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Implementing XML for Japanese-language scholarly articles

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Scholarly publishers and typesetting service providers in Japan, as well as the J-STAGE e-journal platform got together to devise a way to implement XML for Japanese-language scholarly articles, and worked with JATS working group to develop multi-language extension of JATS. It is now implemented in the new J-STAGE platform that was launched in May, 2012. Characteristics of Japanese writings, characteristics of Japanese publication, how JATS solved problems of coding Japanese-language articles, and how typesetting companies create JATS XML for J-STAGE are discussed.

SGML/XML for Japanese-language scholarly articles

Several experiments were made to publish Japanese-language articles in SGML in early 1990s, and in XML in early 2000s. These are discussed in detail by the author elsewhere 1.

When the scholarly journal platform for Japanese society publishers, J-STAGE, an e-journal publication platform, was launched by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in 1999, it was anticipated that the system should realize full text HTML publication. J-STAGE developed a J-STAGE SGML DTD based on JICST-DTD, and encouraged publishers to use it. J-STAGE also investigated the possibility of XML publishing in 2000, and developed DTD for XML, too 2. But because of the lack of convenient tools, only three J-STAGE journals has been publishing their articles in HTML now. Most of 800 journals on J-STAGE publish articles in PDF.

After many years since its first launch of J-STAGE, JST planned to replace it with a new version in Spring 2012, and decided to implement XML as the content base for the new platform³, because:

- XML enables flexible presentation of journal articles as demonstrated by many western journal publishers.
- XML allows publishers to distribute their contents globally, for example, via PubMed Central.
- XML enables semantic enrichment of journal contents such as by semantic tagging.

JST decided to adopt JATS 0.4 for this purpose. The detail of this implementation will be discussed later in this paper.

Characteristics of Japanese Writing

Scripts

Japanese writing consists of four kinds of scripts, i. e. Kanji, or Chinese Characters (somewhat modified from traditional Chinese), Hirakana, Katakana, and Romaji or Romanized Japanese. Kanji is used mainly to express personal, geographical, material names, object and abstract names, and most technical terms. Instead, Hirakana and Katakana are phonetic, and used mainly as suffixes of verbs and adjectives, and also to express pronunciation (see Ruby).

A name, Yoshihiko Noda, may be expressed in those scripts as in Figure 1.

野田 佳彦	in Kanji
のだ よしひこ	in Hirakana
ノダ ヨシヒコ	in Katakana
Yoshihiko Noda	in Romaji

Fig. 1 Script variations of Japanese personal name.

Name order

Please note that, like in many Asian nations, a person's name is written family name first, first name next, in Japanese context. In XML, this is specified by name-style="eastern".

Vertical, right-to-left, and resulting font changes

Traditionally, Japanese writing was vertical (top-to-down) and right-to-left, as used in China until recently (China today uses horizontal writing altogether). It is still very popular for newspapers, magazines, books as well as scholarly publications in humanity and social science area (Figure 2). On the other hand, horizontal writing is used exclusively in business writings. It is also a common practice in science and technology publishing, including most scholarly journals.

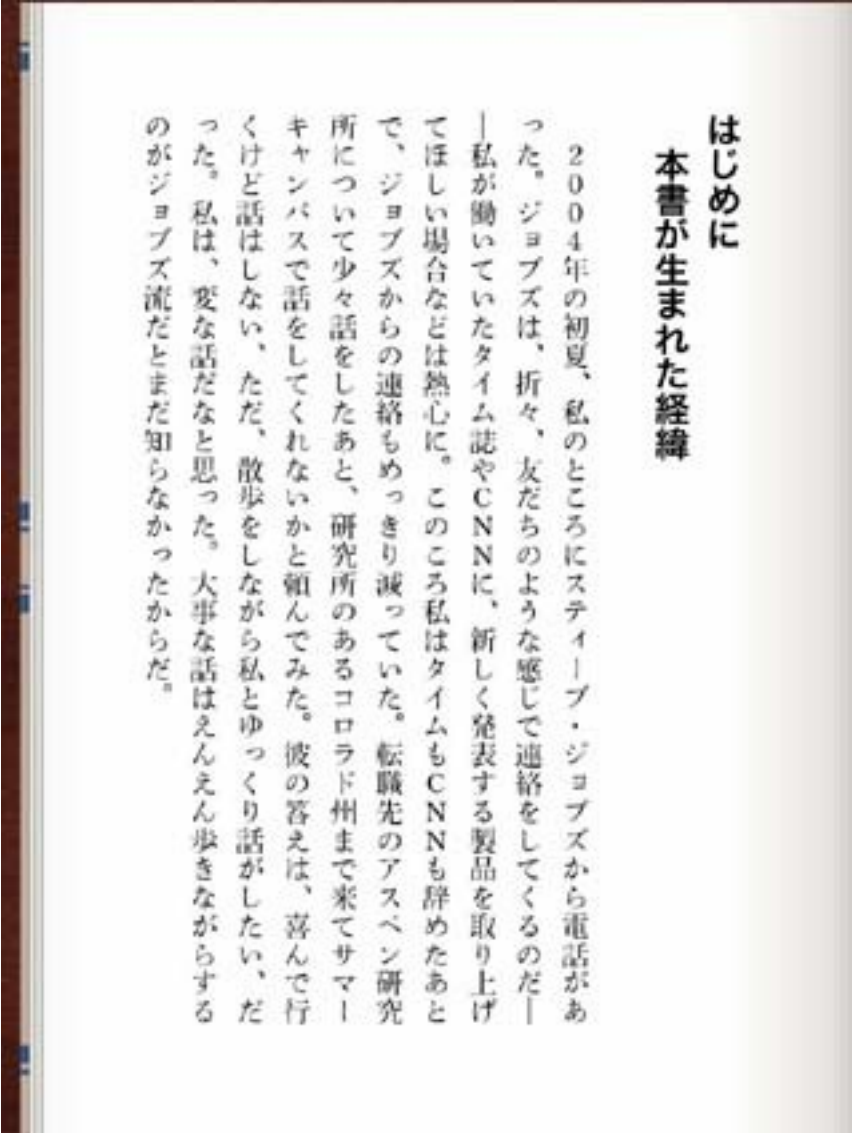


Fig. 2 Example of vertical writing for a Japanese novel.

Some characters have to be changed in vertical writing vs. horizontal writing. For example, parentheses have to be horizontal in vertical writing (Figure 3). This is normally handled by typesetting programs. This feature is supported by MS Word.

(あいうえお)

(かきくけこ)

Fig. 3 Parentheses for horizontal and vertical writings.

Ruby

As Kanji (Chinese character) writing allows multiple readings (pronunciations), especially for personal and geographical names, and thus are difficult to read sometimes. To help read correctly, we often associate such Kanji characters with Kana (phonetic) characters, usually right-side of a word (for vertical writing) or above a word (for horizontal writing) in smaller fonts (Figure 4). Ruby is also used to teach children how to read Kanji. MS Word supports this feature.

していたら、同級生の一人が冗談に^{じょうだん}いくら威張^{いば}つても、
そこから飛び降りる事は出来まい。弱虫やーい。と囃^{はや}した
からである。小使^{こづかい}に負ぶさって帰って来た時、おやじが大
きな眼^めをして二階ぐらいから飛び降りて腰を抜かす奴^{やつ}があ
るかと言^いったから、この次は抜かさずに飛んで見せますと
答えた。

親類のものから西洋製のナイフを貰^{もら}って奇麗^{きれい}な刃^はを日^ひに
磨^{かざ}して、友達^{ともだち}に見せていたら、一人が光る事は光るが切れ
そうもないと言った。切れぬ事があるか、何でも切ってみ

Fig. 4 Examples of Ruby

Emphasis

In Western articles, underlines, italics and bold fonts are used to emphasize a word. In Japanese writing, we typically use emphasis in dots and other characters. They are placed similar to Rubies, i. e. right-side of a character, or above a character. MS Word support this feature.

あいうえお
かきくけこ

Fig. 5 Examples of Emphasis

Warichu is a short note inserted within a sentence in two lines, typically with parentheses. This is often used in humanity scholarly publications, and supported by MS Word.

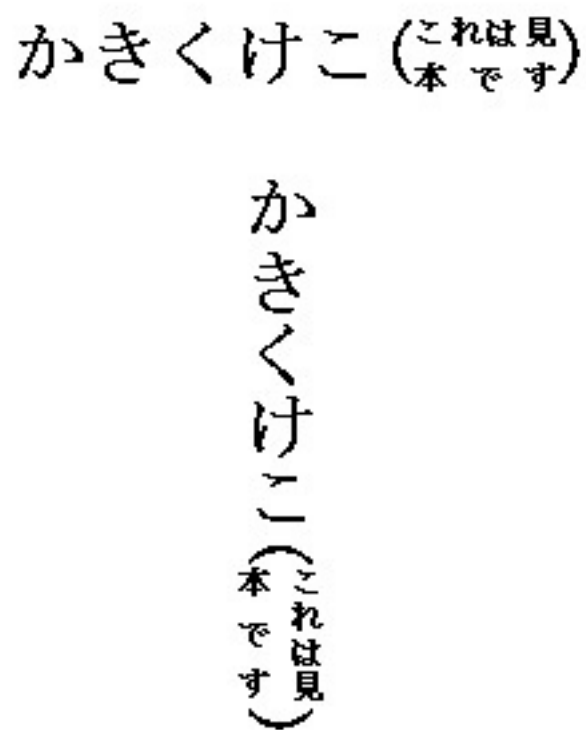


Fig. 6 Examples of Warichu

non-Gregorian years

Traditionally, Japanese used its own year designations as Chinese did. They were changed very often, and seldom last more than 20 years. Recently, such designations reflect Emperor's era, and may be called, "Emperor year". This is the Japanese formal year designation used by the Government. In scholarly articles, more and more authors use Gregorian years, they still appear in citations of old references.



Fig. 7 non-Gregorian year. The left year is read as, "Showa year 40".

Characteristics of Japanese Scholarly Publishing

The author investigated how many scholarly journals were published in Japan in 2005 and 2008 4. The year 2008 result showed that there were 3,047 journal titles published in the STM fields in Japan, out of which 2,673 were in Japanese and 374 were in English. The number of ejournals were 774 (29.0%) and 298 (79.7%) respectively.

English-language journals are formatted and published quite the same way as most Western journals. Japanese-language STM journals are, style-wise, quite similar to Western journals, too, except the following differences.

- Article titles, author names, and affiliations are almost always both in Japanese and English (or Romanized), and abstracts and keywords are, too, most of the times (Figure 8).

日本発行の科学技術分野の電子ジャーナル数

2005年から2008年への変遷

Electronic journal titles in science, technology and medicine published in Japan
Changes from 2005 to 2008

時実象一¹

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Fig. 8 Metadata example of a Japanese-language article. Japanese metadata are circled in red, and English ones in blue.

- Cited references are mostly either in Japanese or English (Figure 9), but in a few journals, two language versions are described for a single citation.

7) 時実象一. 日本発行の人文社会系学術雑誌・紀要. 情報知識学会誌. 2008, vol. 18, no. 2, p. 204-208.

8) Tokizane, Soichi. Electronic Journal Publishing in Japan. World Conference on Agricultural Information and IT IAALD AFITA WCCA 2008. 2008-08-24/27, Tsukuba, <http://afita.ac.affrc.go.jp/wcca2008/index.htm>, (accessed 2010-12-27).

Fig. 9 Examples of cited references, one in Japanese and one in English (not both).

- Captions of tables and figures are either in Japanese or English, rarely both.
- Emphasis and Warichu are not used.

Most humanity, and many social science journals are published quite differently, in that:

- Vertical writing, always for humanities, often for social sciences
- Use of Emphasis and Warichu
- English-language article metadata are not common

Challenges in publishing bi-lingual contents

As discussed above, it is customary and recommended for Japanese-language articles to include both the Japanese and English metadata as well as abstracts. For Japanese-language articles, body texts are certainly in Japanese. Cited references are typically either in Japanese or English, but sometimes both. This situation requires developing a tag set capable of describing such bi-lingual contents.

NLM DTD, that has been used widely to exchange scholarly article data, did not support such multi-lingual contents until its version 3.0. For example, as the <name> tag did not allow incorporating the xml:lang attribute, it was not possible to describe an author name in different languages.

```
<contrib-group>
<contrib contrib-type="author">
<name xml:lang="en"><surname>Nihon</surname>
<given-names>Taro</given-names>
</name>
<name xml:lang="ja"><surname>日本</surname>
<given-names>太郎</given-names>
</name>
</contrib>
```

Fig. 10 Incvaled usage of @xml:lang under NLM DTD.

Some used @name-style to indicate that this particular author name is eastern or western, but this is not a right usage of this attribute.

```
<contrib-group>
<contrib contrib-type="author">
<name name-style="western"><surname>Nihon</surname>
<given-names>Taro</given-names>
</name>
<name name-style="eastern"><surname>日本</surname>
<given-names>太郎</given-names>
</name>
</contrib>
```

Fig. 11 Use of @name-style to designate name language.

Another introduced additional tag such as <native-name> to describe non-English description of foreign names.

```
<author affref="a1 a2">
<givenname>Haozhao</givenname>
<surname>Liang</surname>
<native-name lang="chitdr">梁豪兆</native-name>
</author>
```

Fig. 12 Use of <native-name>.

All the above were just bypassing. It was clear that we needed formal extension of NLM DTD to allow describing multi-language contents.

In addition, many elements, such as <kwd-group> and <publisher-name>, were not repeatable, so that it was not

possible to describe in two languages. In addition, even for repeatable elements, such as <name> and <aff>, it was not possible to indicate that descriptions in two languages in fact belong to a single identity because of the lack of envelopes.

Scholarly Publishing Japan (SPJ) Working Group

The author was notified by Bruce Rosenblum, Inera, in early 2009 that the working group of NLM DTD was investigating the possibility of expanding the DTD for multi-language contents. The author thought that this is the great opportunity for Japanese publishers to contribute this initiative, and asked volunteers from publishers and typesetting companies in Japan to form a working group to discuss this issue. The working group, Scholarly Publishing Japan, was established in early 2010 and submitted proposals and sample data to the NLM DTD (later JATS) working group. Some of our proposals are as follows.

- NLM DTD should be as much as structural
- Support both multiple languages as well as multiple scripts using IETF RFC 5646, for example `xml:lang="ja-Kana"`
- Allow describing `@xml:lang` for <name>
- Introduce <subbody> to allow multiple language body texts
- Devise ways to describe cited references in multiple languages, for example, <compound-element-citation>
- Allow describing <journal-meta> data such as <journal-title>, <journal-subtitle>, and <abbrev-journal-title> in multiple languages
- Allow specifying <xref> for individual <name> elements so that the institution name in the same script may be linked directly

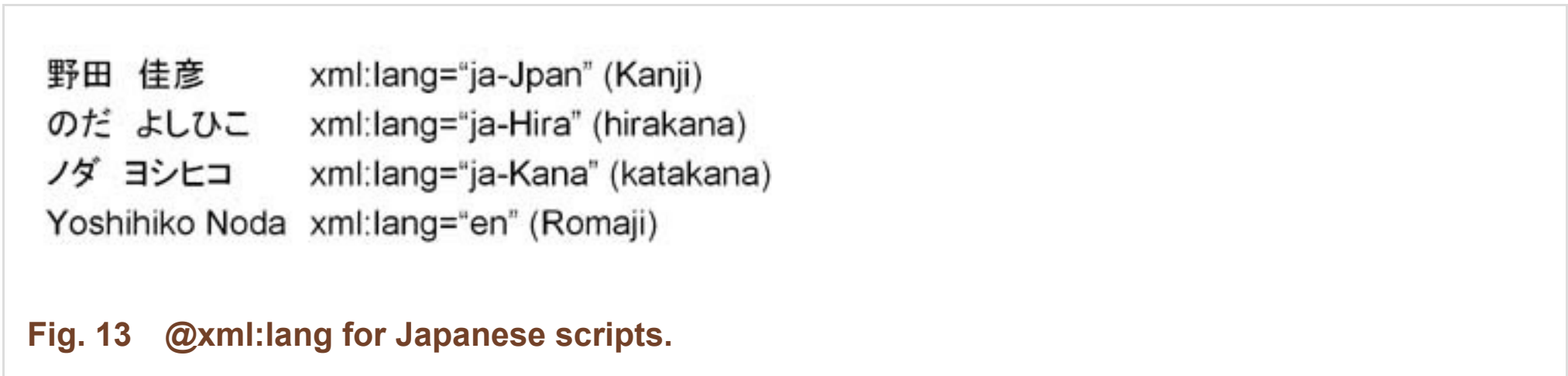
The activities of SPJ were fully discussed by the author in another paper [1](#).

NLM DTD 3.1 and JATS 0.4

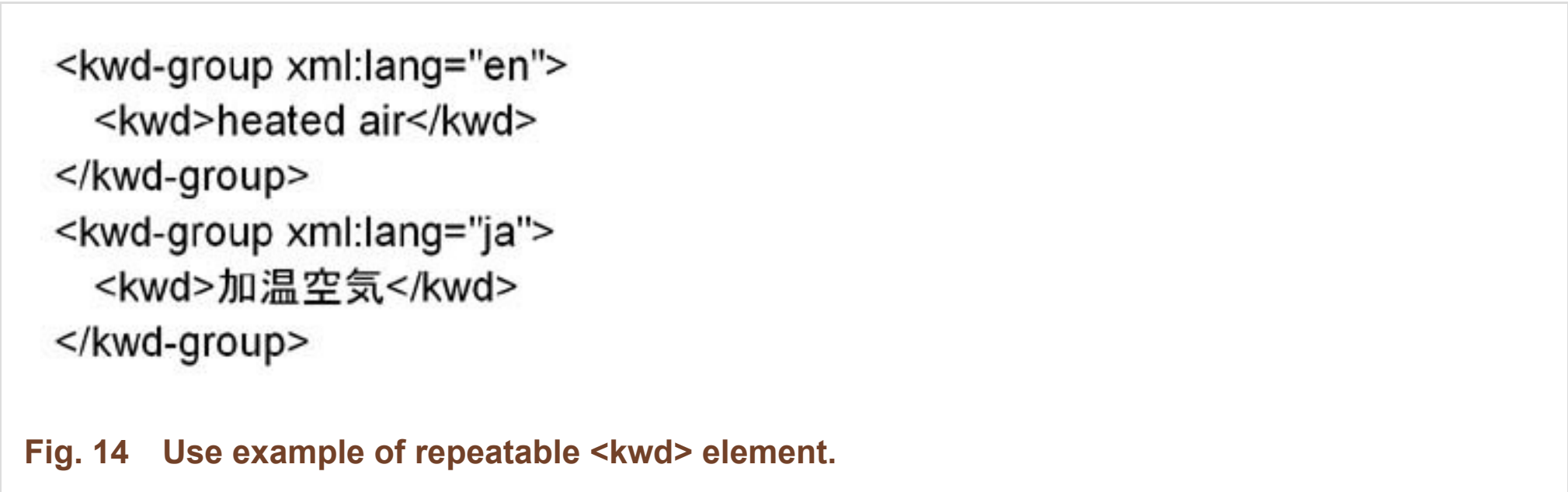
NLM DTD working group reviewed SPJ's input, and developed NLM DTD version3.1 in September 2010. It became NISO JATS 0.4 in March 2011. The multi-lingual features of this version was fully described by Lapeyre and Usdin [5](#). The outline is as follows.

- `xml:lang` is now usable for almost all the elements
- `xml:lang` is inherited down the XML document tree
- Both language and script may be recorded
- Most elements may be repeatable to describe multiple language expressions
- Wrapping tags are introduced to concatenate repeating elements for a single data, such as <name-alternatives> or <aff-alternatives>

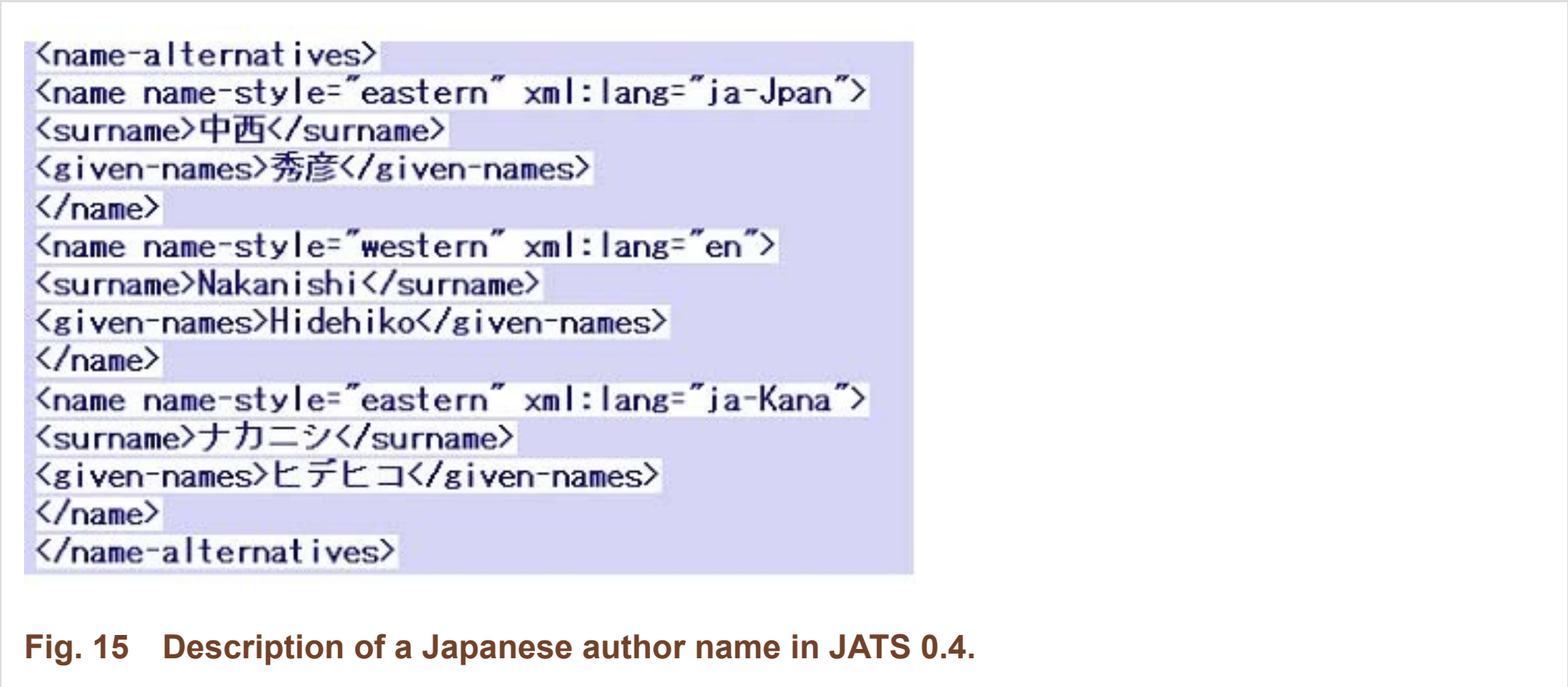
With the introduction of scripts, we can describe the previous name alternatives as follows.



Repeatable elements allow describing the same keyword in different languages as in Figure 14.

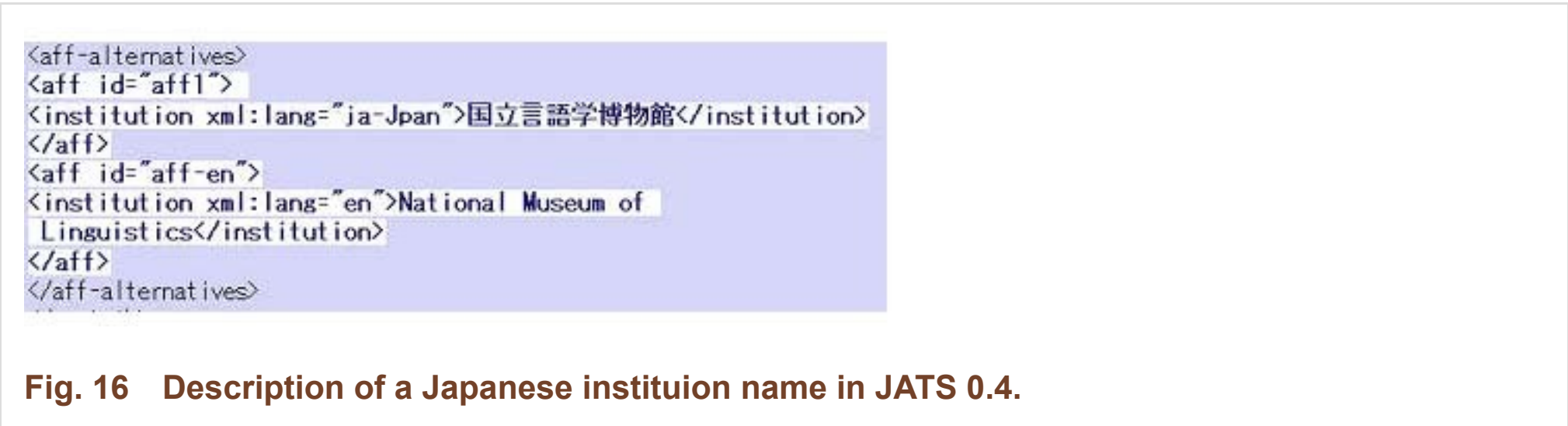


An example of JATS 0.4 description of a Japanese author and affiliation is shown in Figure 15.



Here the author can be expressed as "中西 秀彦" in Japanese Kanji (ja-Jpan) script, as "ナカニシ ヒデヒコ" in Japanese Kana (ja-Kana) or phonetic script, and as "Hidehiko Nakanishi" in western alphabets.

Similarly, an institution may be express as "国立言語博物館" in Kanji, and "National Museum of Linguistics" in western alphabets as in Figure 16.



As JATS 0.4 invited suggestions until the end of September 2011, we submitted additional comments as follows.

- Add <collab-alternatives> to describe collaborative authors in multiple languages. An example is "日本脳卒

中協会" in ja-Jpan and "Japan Stroke Association" in English.

- Allow coding ruby. A suggested coding example is as in Figure 17.

```
<rubigrp>多 武 峰<rubi>とうのみね</rubi></rubigrp>
or
<rubi>多 武 峰<rt>とうのみね</rt></rubi>
(as in HTML5)
```

Fig. 17 Suggested Rubi coding examples.

- Add <ref-alternatives>. There are cases where an English-language citation structure does not match with the Japanese-language counterpart, and thus coding elements individually in two language may be very confusing. A suggested example is in Figure 18.

```
<ref-alternatives id="B30">
  <ref xml:lang="ja">
    <mixed-citation publication-type="journal" publication-format="print">
      <person-group person-group-type="author">
        <string-name name-style="eastern">
          <surname>柿崎</surname>
          <given-names>一郎</given-names>
        </string-name>
      </person-group>. <year>2000</year>. 『<source>タイ 経済と鉄道 1835 年～1935
年</source>』<publisher-name>日本経済評論社</publisher-name>
    </mixed-citation>
  </ref>
  <ref xml:lang="en">
    <mixed-citation publication-type="journal" publication-format="print">
      <person-group person-group-type="author">
        <string-name name-style="western">
          <surname>Kakizaki</surname>, <given-names>Ichiro</given-names>
        </string-name>
      </person-group>. <year>2000</year>. <source>Thai Economy and Railway
1885-1935</source>. <publisher-loc>Tokyo</publisher-loc>:
<publisher-name>Nihon Keizai Hyoronsha</publisher-name>
    </mixed-citation> (in Japanese)
  </ref>
</ref-alternatives>
```

Fig. 18 Suggested <ref-alternatives> example.

- Add "arXiv" to pubid-type
- Allow coding non-Gregorian years. Examples are as follows.

```
<year alt="2011" calendar="Islamic" xml:lang="en">1433</year>
<year alt="1965" calendar="Japanese" xml:lang="ja">昭和四〇年</year>
```

Fig. 19 Suggested non-Gregorian year coding.

The value "arXiv" for @pubid-type and @calendar for describing non-Gregorian years was included in the version 1.0 published on August 22, 2012. The need for <ref-alternatives> shall be fulfilled otherwise.

As more and more humanities articles get digitized, the needs for extension of JATS increase. Such issues are:

- Ruby (as discussed above)
- Emphasis
- Warichu

Developing a guideline for J-STAGE

Encouraged by the release of draft JATS 0.4 in March, 2011, JST began developing a guideline for J-STAGE based on the JATS 0.4 Journal Publishing Tag Sets. The outline of the guideline is as follows 6.

- Characters

Characters are in UTF-8. Entity references such as, &, <, >, ', ", and characters of ISO8879(SGML), MathML characters, and JATS specific characters such as &gcaron;, &Hmacr;, €, and &franc;. may be used.

- Font attributes

<bold>, <italic>, <monospace>, <roman>, <sans-serif>, <sc>, <overline>, <strike>, <sub>, <sup> and <underline> may be used.

- XML declaration and DOCTYPE

version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"

<!DOCTYPE article PUBLIC "-//NLM//DTD JATS (Z39.96) Journal Publishing DTD v0.4 20110131//EN"
"http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/dtds/JATS-journalpublishing0.dtd">

- Journal meta

<journal-id> and <issn> must exist.

Characters

- Article meta

In <article-id>, "publisher-id" of @pub-id-type should be JOI, or JST Object Identifier, not publisher's own id.

<contrib-group> must exist.

<name-alternatives> and <aff-alternatives> are required.

<xref> id has to be in <aff-alternatives>.

- Mathematical formulas

Text, graphic, MathML and Tex/LaTeX are supported.

- Figures and Tables

They should appear where they are mentioned in the body text. Does not support OASIS CALS in the first version.

- References

<mixed-citation> is supported, not <element-citation>. @xml:lang should be described in <ref> rather than in <mixed-citation>. Use English punctuations, such as ",", rather than Japanese punctuations, such as " , " .

Launch of the new J-STAGE and implementation of XML

The new J-STAGE was launched in May, 2012 7. It hosts 1,658 journal titles (including title changes and merging) with 2,387,426 articles as of September 6, 2012. The first English-language XML-produced articles became online on July 13, 2012, for the journal, "Genes & Genetic Systems" 8, and the first Japanese-language ones (Figure 20 and 21) on July 18 for "Nippon Shokaki Geka Gakkai Zasshi", or the "Japanese Journal of Gastroenterological Surgery" 9.



Fig. 20 Japanese language articles on J-STAGE produced in XML ("Nippon Shokaki Geka Gakkai Zasshi") (1)

上部消化管内視鏡検査所見:腫瘍性病変は同定されず,胃食道接合部直上左側への内腔の突出を認めた.突出した内腔の観察は十分できなかったが,胃食道接合部胃粘膜の突出腔内への引き込み所見を認めたため,食道裂孔ヘルニアと診断した(Fig. 3).

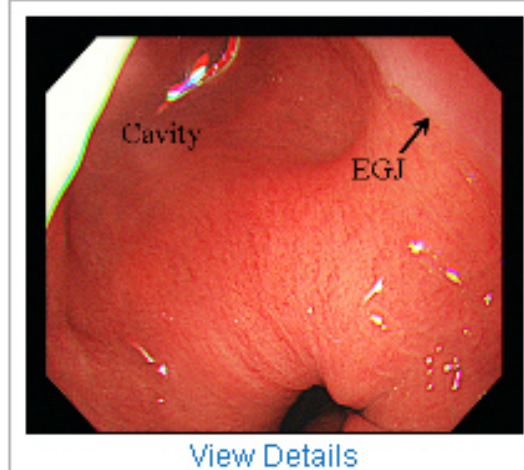


Fig. 3
Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy showed no submucosal tumor. It only showed a cavity overhanging the left side of the esophagogastric junction (EGJ). This part of the gastric mucosa was drawn into protuberant cavity. This was diagnosed as hiatal hernia.

Fig. 21 Japanese language articles on J-STAGE produced in XML ("Nippon Shokaki Geka Gakkai Zasshi") (2)

Production Workflow

Typesetter A

It generates JATS XML from MS Word 2007 XML via its own program. The XML is converted to XSL-FO using an XSLT stylesheet, and then PDF is produced from XSL-FO using the FO rendering engine, both on AH Formatter of Antenna House. Tables are in XHTML. Any corrections resulted from author proofs are made using an XML editor. The typesetting generally goes well including placing figures and tables.

Typesetter B

It converts MS Word files to XML using eXtypes. Manual editing is needed for many Japanese-language elements, for example, personal names, cited references, etc. It also converts TeX to XML using its own program for English-language articles. The XML is fed to 3B2 for typesetting. 3B2 can handle tables in OASIS and mathematical formulas in TeX. 3B2 produces both JATS XML and PDF. Corrections are made on 3B2.

Typesetter C

It pastes texts to FrameMaker to typeset. The final texts exported from FrameMaker are then processed by eXtypes to generate XML, which is then converted to JATS XML using XSLT. FrameMaker will be replaced by Typefi/InDesign in the near future. Then, the Typefi XML (contents XML) will be converted to JATS XML, again using XSLT.

Typesetter D

It uses eXtypes (without text cleaning) to generate XML from MS Word Japanese-language file. It then feeds the XML to InDesign using Typefi to typeset. The InDesign XML is converted to JATS XML using its own stylesheet. Any corrections are made on InDesign.

Problems and Issues of J-STAGE XML Guideline

According to typesetting companies, the Guideline needs further review and fixes as follows.

- <name-alternatives> and <aff-alternatives>

It looks like a wrong decision to require <name-alternatives> and <aff-alternatives>, even for English-

language articles. This practice is not compatible with that of PMC.

- Unsupported <element-citation>

As PMC's default is <element-citation>, not supporting it cause additional work in production.

- "Publisher-id" should be a publisher's own id, rather than JOI.

Publishers and typesetters hope these will be fixed in the near future.

Establishing Scholarly XML Publishing Association

The people who worked together at SPJ formed an organization called, "Scholarly XML Publishing Association (SXPA)" in June 28, 2012, to promote the use of XML, especially JATS XML, in scholarly publishing in Japan. Soichi Tokizane was elected as the President. It will have a symposium about XML publishing on September 19, 2012. This new organization will succeed SPJ as a contact point of the NISO JATS Working group in Japan.

What are next?

It was very impressive that JATS XML has been very quickly implemented via typesetters in variety of ways. I believe the future of XML scholarly publishing is very bright. Several challenges are still exist, however.

- J-STAGE has to be enhanced to take full advantage of XML. It is still premature.
- J-TAGE XML Guideline should be fixed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and to become compatible with that of PMC.
- Processing humanity/social science articles is still challenging. Typesetting such articles needs more experiments and practices.
- Encouraging scholarly book publishers to use JATS XML is important. We hope JATS-compatible book tag set will be developed soon.

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3. Sato Ryuichi, Kubota Soichi, Aoyama Kota, Tsuchiya Eri. New J-STAGE system accelerates digitization and distribution of academic journals from Japan. *Joho Kanri*. 2012; 55(2): 106-14 [Japanese with English abstract].
4. Tokizane Soichi. Electronic journal titles in science, technology and medicine published in Japan : Changes from 2005 to 2008.. *Joho Kanri*. 2011; 54(1): 13-20 [Japanese with English abstract].
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