

# 118n key recommendations and quick tips

All the below links go to the W3C Internationalization Web site.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Save your pages as UTF-8, whenever you can.
- Always declare the encoding of your document. Use the HTTP header if you can. Always use an in-document declaration too. [This page](#) tells you how.
- You can use @charset or HTTP headers to declare the encoding of your style sheet, but you only need to do so if your style sheet contains non-ASCII characters and, for some reason, you can't rely on the encoding of the HTML and the associated style sheet to be the same.
- Try to avoid using the [byte-order mark \(BOM\) in UTF-8](#), and ensure that your HTML code is saved in [Unicode normalization Form C \(NFC\)](#).
- Always use a language attribute on the html element. [This page](#) tells you how.

## KEY QUICK TIPS

The following 5 quick tips summarize the most important key concepts of international Web design:

1. **Encoding:** use the UTF-8 (Unicode) character encoding for content, databases, etc. Always declare the encoding.
2. **Language:** declare the language of documents and indicate internal language changes.
3. **Navigation:** on each page include clearly visible navigation to localized pages or sites, using the target language.
4. **Escapes:** use characters rather than escapes (e.g. &#xE1; &#x225; or &aacute;) whenever you can.
5. **Forms:** use UTF-8 on both form and server. Support local formats of names/addresses, times/dates, etc.

You will find more quick tips on the [I18n quick tips](#) page. Remember that these tips do not constitute complete guidelines.