**PCDATA: Parsed Character Data**

* Text between start-element and end-element is called as PCDATA which will be examined by the parser.

Example:

<employee> Praveen </employee>

The String “Praveen” is considered as PCDATA

**CDATA: Character Data**

* We know that special characters (such as “<”, “&”)

Must be referenced through pre-defined entities

* If XML data contain many special characters, it is cumbersome to replace all of them. Instead we can use “CDATA (character data) section”
* A CDATA section starts with the following sequence:

<![CDATA [

And ends with the next occurrence of the sequence:

]]>

All characters enclosed between these two sequences are interpreted as characters

* The XML processor ignores all the markup within the CDATA section.

Example:

<employee>Praveen</employee>

The start and end “employee” elements are interpreted as markup. However, if written like this:

<![CDATA[<employee>Praveen</employee>]]>

Then the parsers interprets the same as if it had been written like this:

&lt;employees&gt;Praveen&lt;/employee&gt;