Nature Content Specification

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Chapter 1. Using this document

General

This document specifies XML-based content for Nature's publications. All deliveries made to Nature must conform to the provisions of this document.

Verbal Forms

The words "must" and "should" – and their negative forms - appear in bold type and are to be interpreted as per [RFC 2199], i.e.

- **must** — this word means that the course of action specified is an absolute requirement.

- **must not**— this phrase means that the course of action specified is an absolute prohibition.

- **should** — this word means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore a particular item, but the full implications must be understood and carefully weighed before choosing a different course.

- **should not** — this phrase means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances when a course of action is acceptable or even useful, but the full implications should be understood and the case carefully weighed implementing any course of action described with this label.

Chapter 2. Packaging Format

About Zip archive structures & naming conventions.

Chapter 3. Media files

About graphics etc. file formats.

Chapter 4. XML documentss

General

XML

All supplied XML documents must conform to the XML Recommendation of the W3C [W3C XML].

Validity

All supplied XML documents must be valid to a schema (or DTD) of the NLM Journal Publishing Tag Set version 3.0 [NLM 3.0].

Whitespace

Supplied XML may be pretty-printed to aid editing. All sequences of whitespace characters (space, tab and newline) are interpreted a single whitespace characters during processing. To represent multiple spaces more specific whitespace characters **must** be used, such as the Unicode 'NO-BREAK SPACE' (U+00A0).

Reference markup

General

All back-of-article references **must** be contained within a `<ref>` element. An `id` attribute **must** be supplied. For Nature content, the child element of < ref **must** be `<element-citation>`. The `<mixed-citation>` and `<nlm-citation>` element **must not** be used. Punctuation between components of the reference (other than around initials in given names) **must not** be present.

References to journal articles

General

All references to journal articles must have a value of "journal" for the `publication-type` attribute of the `<element-citation>` element. The content of the element **should** appear in the order in which it appears when rendered. The following elements must be used for content:

- **authors** — each author **must** be marked-up with a `<name>` element. The surname **must** be marked-up with a `<surname>` element and given names with the <given-names> element. Other name elements **should** be marked up with `<prefix>` and `<suffix>` elements as appropriate (e.g. the suffix "Jr" **should** be marked-up with a `<suffix>` element.

- **etal** — the content "etal" or "et al" **must not** appear as text in XML content, but **must** be marked up as an empty `<etal>` element following the last name in the reference.

- **journal titles** — **must** be marked-up using the `<source>` element.

- **cover years** — **must** be marked-up using the `<year>` element.

- **pages** — **must** be marked-up using the `<fpage>` and `<lpage>` elements. For single-page articles the `<fpage>` element only **must** be used. Any `<lpage>` elements **must** contain the full page number: abbreviated numbers **must not** be used.

Example

```
<ref id="b2">
 <element-citation publication-type="journal">
   <name><surname>Pelicano</surname><given-names>H.</given-names></name>
   <etal/>
   <source>Oncogene</source>
   <volume>25</volume>
   <fpage>4633</fpage>
   <lpage>4646</lpage>
   <year>2006</year>
 </element-citation>
</ref>
```

```
<ref id="b2">
 <element-citation publication-type="journal">
```