Tech Writer's Tribe

DITA Workshop

Learning Objectives

After the training, you should be able to

- demonstrate familiarity and application with the DITA authoring environment
- develop technical content using DITA authoring elements

Topics

- Introduction to DITA
- Content Models and Information Types
- DITA Map and Bookmap
- DITA Authoring Elements
- Graphics
- Cross-references
- Reuse
- Publishing

Prerequisites

Ensure that you have installed the following tools prior to attending the training.

- Codex - http://www.codex.ca/download.html
- Conversa - https://www.maxprograms.com/products/conversa.html

DITA Workshop

As more and more companies implement DITA to simplify the development of technical content, the demand for technical communicators with DITA knowledge is growing. This three-hours hands-on-workshop is designed to teach you the basics of DITA.
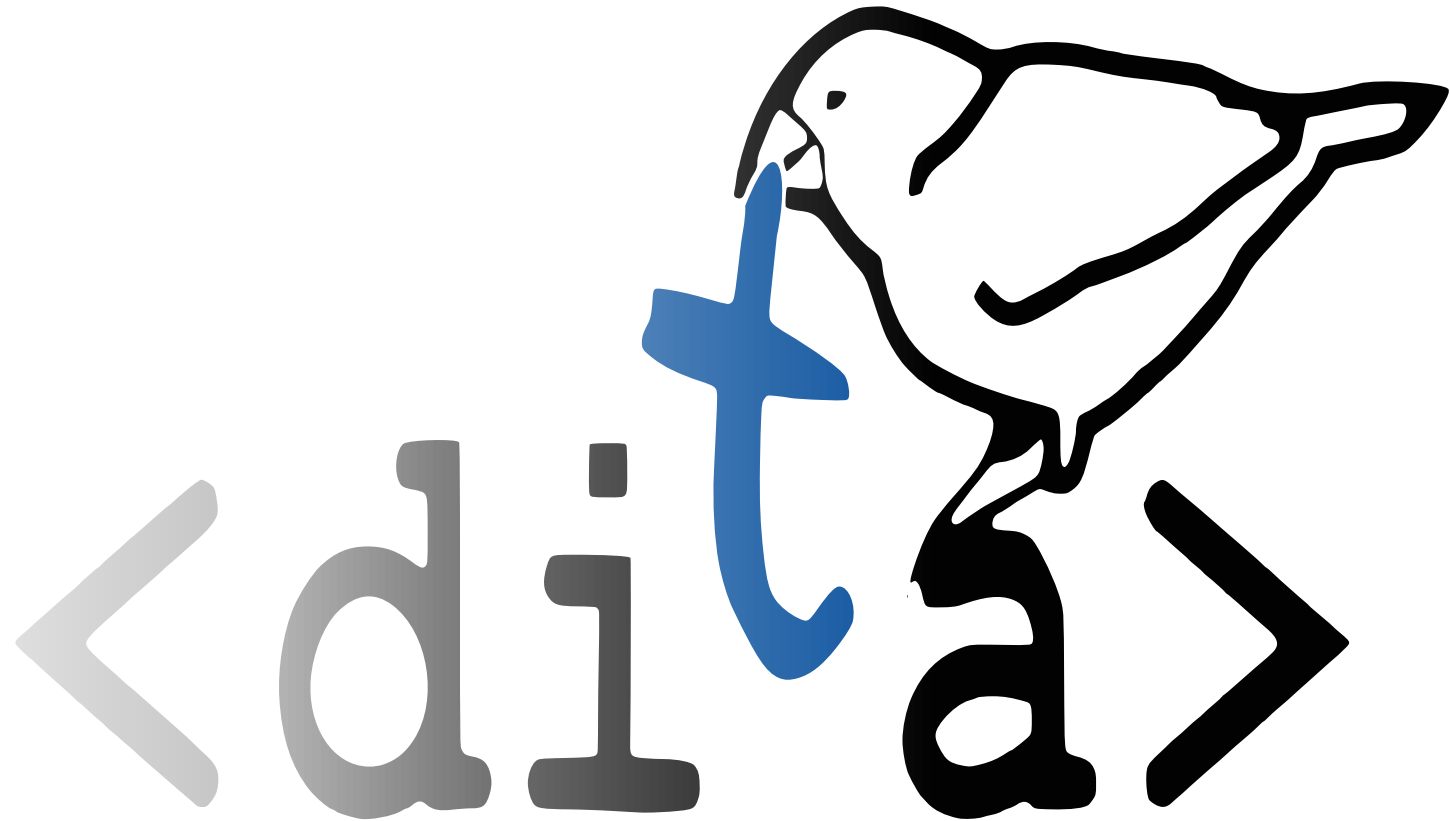
Introduction to DITA

- What is DITA?

- The purpose of DITA

- History of DITA

- Who uses it now?

What Is DITA?

DITA, or *Darwin Information Typing Architecture*, is a W3C standard for organizing content by concept, topic, and task.

First created by IBM, DITA is now an open-source standard that has wide support across many different industries.
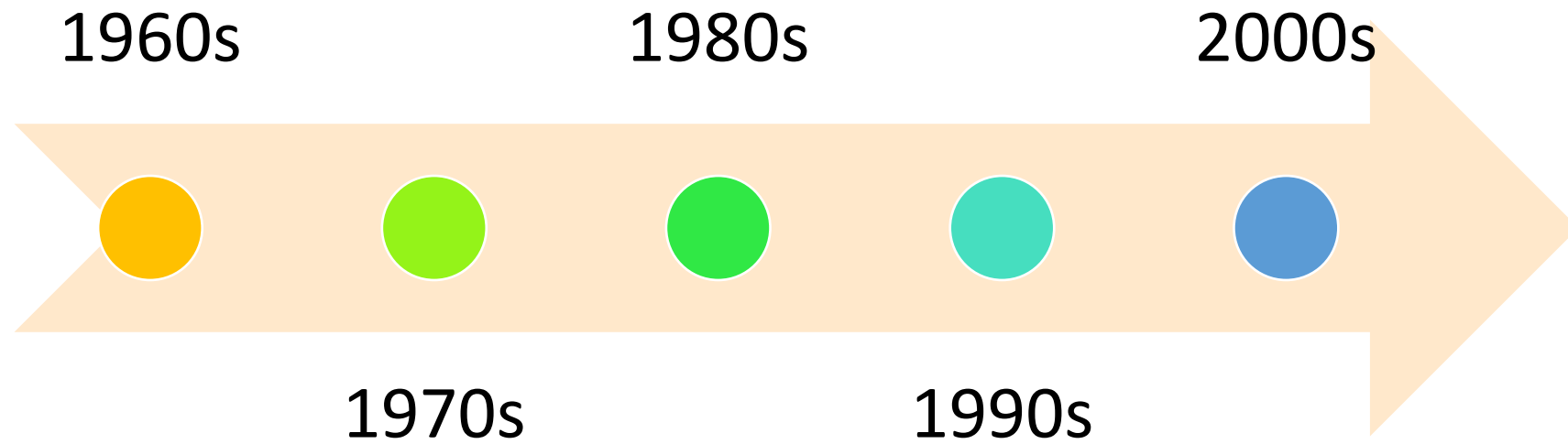
The Purpose of DITA

- Create modular, topic-based content.

- Single-Sourcing

- Multiple Delivery Points

History of DITA

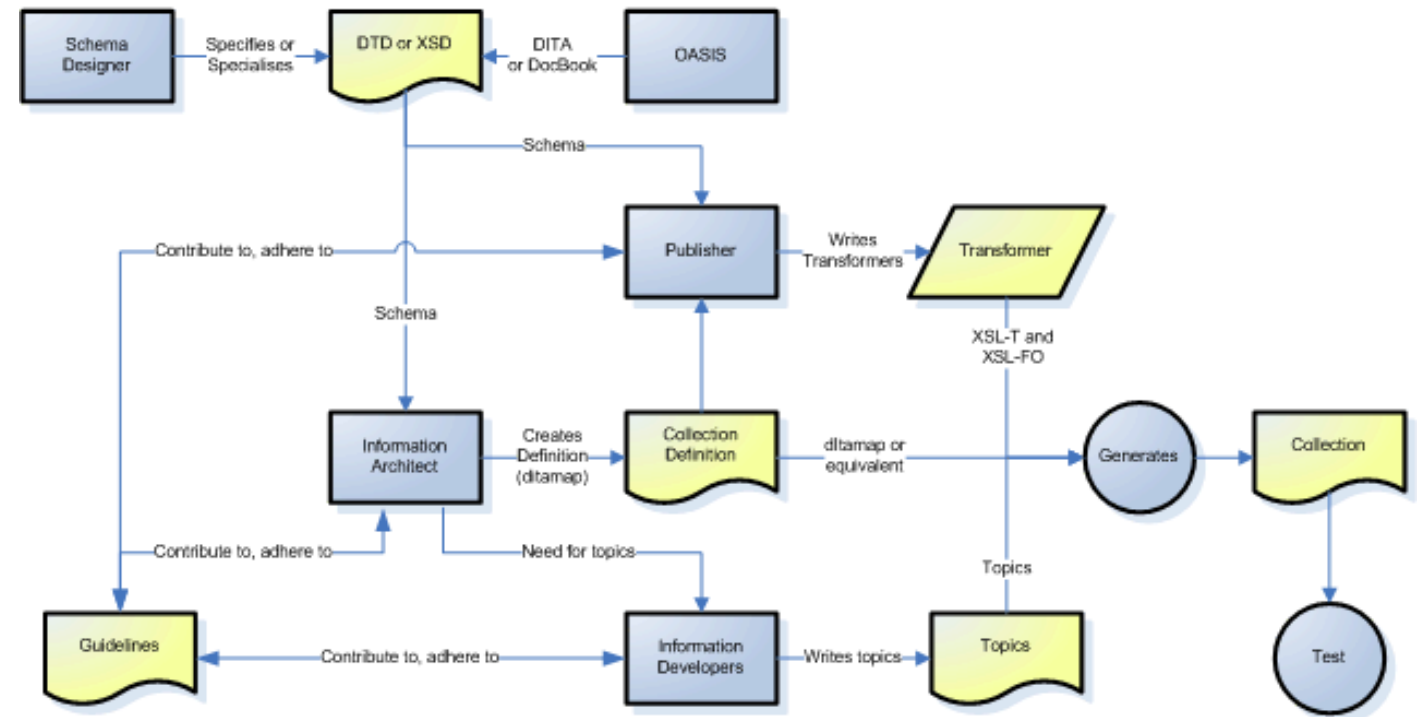1960s · 1970s · 1980s · 1990s · 2000s

Who Uses It Now?

DITA is used primarily in the technical writing and publishing communities, where it receives a great deal of support.

However, in recent years the DITA standard has received attention from the training industry, from which the DITA Learning Specialization is a result.

Workflow in a DITA authoring environment

- Documents are never displayed to the reader in DITA; DITA is not a presentation format. Content is almost completely separated from presentational form and delivery format.

- Wherever possible, context is also separated from content.

Content Model and Information Types

- What is a content model?

- Discuss different types of information types
  - Concept
  - Task
  - Reference
  - Topic

- Identifying the information type

DITA Map and Bookmap

- DITA Map

- Bookmap

Syntax and Markup

- DITA Elements
- Element Domains
- Lists
- Paragraphs
- Procedures and Steps
- Tables
- Special Characters

Graphics and Figures

- Figures
- Images

Cross-References

- Types of cross-references

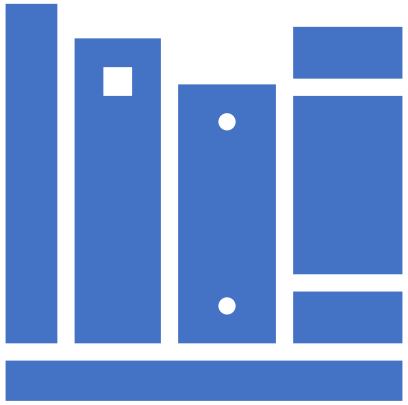# Content Re-use

- Conref

- Variables

DITA Publishing Process

Additional Resources

- Tutorials
  - LearningDITA - E-learning for individuals who want to explore DITA

- Blogs
  - Think DITA - Blog of Magda Caloian about DITA and information architecture
  - Scriptorium - Blog of the publishing and content strategy consulting company Scriptorium.
  - Dr. Macro's XML Rants - DITA blog written by Eliot Kimber
  - I'd Rather Be Writing - Information architecture and API documentation blog written by Tom Johnson.
  - oXygen XML Blog - Official blog of the oXygen XML editor.

- Style Guides
  - The Dita Style Guide: Best Practices for Authors (Tony Self) - Contains best practices and real-world DITA examples and comprehensive, practical explanations of DITA elements and attributes.

Thank You