I18N 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. á á or á) 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.