

XML & XPath

INF 551

Wensheng Wu

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl" href="configuration.xsl"?>
<!--
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-->

<!-- Put site-specific property overrides in this file. -->

<configuration>
  <property>
    <name>fs.defaultFS</name>
    <value>hdfs://localhost:9000</value>
  </property>
</configuration>
~
"core-site.xml" 24 lines, 889 characters
```

Agenda

- XML:
 - What is it and why do we care?
 - Data model
 - Query language: XPath

XML

- eXtensible Markup Language
- XML 1.0 – a recommendation from W3C, 2008
- Root: SGML (standard generalized markup language)
- After the root: a format for sharing *data*

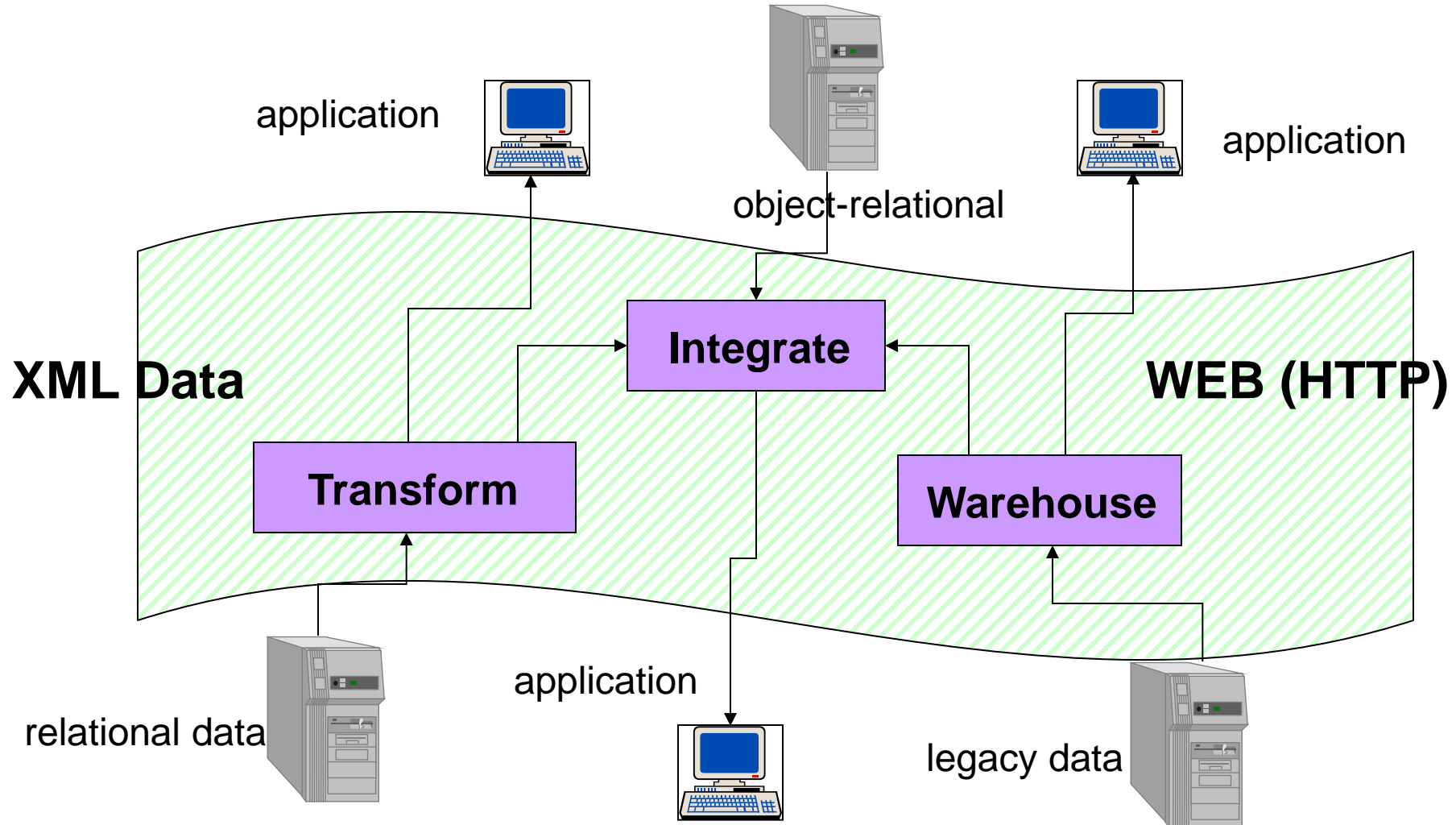
SGML

- Derived from IBM's GML (generalized ML) developed in 1960's
 - Charles Goldfarb, Edward Mosher, and Raymond Lorie
 - For sharing of large-project documents
- Basis for HTML & XML
 - XML is roughly an augmented subset (adds more restrictions)
 - HTML is an application of SGML

Why XML is of Interest to Us

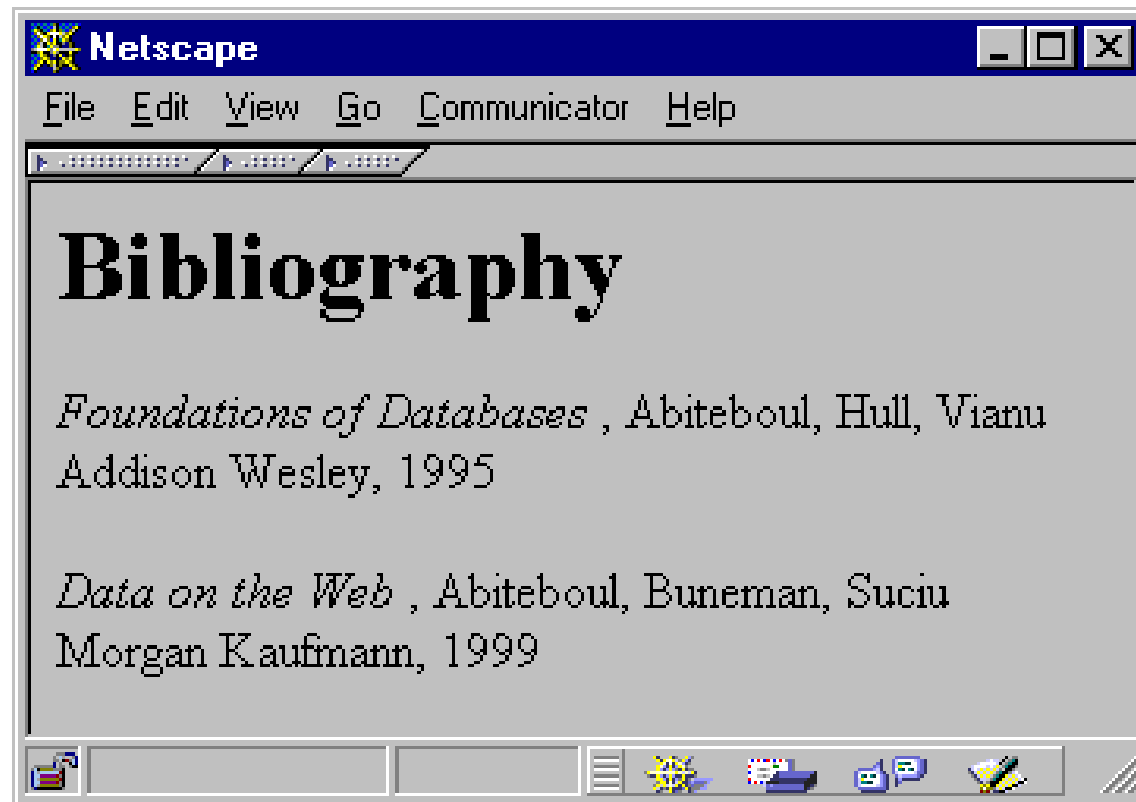
- XML is a syntax (serialization format) for data
- This is exciting because:
 - Can translate *any* data to XML
 - Can ship XML over the Web (HTTP)
 - Can input XML into any application
 - Thus: data sharing and exchange on the Web

XML Data Sharing and Exchange



Specific data management tasks

From HTML to XML



HTML describes the presentation

HTML

<h1> Bibliography </h1>

<p> <i> Foundations of Databases </i>

Abiteboul, Hull, Vianu

 Addison Wesley, 1995

<p> <i> Data on the Web </i>

Abiteoul, Buneman, Suciu

 Morgan Kaufmann, 1999

XML

```
<bibliography>
  <book>  <title> Foundations... </title>
          <author> Abiteboul </author>
          <author> Hull </author>
          <author> Vianu </author>
          <publisher> Addison Wesley </publisher>
          <year> 1995 </year>
  </book>
  ...
</bibliography>
```

XML describes the content

Web Services

- A software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network (from Wikipedia)
- Use http for machine-machine communications of files
 - E.g., in XML & JSON formats

Ajax

- Asynchronous Javascript and XML
- Web clients send and receive data from server asynchronously
 - Benefit: more responsive web pages
- Common to use XML, JSON as data format

Ajax in action ([link](#))

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XML Terminology

- tags: **book**, **title**, **author**, ...
- start tag: **<book>**, end tag: **</book>**
- elements: **<book>...</book>**, **<author>...</author>**
- elements may be nested:
<book><author>...</author></book>
- empty element (no content): **<red></red>** abbrev. **<red/>**
- an XML document: has a single *root element*
- ***Element names are case-sensitive!***

well formed XML document: if it has matching tags

More XML: Attributes

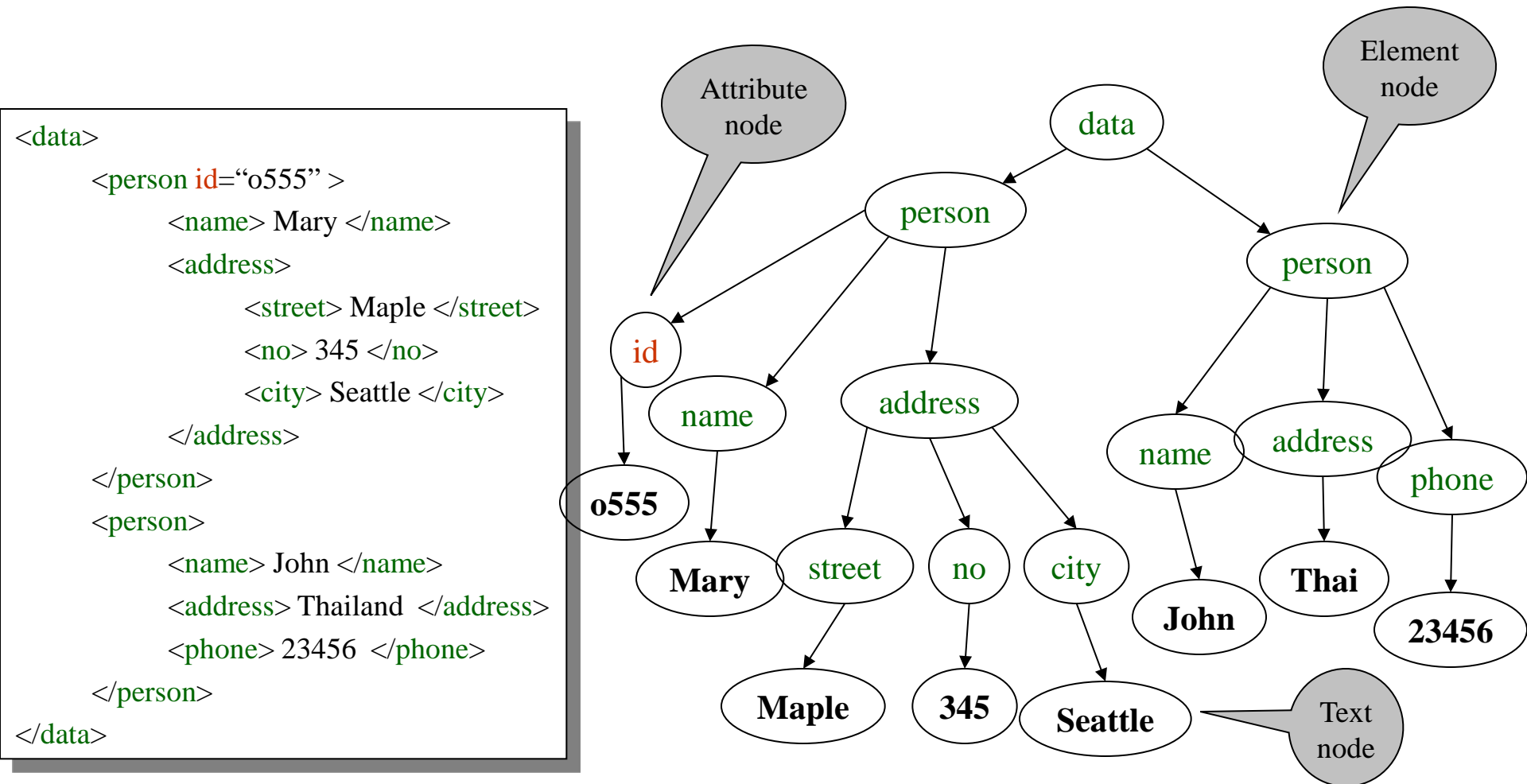
```
<book price = "55" currency = "USD">  
  <title> Foundations of Databases </title>  
  <author> Abiteboul </author>  
  ...  
  <year> 1995 </year>  
</book>
```

attributes are alternative ways to represent data

Attributes

- `<book price = “55” currency = “USD”>`
- Attribute values must be quoted, either double or single

XML structure: an ordered tree



Order matters !!!

XML Data

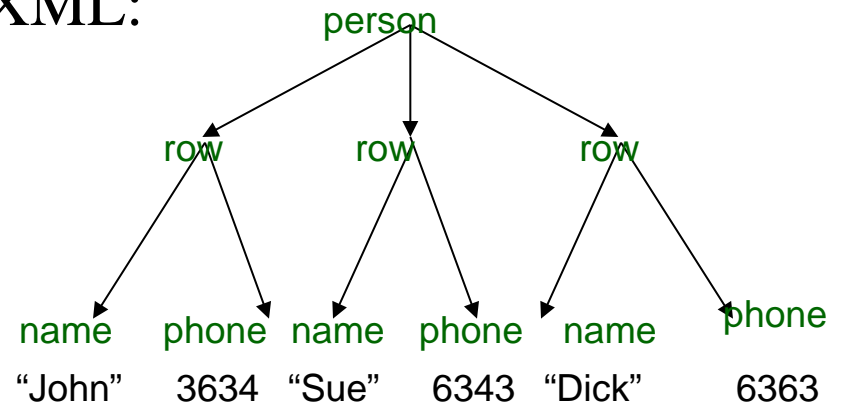
- XML is self-describing
- Schema elements become part of the data
 - Relational schema: `person(name, phone)`
 - In XML `<persons>`, `<name>`, `<phone>` are part of the data, and are repeated many times
- Consequence: XML is much more flexible
- XML = semi-structured data

Relational Data as XML

person

name	phone
John	3634
Sue	6343
Dick	6363

XML:



```
<person>
  <row> <name>John</name>
    <phone> 3634</phone></row>
  <row> <name>Sue</name>
    <phone> 6343</phone>
  <row> <name>Dick</name>
    <phone> 6363</phone></row>
</person>
```

XML is Semi-structured Data

- Missing attributes:

```
<person> <name> John</name>  
          <phone>1234</phone>  
</person>  
  
<person> <name>Joe</name>  
</person>
```

← no phone !

- Could represent in
a table with nulls

name	phone
John	1234
Joe	-

XML is Semi-structured Data

- Repeated attributes

```
<person> <name> Mary</name>  
          <phone>2345</phone>  
          <phone>3456</phone>  
</person>
```

← two phones !

- Impossible in tables:

name	phone	
Mary	2345	3456

???

XML is Semi-structured Data

- Attributes with different types in different objects

```
<person> <name> <first> John </first>  
                <last> Smith </last>  
            </name>  
            <phone>1234</phone>  
</person>
```

← structured name !

- Nested structures
- Heterogeneous contents:
 - <bib> contains both <book>'s and <cd>'s

Document Type Definitions

DTD

- A set of markup for describing schema of XML data
- an XML document may have a DTD
- XML document:
 - well-formed** = if tags are correctly closed
 - valid** = if it has a DTD and conforms to it
- validation is useful in data exchange

Very Simple DTD

→ Root element

```
<!DOCTYPE company [  
  <!ELEMENT company ((person|product)*)>  
  <!ELEMENT person (ssn, name, office, phone?)>  
  <!ELEMENT ssn      (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT name      (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT office     (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT phone      (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT product (pid, name, description?)>  
  <!ELEMENT pid        (#PCDATA)>  
  <!ELEMENT description (#PCDATA)>  
>
```


DTD as Part of XML Document

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE note [
  <!ELEMENT note (to,from,heading,body)>
  <!ELEMENT to (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT from (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT heading (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT body (#PCDATA)>
]>
<note>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend</body>
</note>
```

Example XML for Company DTD

Example of valid XML document:

```
<company>
  <person> <ssn> 123456789 </ssn>
            <name> John </name>
            <office> B432 </office>
            <phone> 1234 </phone>
  </person>
  <person> <ssn> 987654321 </ssn>
            <name> Jim </name>
            <office> B123 </office>
  </person>
  <product> ... </product>
  ...
</company>
```

DTD: The Content Model

`<!ELEMENT tag (CONTENT)>`

content
model

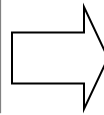
- Content model:
 - Complex = a regular expression over other elements
 - Text-only = #PCDATA/#CDATA
 - Empty = EMPTY
 - Any = ANY
 - Mixed content = (#PCDATA | A | B | C)*
- #CDATA (#PCDATA)
 - Character data not are (are) parsed by parser
 - Tags inside #PCDATA will be treated as markup

DTD: Regular Expressions

DTD

sequence

```
<!ELEMENT name  
  (firstName, lastName))
```



XML

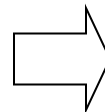
```
<name>  
  <firstName> ..... </firstName>  
  <lastName> ..... </lastName>  
</name>
```

optional

```
<!ELEMENT name (firstName?, lastName))
```

Kleene star

```
<!ELEMENT person (name, phone*)
```



```
<person>  
  <name> ..... </name>  
  <phone> ..... </phone>  
  <phone> ..... </phone>  
  <phone> ..... </phone>  
  .....  
</person>
```

alternation

```
<!ELEMENT person (name, (phone|email)))
```

Processing instructions

- `<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>`
- This is the first line of an XML document
 - Declaring that the following is an XML doc...
 - that follows standard version 1.0
 - and whose encoding is UTF-8

Agenda

- XML:
 - What is it and why do we care?
 - Data model
 - Query language: XPath

Querying XML Data

- XPath = simple navigation through the tree
- XQuery = the SQL of XML

<bib>

...

<book price="35">

<publisher>Addison-Wesley</publisher>

<author>Serge Abiteboul</author>

<author><first-name>Rick</first-name><last-name>Hull</last-name></author>

<author age="20">Victor Vianu</author>

<title>Foundations of Databases</title>

<year>1995</year>

<price>38.8</price>

</book>

<book price="55">

<publisher>Freeman</publisher>

<author>Jeffrey D. Ullman</author>

<title>Principles of Database and Knowledge Base Systems</title>

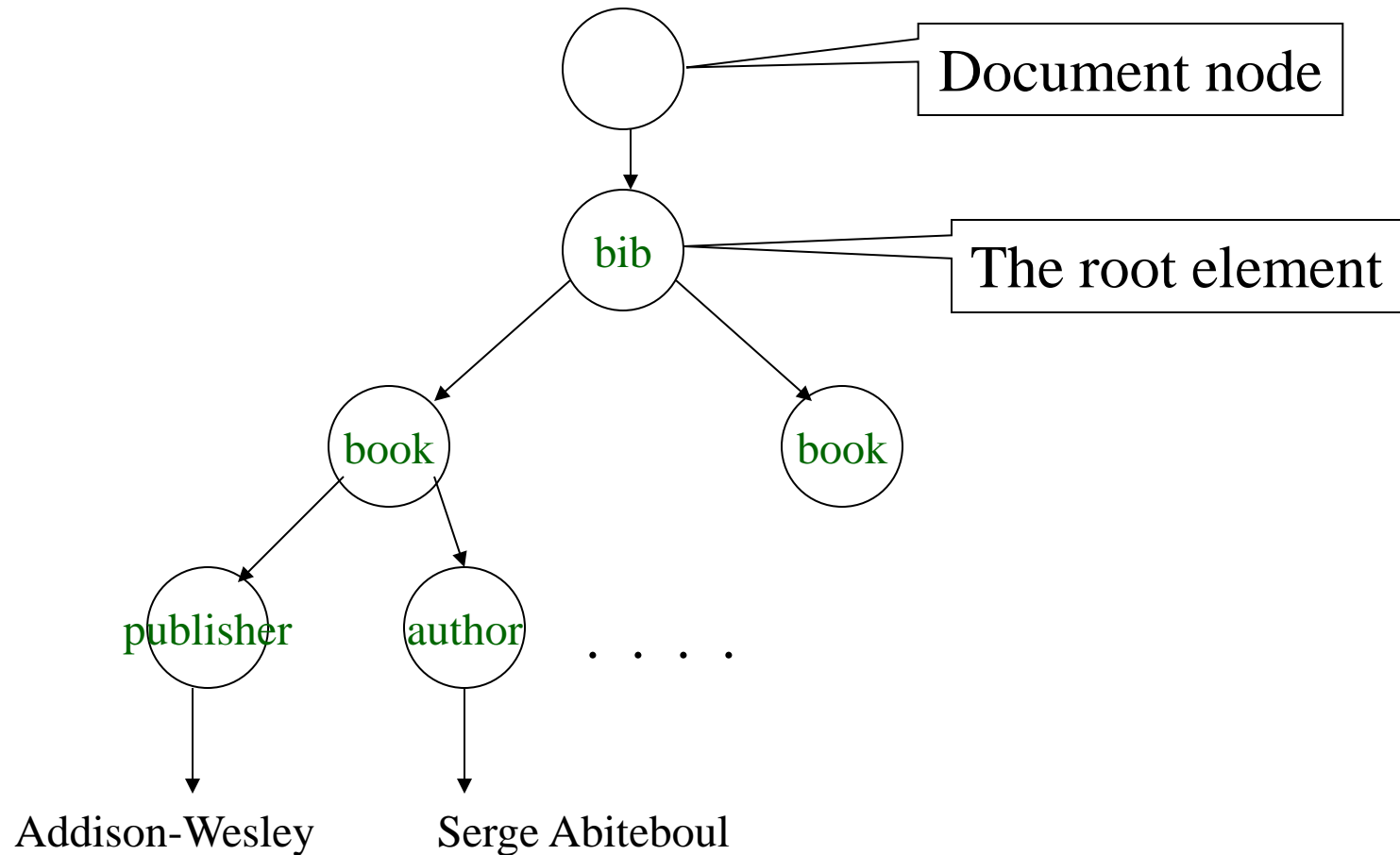
<year>1998</year>

</book>

...

</bib>

Data Model for XPath



XPath: Simple Expressions

`/bib/book/year`

Result: `<year> 1995 </year>`
`<year> 1998 </year>`

`/bib/paper/year`

Result: empty (there were no papers)

//: finding descendants

//author

Result: <author> Serge Abiteboul </author>
 <author> <first-name> Rick </first-name>
 <last-name> Hull </last-name>
 </author>
 <author> Victor Vianu </author>
 <author> Jeffrey D. Ullman </author>

/bib//first-name

Result: <first-name> Rick </first-name>

Select Child by Index

- Index of children starts from 1
- `//author[1]`
- `/bib/book[2]/author`

Xpath: Text Nodes

```
/bib/book/author/text()
```

Result: Serge Abiteboul
Victor Vianu
Jeffrey D. Ullman

Rick Hull doesn't appear because he has `firstname`, `lastname` elements

Functions in XPath:

- `text()` = matches text nodes
- `*` = matches only element nodes
- `node()` = matches any node (element or text)

Xpath: Wildcard

`//author/*`

Result: `<first-name>` Rick `</first-name>`
`<last-name>` Hull `</last-name>`

* Matches any element

Xpath: Attribute Nodes

```
/bib/book/@price
```

Result: ['35', '55']

`@price` means that price has to be an attribute

Is it the same as ?

```
/bib/book[@price]
```

Xpath: Attribute nodes

- `/bib/book/@*`
 - Return all attribute nodes of book elements
- Result:
 - `['35', '55']`

Xpath: Predicates

```
/bib/book/author[first-name]
```

Return author elements (under /bib/book) which have a child element called "first-name"

Result: `<author> <first-name> Rick </first-name>
 <last-name> Hull </last-name>
 </author>`

Xpath: More Predicates

```
/bib/book/author[firstname][address[//zip][city]]/lastname
```

Return lastname of author elements which have child element firstname and child element "address" which itself has ...

Result: <lastname> ... </lastname>
<lastname> ... </lastname>

Xpath: More Predicates

```
/bib/book[@price < 60]
```

```
/bib/book[author/@age < 25]
```



```
/bib/book[author/text()]
```

Return books under bib that have an author element with a text node

Xpath: More Predicates

```
/bib/book[contains(author, 'Ullman')]
```



Return books under bib whose author subelement contains the word 'Ullman' in its text node
(note contains is case-sensitive)

What about `//book/author[contains(., "Ullman")]` ?

Xpath: More Predicates

- `/bib/book[price > 30 or year > 1995]`
- `/bib/book[price > 30 and year >= 1995]`
- `/bib/book[not(price > 30)]`
- Note: **and, or, not** should be all lowercases

Xpath: alternatives

`/bib/book|/bib/cd`

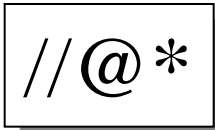
Or

`/bib/(book|cd)`

elements under /bib

Questions

What do these return?

A white rectangular box with a thin black border, containing the text `//*`. The box is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a shadow effect.A white rectangular box with a thin black border, containing the text `//@*`. The box is slightly offset to the right and bottom, creating a shadow effect.

Resources

- Comparison of SGML and XML
 - <https://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-sgml-xml-971215/>
- XML
 - <http://www.w3schools.com/xml/default.asp>
- XPath
 - http://www.w3schools.com/xml/xml_xpath.asp

Resources

- Testers
 - <https://codebeautify.org/Xpath-Tester> (no support for alternation such as `"/bib/(book|cd)"`, but `/bib/book|/bib/cd` is ok)
 - <https://www.freeformatter.com/xpath-tester.html> (no support for "contains", but support both forms of alternations above)
 - <http://www.xpathtester.com/xpath>