

Database Architectures

Practical Assessment #2 (PR2):

XML Extension

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Term: Autumn 2020-21 (Aula 1)



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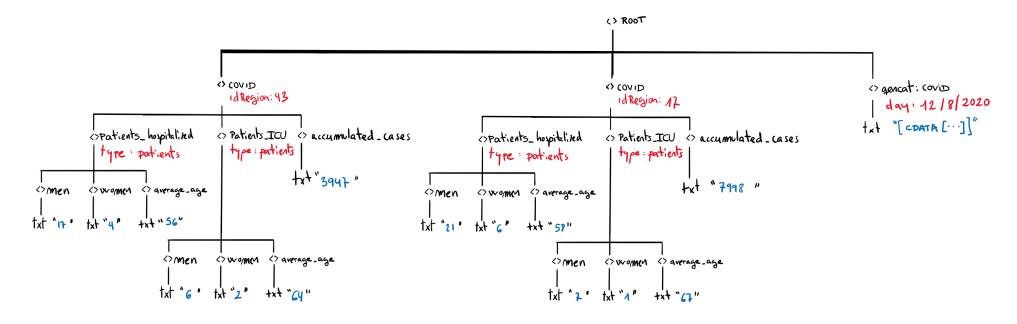
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Activity 1

a)

XML-tree Structure:

Before proceeding with the xml file creation itself, we thought that It would be a good practice to *graphically* model the xml structure given in the assessment statement as an xml-tree¹. This way we can have a"one-sight" outlook of the whole xml structure and therefore make the later translation into xml code easier:



¹ As suggested in <u>bibliography</u> [#1], page 42.

XML Code:

```
<?xml version = "1.0" encoding = "ISO-8859-1" ?> <!-- See comments section [1] -->
<metadata <!-- See comments section [2] -->
   xmlns="http://www.uoc.edu/subjects/adb/ns" <!-- See comments section [3] -->
   xmlns:gencat="http://www.gencat.cat/dadesobertes/ns"> <!--comm. section [4]-->
   <COVID idregion="43">
        <patients hospitalized type="patients">
            <men>17</men>
            <women>4</women>
            <average age>56</average age>
        </patients hospitalized>
        <patients ICU type="patients">
            <men>6</men>
            <women>2</women>
            <average age>64</average age>
        </patients ICU>
        <accumulated cases>3947</accumulated cases>
   </COVID>
    <COVID idregion="17">
        <patients hospitalized type="patients">
            <men>21</men>
            <women>6</women>
            <average age>58</average age>
        </patients hospitalized>
        <patients ICU type="patients">
            < men > \overline{7} < /men >
            <women>1</women>
            <average age>67</average age>
        </patients ICU>
        <accumulated cases>7998</accumulated cases>
   </COVID>
    <qencat:COVID day="12/8/2020"> <!-- See comments section [5] -->
        <![!CDATA[...]]> <!-- See comments section [6] -->
    </gencat:COVID>
</metadata>
```

-->

<!--# COMMENTS SECTION # [1] -> The prolog section of the xml document is the place where we can specify the encoding type (which in our case must be "ISO-8859-1"). [2] -> I don't really know if we should use the keyword "root" instead of "metadata" to define the xml's tree root (most likely it doesn't matter, but better ask it in the forum to be in the safe side). [3] -> to set the default namespace we use the "xmlns" attribute. [4] -> we define a specific namespace alias (gencat) to avoid name clashes between the two elements with identical identification (COVID) but (probably) different application data structure. [5] -> Here we specify the alias "gencat" to this xml element (COVID) in order to refer to the custom namespace provided in the activity statement. This is required for the sake of properly integrate the external COVID xml data into our xml, due to the fact that this external data MIGHT NOT HAVE the very same structure than the defined in the default namespace, from which we set the default predefined xml dictionary for this xml document. [6] -> the structure of the external "not-xml" data is not provided, so we cannot define it (we use the [...] placeholder instead). (maybe we have to add a refernce to the "summary of the latest data")



b)

The main purpose of the extensive markup language (xml) is to stablish a proper communication mechanism among applications. To achieve this, it is necessary to strictly define a structure of elements (known as vocabulary) which implies a set rules and constraint. Here is where xml schemas come into play, since they allow defining that so-called vocabulary with a very high degree of details regarding the application data particularities.

That said, to define the xml schema that will stablish the required vocabulary and set of rules for the xml structure proposed in this activity statement, we will proceed as follows:

```
<!-- ################## definition of the xml schema #################### -->
<?xml version = "1.0" encoding = "ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!-- see comments section [0] -->
<xsd:schema> <!-- see comments section [1] -->
<!-- ################## definition of simple elements ################# -->
<xsd:element name="id type"> <!--see comments section [2.1.3]-->
   <xsd:simpleType>
        <xsd:restriction base="xsd:positiveInteger">
            <xsd:maxInclusive value="9999"/>
        </xsd:restriction>
    </xsd:simpleType>
</xsd:element>
<xs:element name="year" type="xs:integer"/> <!--see comments section [2.2.1]-->
<xs:element name="month" type="xs:integer"/> <!--see comments section [2.2.1]-->
<xs:element name="day" type="xs:integer"/> <!--see comments section [2.2.1]-->
<xs:element name="idRegion" type="xs:integer"/> <!--see comments section [2.3.1]-</pre>
<xs:element name="description" type="xs:string"/> <!--see comm. section [2.3.2]--</pre>
<xs:element name="hospitalized" type="xs:integer"/> <!--see comm. section[2.4.1]-</pre>
<xs:element name="ICU" type="xs:integer"/> <!-- see comments section [2.4.2]-->
<xsd:element name="gender"> <!--see comments section [2.4.3]-->
    <xsd:simpleType>
        <xsd:restriction base="xsd:NMTOKEN">
            <xsd:enumeration value="female" />
            <xsd:enumeration value="male" />
            <xsd:enumeration value="other" />
        </xsd:restriction>
    </xsd:simpleType>
</xsd:element>
```

```
<!-- ######################
                                                      ############ -->
                           definition of attributes
<xs:attribute name="id" type="xs:id type"/> <!-- see comments section [2.1.3] -->
<xsd:element name="date"> <!-- see comments section [2.2] -->
   <xsd:complexType>
       <xsd:sequence>
         <xs:element ref="year"/>
         <xs:element ref="month"/>
         <xs:element ref="day"/>
       </xsd:sequence>
   </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>
<xsd:element name="region"> <!-- see comments section [2.3] -->
   <xsd:complexType>
       <xsd:sequence>
         <xs:element ref="idRegion"/>
         <xs:element ref="description"/>
       </xsd:sequence>
   </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>
<xsd:element name="patients"> <!-- see comments section [2.4] -->
   <xsd:complexType>
       <xsd:sequence>
           <xs:element ref="hospitalised"/>
           <xs:element ref="ICU"/>
           <xs:element ref="gender"/>
       </xsd:sequence>
   </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>
<!-- #######################
                                                      ############ -->
                                root element
<xs:element name="COVID"> <!-- see comments section [2.1.1] -->
 <xs:complexType>
   <xs:sequence>
     <xs:element ref="date"/>
     <xs:element ref="region"/>
     <xs:element ref="patients" maxOccurs="10"/>
   </xs:sequence>
   <xs:attribute ref="id" use="required"/> <!--comm. sections [2.1.2] & [2.1.3]-->
 </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
<!-xml schema definition end -->
</xs:schema>
```

- [0] -> First, we should decide on a design method to define the xml schema.
 As seen at Bibliography [#2], there are three available approaches:
 - 1- "Simplest-yet-messy" approach: This way, "to create the schema we could simply follow the structure in the XML document and define each element as we find it". (footnote: literal citation from Bibliography [#2], section: "Create an XML Schema").
 - 2- "Divided Schema" approach: "The next design method is based on defining all elements and attributes first, and then referring to them using the ref attribute" (footnote: literal citation from Bibliography [#2], section: "Divide the Schema"). This way gets easier to read and maintain the xml code in complex structures.
 - 3- "Use of Named Types" approach: "The third design method defines classes or types, that enables us to reuse element definitions" (footnote: literal citation from Bibliography [#2], section: "Named Types").

After analyzing the characteristics of each of all three approaches, we decided to use the 2nd one (Divide the Schema) since we won't be upgrading the xml structure (the assessment statement says nothing about scalability and reusability of types), but at the same time we wanted to design a readable (it has to be assessed) as well as maintainable xml schema (so both team members / students who participate on its elaboration can better understand and eventually improve it).

- [1] -> The activity statement does not give any information about namespaces (xmlns), hence we neither include any reference to it in the schema root element declaration, nor to the "targetNamespace" attribute (the XML Schema will be assigned to the NULL namespace).
- [2] -> NOTES ABOUT ELEMENTS & ATTRIBUTES DEFINITIONS:
 - [2.1] -> NODE "COVID":
 - [2.1.1] -> The "COVID" node will be the root element of this xml schema.
 On the other hand, we'll be considering that its sub-elements will
 be appearing in the same order on the instance xml documents.
 Therefore, will have to use the primitive "sequence" in the
 "COVID" element definition.



- [2.2] -> NODE "date": Must be a complex type defined as a SEQUENCE (references: Bibliography [#1], page 48).
 - [2.2.1] -> ELEMENTS "year", "month" & "day" (in that order): We could define these as simple type sub-elements (derived from integer built-in types) of the complex type element "date". This way we make sure these three elements contain an Integer value (and nothing else).
- [2.3] -> NODE "region": The activity statement does not stablish any constraint about this element, hence we can simply declare it as a complexType with no constraints at all.

 - [2.3.2] -> ELEMENT "description": "string" built-in simple type (references:

 Bibliography [#1], page 50)
- [2.4] -> NODE "patients": Since this node can only be repeated as much as 10
 times, we must stablish the cardinality of this complexType element by
 means of the minOccurs and maxOccurs attributes (references:
 Bibliography [#1], page 49).

 - [2.4.2] -> ELEMENT "ICU": "integer" built-in simple type (references: Bibliography [#1], page 50)



Activity 2

a)

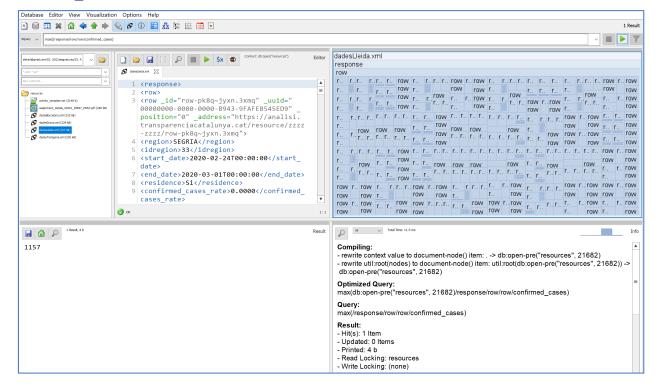
To define an *xPath* expression that complies with the constraints stablished on this activity statement, we came-up with the following strategy:

STEP 1 → DEFINE A XPATH SUB-QUERY

First, we find a way to retrieve the "confirmed_cases" node that contains the maximum² value among all repetitions of the same element in the provided xml:

```
max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)
```

If we run the above's *xPath* expression, the only result we got is actually the correct "*confirmed_cases*" node with maximum value:



² The xPath 2.0 version includes the **max()** built-in function which allowed us to select the maximum value of an element of the hierarchy, compared with other repetitions of the same element (references: <u>Bibliography [#4]</u>). However, In order to run xPath 2.0 expressions, we also had to download the newest version of the "BaseX" xml processor from <u>Bibliography [#5]</u>, (the one provided in the subject's resources area was unstable in our systems).

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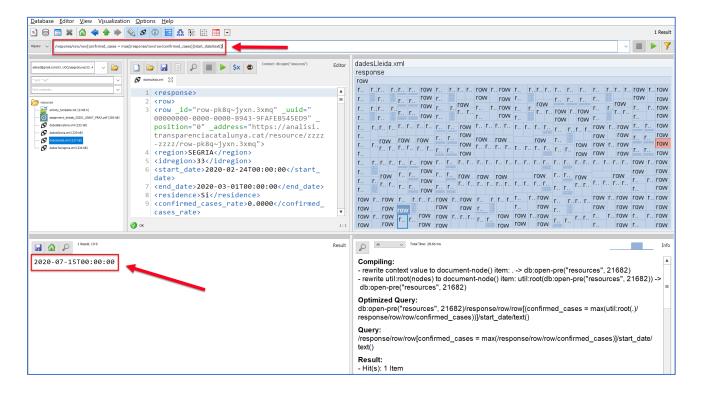


STEP 2 → XPATH MAIN EXPRESSION

On this step, first we should stablish the direction on which the evaluation is going to proceed by setting the axe^3 (**green**) in the path expression. In our scenario, we will be going down in the hierarchy (from top) to its 4th level (/response/row/row/start_date/). Afterwards, we just have to tweak the predicate expression (red + pink) in order to retrieve the element that matches the xpath sub-query (pink) return value defined in the step #1 (that is; the maximum value contained in a "confirmed_cases" element). Finally, to exclude all the nodes selected by the axe but the start-date element, we will have to specify it in the expression's node-test⁴ (yellow). Putting it all together we obtain the following xPath expression:

```
/response/row/row[confirmed_cases = max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)]/start_date/text()
```

Finally, if we run it in the xml processor, we get the requested information:



You will find the .txt file requested for this activity on the delivery zip file (/activity 2/activity 2A.txt)

⁴ Bibliography [#1], page 59

3

³ <u>Bibliography [#1]</u>, page 57



b)

To simplify the process of defining the xPath expression requested in this activity, we are going to follow a "divide & conquer" strategy:

Step #1:

Right now, we will only retrieve the "confirmed_cases" element value corresponding to the 2nd previous element (row) to the one that contains the maximum "confirmed_cases" element value (we can achieve this simply by modifying the xPath expression defined in the activity 2-A). The difference is that we now include in our selection a set of data belonging to a previous xml element (from the evaluation point of view) by means of the "preceding::row[2]" "axe component" (blue). More precisely, this axe allows us to go back two elements in the evaluation direction, starting from the element selected by the left part of the axe (dark green). Finally, we add to the final xPath expression axe (underlined) a last "axe component" (light green) to indicate the next level in the hierarchy we want to select ("confirmed_cases" node) along with the node-test (yellow) that allows us to retrieve only the value we need. Putting it all together we get the following xPath expression:

```
/response/row/row[confirmed cases =
max(/response/row/row/confirmed cases)]/preceding::row[2]/confirmed cases/text()
```

Step #2:

At this point we have the means to individually obtain the necessary values to calculate the increment of confirmed cases between date ranges (that is, by using the *xPath* expressions we defined in the activity 2-A and the Step #1 on this activity). To implement this calculation, we can use the operators defined in the xPath specification⁶ to calculate the increment of confirmed cases (minus operation). In "pseudo-code", what we are going to perform is the following subtract operation:

```
((xPath_from_activity2A) - (xPath_from_step#1))
```

⁵ References: Bibliography [#6]

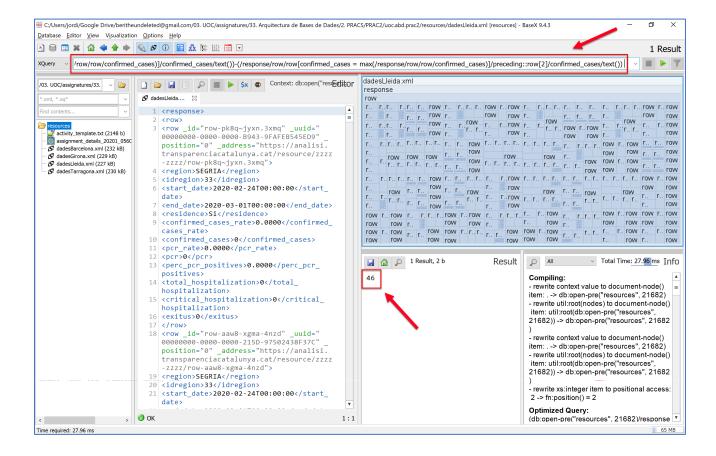
⁶ References: <u>Bibliography [#1]</u>, page 59



In the above's template, replacing the *xPath* "placeholders" (**in color**) for the actual expressions will result in the following *xPath* "composite" expression:

```
(/response/row/row[confirmed_cases =
max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)]/confirmed_cases/text())-
(/response/row/row[confirmed_cases =
max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)]/preceding::row[2]/confirmed_cases/text
())
```

As we can see below, the result we obtain after running it is exactly what we were looking for:



Step #3:

This step consists on using the built-in xPath *concat()* function to concatenate different xPath expressions to generate the output as requested in the assessment statement (we still do not include the xPath expression defined in the previous step, since we want to describe the whole process in a more detailed way):

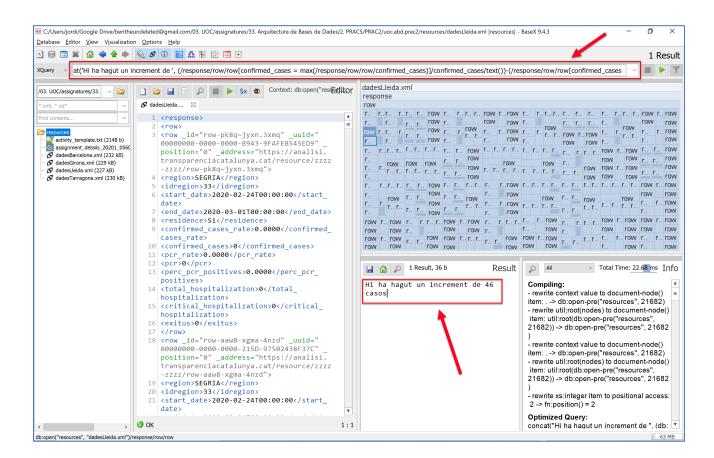


```
concat('Hi ha hagut un increment de ',step-2_xPath_expression,' casos')
```

Finally, replacing the xPath *placeholder* (pink) for the expression defined in the step #2 will result in the *xPath* expression that gives us exactly the result requested on this assessment statement.

```
concat('Hi ha hagut un increment de ',(/response/row/row[confirmed_cases =
   max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)]/confirmed_cases/text())-
   (/response/row/row[confirmed_cases =
   max(/response/row/row/confirmed_cases)]/preceding::row[2]/confirmed_cases/text
   ()),' casos')
```

If we run the xPath expression in the XML processor we get the expected result:



You will find the .txt file requested for this activity on the delivery zip file (/activity 2/activity 2B.txt)

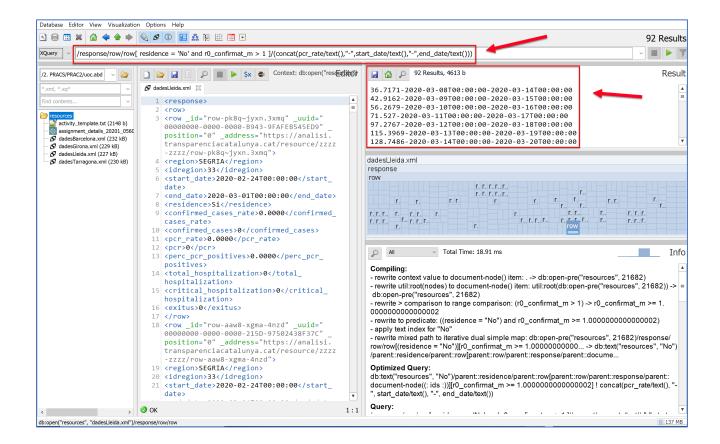


c)

In the same way we did in the previous activity, we can define an axe (green) that allows us to select all the elements contained in each inner "row" node, so we can operate with the whole set of selected elements. More precisely; this way we can define a "custom" node-test expression (yellow) that retrieves an union of element values under the same node. To do so, we use the concat() xPath built-in string function along with every element axe + node-test selection we want to include in the union (underlined). The predicate (light green) restricts the results to this activity's statement specifications:

```
/response/row/row[residence = 'No' and r0_confirmat_m > 1 ]
/(concat(r0_confirmat_m/text(),"-",start_date/text(),"-",end_date/text()))
```

As we can see below, if we run the avobe's xPath expression in our XML processor, we get the expected results:



You will find the .txt file requested for this activity on the delivery zip file (/activity_2/activity_2C.txt)



Activity 3

a)

On the one hand, there are five clauses under the acronym FLWOR:

- F stands for "FOR"
- L stands for "LET"
- W stands for "Order By"
- R stands for "Return"

On the other hand, though, a statement FLWOR can be composed with variable combinations of the above's clauses, some of them being optional:

<u>One or more optional for clauses</u> that join one or more iterated variables with input sequences that can be XQuery expressions as well as XPath expressions; they can be node sequences or atomic valued sequences. The result is an iteration that binds a variable to each element returned by the expression.

Examples:

```
a) for $x in document("list.xml") ...
b) for $x in (1 to 10) ...
c) for $x at $i in doc("books.xml") ...
```

<u>An optional let clause</u> that declares and assigns a value to the variable given for the iteration that avoids repeating the same expression and as the clause for the assigned expression can be an XQuery expression as well as an XPath expression and can return a sequence of nodes or a sequence of atomic values; it is not, however, an iteration clause.

Example:

```
a) let $x := (1 to 5)
```

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<u>An optional where clause</u> that applies a filter to the iteration, specifies one or more criteria for the result, if it appears to be only one time, of all the for and let clauses.

Example:

a) where x/preu>100 and x/preu<150

<u>An optional order by clause</u> that specifies the type of order to be followed from the result, if not specified, the result will be ordered according to the clauses defined previously.

Example:

a) order by \$x/@category, \$x/preu

<u>A return clause</u>: each xQuery expression has one and it has to be the last one, it specifies what the result is.

Example:

a) return \$x/preu



b)

Next you will find our *xQuery* sentence proposal. The needed steps to obtain the results requested on this activity sentence are properly documented below in the form of *xQuery* comments (green):

```
STEP 1 -> First we define a variable set to refer the xml databases:
declare variable $docLleida := doc("dadesLleida.xml");
declare variable $docTarragona := doc("dadesTarragona.xml");
declare variable $docGirona := doc("dadesGirona.xml");
declare variable $docBarcelona := doc("dadesBarcelona.xml");
STEP 2 -> Now we only retrieve the maximum value among all the
        "confirmed_cases" elements in the "dadesLleida.xml" DB, so later we
        could retrieve the related "start_date" element value and then
        filter the results retrieved from the other xml databases using
        this value as a key (that is, we retrieve the "start date" element).
        We achieve this by means of assigning the value returned by the
        max() function into a variable using the "let" clause:
let $max LLD := max($docLleida/response/row/row/confirmed cases)
STEP 3 -> Next, we select the parent element (using the "for" clause) that
        has the "confirmed cases" maximum value (condition defined in the
        "where" clause) from the "dadesLleida.xml" DB.
for $Agrupated LLD in $docLleida /response/row/row
where $Agrupated LLD/confirmed cases = $max LLD
STEP 4 -> Now, using the data from the node selected (one) in the previous
        step using the "for" clause, we can set an xPath predicate filter
        to retrieve ALL the nodes (xml data can be segmented) that contain
        the same value (start date) in their respective regional XML DB. We
        can do this using the "let" clause, as follows:
let $Agrupated TGN := $docTarragona/response/row/row[start date = $Agru-
pated LLD/start date]
let $Agrupated GIR := $docGirona/response/row/row[start date = $Agru-
pated LLD/start date]
let $Agrupated BCN := $docBarcelona/response/row/row[start date = $Agru-
pated LLD/start_date]
```

- 1. AgrupatedData: Here, from within the <ConfirmedCases> xml subelement we retrieve (for each region) the nodes we already stored in the \$Agrupated_XXX variables. However, since we only want the maximum value on a single date (the same one as in the Lleida region with max "confirmed_cases" values), we will have to apply another predicate filter on the parent
 - node (so we can also retrieve the
 "confirmed_cases_rate" value).

cases and it's "start date" from the own region.

1. AgrupatedData:

```
return
<COVID>
    <agrupatedData isInResidences="{$Agrupated LLD/residence/text()}" MeasurementDate="{$Agrupated LLD/start date/text()}">
           <ConfirmedCases>{$Agrupated LLD/confirmed cases/text()}</ConfirmedCases>
           <ConfirmedCasesRate>{$Agrupated LLD/confirmed cases rate/text()}</ConfirmedCasesRate>
        </LleidaData>
        <TarragonaData>
           <ConfirmedCases>{$Agrupated TGN[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated TGN/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases/text()}</confirmedCases>
           <ConfirmedCasesRate>{$Agrupated TGN[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated TGN/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases rate/text()}</ConfirmedCasesRate>
       </TarragonaData>
        <GironaData>
           <ConfirmedCases>{$Agrupated GIR[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated GIR/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases/text()}</confirmedCases>
           <ConfirmedCasesRate>{$Agrupated GIR[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated GIR/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases rate/text()}//confirmedCasesRate>
        </GironaData>
        <BarcelonaData>
           <ConfirmedCases>{$Agrupated BCN[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated BCN/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases/text()}</confirmedCases>
           <ConfirmedCasesRate>{$Agrupated BCN[confirmed cases = max($Agrupated BCN/confirmed cases)]/confirmed cases rate/text()}</ConfirmedCasesRate>
        </BarcelonaData>
    </agrupatedData>
    (\ldots)
```

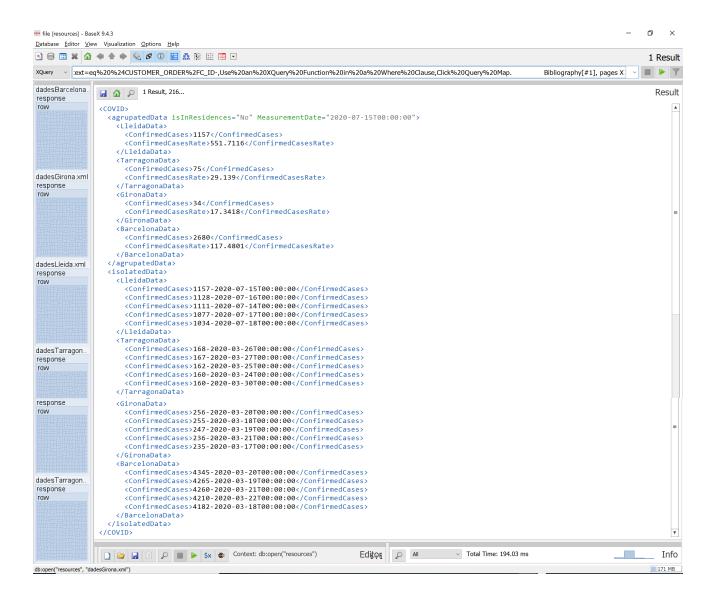


2. IsolatedData:

```
<isolatedData>
      <LleidaData>
          {for $Isolated LLD in $docLleida//row
          where $Isolated LLD/residence = 'No'
          order by xs:integer($Isolated LLD/confirmed cases) descending
          count $item
          where $item le 5
          return
          <ConfirmedCases>{$Isolated LLD/confirmed cases/text(), '-', $Isolated LLD/start date/text()}</ConfirmedCases>}
      </LleidaData>
      <TarragonaData>
          {for $Isolated TGN in $docTarragona//row
          where $Isolated TGN/residence = 'No'
          order by xs:integer($Isolated TGN/confirmed cases) descending
          count $item
          where $item le 5
          return
          <ConfirmedCases>{$Isolated TGN/confirmed cases/text(), '-', $Isolated TGN/start date/text()}</ConfirmedCases>}
      </TarragonaData>
      <GironaData>
          {for $Isolated GIR in $docGirona//row
          where $Isolated GIR/residence = 'No'
          order by xs:integer($Isolated GIR/confirmed cases) descending
          count $item
          where $item le 5
          <ConfirmedCases>{$Isolated GIR/confirmed cases/text(), '-', $Isolated GIR/start date/text()}</ConfirmedCases>}
      </GironaData>
      <BarcelonaData>
          {for $Isolated BCN in $docBarcelona//row
          where $Isolated BCN/residence = 'No'
          order by xs:integer($Isolated BCN/confirmed cases) descending
          count Sitem
          where $item le 5
          <ConfirmedCases>{$Isolated BCN/confirmed cases/text(), '-', $Isolated BCN/start date/text()}</ConfirmedCases>}
      </BarcelonaData>
  </isolatedData>
</COVID>
```



If we run the xQuery sentence on the xml processor we obtain the xml data as requested:



Side notes:

- Documentation references:
 - Bibliography [#1], page 60 (section 2.3.2)
 - Bibliography [#8], [#9], [#10], [#11], [#12]
- You will find the .txt file requested for this activity on the delivery zip file (/activity3/activity_3B.txt)



Bibliography

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- 4. Oracle xPath Reference (Number functions) → https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E35413 01/doc.722/e35419/dev xpath functions.htm#autoId41
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- **6. xPath expressions** → https://stackoverflow.com/questions/9857756/how-to-get-the-preceding-element
- 7. Oracle xPath Reference (Functions on strings) → https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E35413 01/doc.722/e35419/dev xpath functions.htm#autold14
- **8.** https://stackoverflow.com/questions/30206069/xquery-find-max-value-and-return-relevant-information
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- 10. https://www.w3schools.com/xml/xquery_functions.asp
- 11. http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/XQuery tutorial basics#:~:text=declare%20variable%20%24x%20%3A%3D%207.5,the%20datatype%20of%20 http://edutechwiki.unige.ch/en/XQuery tutorial constant tutorial basics#:~
- 12. https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E13162 01/odsi/docs10gr3/datasrvc/Add%20a%20Where%20Claus e%20to%20a%20Query.html#:~:text=eq%20%24CUSTOMER ORDER%2FC ID
 _Use%20an%20XQuery%20Function%20in%20a%20Where%20Clause,Click%20Query%20Map.