

Revised element reference topics

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<alt>

Alternate text is a textual description of an image that can be read by a screen reader. This enables the content and functionality of the image to be accessible to people with visual or cognitive disabilities.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group* and *outputclass*.

Example

The markup for alternate text within an image looks like this:

```
<image href="tip-ing.jpg">
  <alt>Here's a Tip!</alt>
</image>
```

<cite>

A citation indicates the title of a bibliographic resource.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementation, citations are usually set apart from the surrounding text by a form of highlighting, for example, italics.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *outputclass*, and *@keyref*.

Example

```
<p>The online article <cite>Specialization in the Darwin
  Information Typing
  Architecture</cite> provides a detailed explanation of how to
  define new
  topic types.</p>
```

<desc>

A description is a statement that describes or contains additional information about an object. It can be applied to a table, figure, cross reference, link, and multimedia object.

Usage information

The following list outlines some usages of the <desc> element:

<table> and <fig>

Provides more information than can be contained in the title.

<xref> and <link>

Provides a description of the target.

Processors *MAY* choose to display the content of a <desc> as hover help for a link.

<object>

Provides alternate content to use when the context does not permit displaying the object.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group* and *outputclass*.

Example

```
<fig><title>The Handshake</title>
<desc>This image shows two hands clasped in a formal,
business-like handshake.</desc>
<image href="handshake.jpg">
  <alt>The handshake</alt>
</image>
</fig>
```

<draft-comment>

A draft comment is content that is intended for review and discussion, such as questions, comments, and notes to reviewers. This content is not intended to be included in production output.

Usage information

Authors can use the <draft-comment> element to ask a question or to make a comment that they want others to review. To indicate the source, date, or status of the draft comment, authors can use the @author, @time, or @disposition attributes.

Disposition: / Status:

Robert and I think that the above section should be removed from the spec. It is basic, user guide material, and the information is already covered in the "Attributes" section. I enhanced the example section to cover usage of all three attributes.

Processing expectations

Processors *SHOULD* provide a mechanism that causes the content of the <draft-comment> element to be rendered in draft output only. By default, processors *SHOULD* strip out <draft-comment> elements to prevent publishing internal comments by mistake.

Disposition: / Status:

Note that the above normative statements were revised in order to clearly state the element. That will enable such content to be viewed in ancillary materials as standalone content.

(DITA 1.3 content) Processing systems *SHOULD* provide a mechanism that causes the content of this element to be rendered in draft output only. By default, processors *SHOULD* strip them out to prevent publishing internal comments by mistake.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group* (with a narrowed definition for @translate, given below), *outputclass*, and the attributes defined below.

@translate

Indicates whether the content of the element should be translated or not. For this element the default value is "no". Setting to "yes" will override the default. The DITA architectural specification contains a list of each OASIS DITA element and its common processing default for the translate value; because this element uses an actual default, it will always be treated as `translate="no"` unless overridden as described. Available values are:

no	The content of this element is not translateable.
yes	The content of this element is translateable.
-dita-use-conref-target	See <i>Using the -dita-use-conref-target value</i> for more information.

@author

Designates the originator of the draft comment.

@time

Describes when the draft comment was created.

@disposition

Status of the draft comment.

Disposition: / Status:

I removed the following sentence: "Prior to DITA 1.2, this attribute was limited to the following values: issue, open, accepted, rejected, deferred, duplicate, reopened, unassigned, or completed."

Example

The following example illustrates how an content developer can use a <draft-comment> element to pose a question to reviewers.

```
<draft-comment
  author="EBP"
  time="23 May 2017"
  status="missing-info">
Where's the usage information for this section?
</draft-comment>
```

Processors might render the information from the highlighted attributes at viewing or publishing time. Authors might use the value of the status @attribute to track the work that remains to be done on a content collection.

A list item is an item in either an ordered or unordered list.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementations, processors typically use the following conventions for displaying the contents of elements:

- In ordered lists, list items are indicated by numbers or alphabetical characters.
- In unordered lists, list items are indicated by bullets or dashes.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group* and *outputclass*.

Example

```
<ul>
  <li>This is an item in an unordered list.</li>
  <li>This is another item in an unordered list.</li>
</ul>
```

<liq>

A long quotation is a quotation that contains one or more paragraphs. Authors can specify the title and source of the document that is being quoted.

Usage information

Authors can use the @href and @keyref attributes to specify the source of the quotation. Use the quote element <q> for short quotations that are intended to be rendered inline. The <longquoteref> element is available for more complex references to the source of a quotation.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementations, processors generally render <liq> as an indented block.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *Link relationship attribute group* (with a narrowed definition for @type, given below), *outputclass*, and *@keyref*, and the attributes defined below.

@reftitle

The title of the document or topic being quoted.

@type

Indicates the location of the source of the quote. Note that this differs from the @type attribute on many other DITA elements. See *The type attribute* for detailed information on the usual supported values and processing implications. The following attribute values are allowed (but deprecated) for backward compatibility:

external

The @href is to a Web site. This value is

deprecated in favor of use of the @scope and @format attributes.

internal

The @href is to a DITA topic. This value is deprecated in favor of use of the @scope and @format attributes.

Example

The following code example contains a quotation. The @reftitle attribute specifies the title of the document that is quoted, and the @href attribute indicates a Web site where the full text of the address can be accessed.

```
<p>This is the first line of the address that
Abraham Lincoln delivered on November 19, 1863 for the
dedication
of the cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.</p>
<lq reftitle="Gettysburg address"
href="https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/
Gettysburg_Address_(Nicolay_draft)" format="html"
scope="external">Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent a new
nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition
that all men
are created equal.</lq>
```

When processed, the output might look like the following:

This is the first line of the address that Abraham Lincoln delivered on November 19, 1863 for the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Gettysburg address

An ordered list is a list of items that are sorted by sequence or order of importance.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *outputclass*, *compact*, and *spectitle*.

Example

```
<p>Here are the colors of the rainbow in order of appearance
from top to bottom:</p>
<ol>
<li>Red</li>
<li>Orange</li>
<li>Yellow</li>
<li>Green</li>
<li>Blue</li>
```

```
<li>Indigo</li>
<li>Violet</li>
</ol>
```

<pre>

Preformatted text is text that contains line breaks and spaces intended to be preserved at publication time.

Usage information

Authors should not use the <pre> when a more semantically-specific element is available, such as <codeblock>.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementations, processors generally present the content of a <pre> in a monospaced font.

Processing expectations

Processors should preserve line breaks and spaces at publication time.

Disposition: / Status:

For DITA 2.0, should this be a normative statement?

Example

The following code example will preserve all line breaks and white space.

```
<pre>
    MEMO: programming team fun day
Remember to bring a kite, softball glove, or other favorite
outdoor accessory to tomorrow's fun day outing at Zilker Park.
Volunteers needed for the dunking booth.
</pre>
```

The rendered result will differ depending on the processor. It will generally look something like this:

```
    MEMO: programming team fun day
Remember to bring a kite, softball glove, or other favorite
outdoor accessory to tomorrow's fun day outing at Zilker Park.
Volunteers needed for the dunking booth.
```

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *Display attribute group*, *outputclass*, *xml:space*, and *spectitle*.

<q>

A quotation is a small group of words that are taken from a text or speech and repeated by someone other than the original author or speaker.

Usage information

Authors should not add quote punctuation manually when using the <q> element. Use the long quote element (<lq>) for quotations that should be set off from the surrounding text or that contain multiple paragraphs.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to the implementation, processors typically render a quotation inline.

Processing expectations

Processors that render the <q> element *SHOULD* add appropriate styling, such as locale-specific quotation marks.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: [Universal attribute group](#) and [outputclass](#).

Example

```
George said, <q>Disengage the power supply before servicing the
unit.</q>
```

<sectiondiv>

A section division is a logical grouping of content within a section. There is no additional semantic meaning attached. It is useful primarily as a specialization base and for reuse.

Usage information

The <sectiondiv> element cannot contain a title; the lowest level of titled content within a topic is the section itself. If additional hierarchy is required, use nested topics instead of the section.

The <sectiondiv> element nests itself, so it can be specialized to create structured information within sections. Another common use case for the <sectiondiv> element is to group a sequence of related elements for reuse, so that another topic can reference the entire set with a single @conref attribute.

Because the <sectiondiv> element can only be used within <section> elements, use the <div> element to group content that might occur in both topic bodies and sections.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: [Universal attribute group](#) and [outputclass](#).

Example

In the example below, the <sectiondiv> element is used to group content that can be reused elsewhere.

```
<section>
```

```

<title>Nice pets</title>
<sectiondiv id="smallpets">
  <p>Cats are nice.</p>
  <p>Dogs are nice.</p>
  <p>Friends of mine really love their hedgehogs.</p>
</sectiondiv>
<sectiondiv id="biggerpets">
  <p>Lots of people want ponies when they grow up.</p>
  <p>Llamas are also popular.</p>
</sectiondiv>
</section>

```

<sl>

A simple list is a list that contains a few items of short, phrase-like content, for example, a list of materials in a kit or package.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementations, the list items are rendered without bullets or numbers, on the assumption that each item is short enough to fit on one line, and needs no additional differentiation from its neighbors.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *outputclass*, *compact*, and *spectitle*.

Example

In a reference topic that discusses related modules, the following markup could be used:

```

<section>
  <title>Messages</title>
  <p>Messages from the ags_open module are identical with
  messages from:</p>
  <sl>
    <sli>ags_read</sli>
    <sli>ags_write</sli>
    <sli>ags_close</sli>
  </sl>
</section>

```

<sli>

A simple list item is a component of a simple list. A simple list item contains a brief phrase or text content, adequate for describing package contents, for example.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left up to implementations, processors typically use the following conventions:

- The content of each simple list item is placed on a separate line.
- The lines are not distinguished by numbers, bullets, or other icons.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group* and *outputclass*.

Example

See *sl* on page 10.

An unordered is a list of items in which the order of list items is not significant.

Formatting expectations

Although rendering is left to the implementations, processors typically use the following conventions:

- List items are styled with a bullet character.
- Different bullet or typographic characters are used to indicate the depth of the nesting.

Attributes

The following attributes are available on this element: *Universal attribute group*, *outputclass*, *compact*, and *spectitle*.

Example

```
<ul>
  <li>This is an item in an unordered list.</li>
  <li>To separate it from other items in the list, the
    formatter puts a bullet beside it.</li>
  <li>The following paragraph, contained in the list item
    element, is part of the list item which contains it.
    <p>This is the contained paragraph.</p></li>
  <li>This is the last list item in our unordered list.</li>
</ul>
```

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