elements are used in the GeoNetwork
                documentation. It can be used as a reference to understand what
                elements to use and what not. This is done to keep writing the
                guidelines a simple process
            </para>
            <para>Text goes in <literal>para</literal> elements</para>
            <formalpara>
                <title>Formal paragraph</title>
                <para>Sometimes you don't want a section to highlight something.
                    Use a <literal>formalpara</literal> instead.</para>
            </formalpara>

            <sect2>
                <title>Section 2 title</title>
                <para>
                    <indexterm>
                        <primary>indexterm</primary>
                    </indexterm>
                    Important things that have to end up in the Index use the
                    <literal>indexterm</literal>. You can find more options
                    (for sorting and hierarchy for example)
                    <ulink url="http://www.sagehill.net/docbookxsl/GenerateIndex.html">
                        here
                    </ulink>.
                </para>
                <para>Buttons in the GUI are surrounded by the literal element:
                    <literal>Save</literal>
                </para>
                <para>To highlight text, use (with care!) the <emphasis role="bold"
                    >emphasis</emphasis> element. </para>
                <para>If you want to add a footnote, add a <literal>footnote</literal>
                    element.
                    <footnote>
                        <para>This footnote was added in the text.</para>
                    </footnote>
                </para>
                <para>
                    If you want to make references between text and figures for
                    instance, use the <literal>xref</literal> element pointing to the
                    id of the element you want to link to: (<xref linkend="logo_id"/>).
                </para>
                <figure id="logo_id">
                    <title>The GeoNetwork opensource logo</title>
                    <mediaobject>
                        <imageobject>
                            <imagedata fileref="images/GeoNetwork_opensource_logo.jpg" width="4cm" contentwidth="4c
                        </imageobject>
                    </mediaobject>
                </figure>
                <para>Use the <literal>programlisting</literal> to show code or XML:</para>
                <programlisting>
```

```
                    <![CDATA[<gmd:language>
                        <gco:CharacterString>eng</gco:CharacterString>
                    </gmd:language>]]>
                </programlisting>
                <important>
                    <para>Important stuff here!</para>
                </important>
                <warning>
                    <para>This is a warning :-)</para>
                </warning>
            </sect2>
        </sect1>
    </chapter>
</book>
```

Index

I