JSP Standard Tag Libraries

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In C++, we used the **STL library**, which gave us access to several methods we could use to make our work easier. Similarly, we have an STL library in JSP, called the **JSP Standard Tag Library** (JSTL). This is a collection of **tags** we can use in lieu of scriplets to achieve nearly anything we want.

Example:

<c:forEach var="i" begin="1" end="10" step="1">  
 <c:out value="${i}"/>  
</c:forEach>

JAVA

## Including Dependencies

To be able to use JSTL, we first need to **include the dependency**. We do this inside the pom.xml file. We are able to do this because we are using the **Maven** build tool.

<dependencies>  
 <dependency>  
 <groupId>jstl</groupId>  
 <artifactId>jstl</artifactId>  
 <version>1.2</version>  
 </dependency>  
 <dependency>  
 <groupId>taglibs</groupId>  
 <artifactId>standard</artifactId>  
 <version>1.1.2</version>  
 </dependency>  
</dependencies>

XML

Once this is done, we can include the library and define a **prefix** to use with the library in every JSP page in which we want to use JSTL. The prefixes shown here are the standard ones, but any prefix can be used.

<%@taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jstl/core"%>

JSP

## Tag Classification

1. **Core Tags** – These provide support for iteration, conditional logic, catch exception, URLs, basic input and output, etc.

<%@taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core"%>

JSP

1. **Formatting/Internationalization Tags** – These are used to parse data. Some of the tags parse certain data, such as dates, differently based on the location of the user.

<%@taglib prefix="fmt" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/fmt"%>

JSP

1. **SQL Tags** – These provide support for interaction with SQL databases like Oracle, MySQL, etc. They are normally used to create prototype programs, since most programs will not directly access databases from JSP pages.

<%@taglib prefix="sql" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/sql"%>

JSP

1. **XML Tags** – These work with XML documents, providing operations such as parsing, transforming data, XPath evaluation, etc.

<%@taglib prefix="x" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/xml"%>

JSP

1. **Function Tags** – JSTL includes a number of standard functions, most of which are common string manipulation functions. These tags allow access to these functions.

<%@taglib prefix="fn" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/functions"%>

JSP

## Core Tags

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JSTL Core Tag** | **Description** |
| <c:out> | To write something in JSP pages, we can use EL also with this tag. |
| <c:import> | Same as <jsp:include> or include directive. |
| <c:redirect> | Redirect request to another resource. |
| <c:set> | To set the variable value in the given scope. |
| <c:remove> | To remove the variable from the given scope. |
| <c:catch> | To catch the exception and wrap it into an object. |
| <c:if> | Simple conditional logic, used with EL and we can use it to process the exception from <c:catch>. |
| <c:choose> | Simple conditional tag that establishes a context for mutually exclusive conditional operations, marked by <c:when> and <c:otherwise>. |
| <c:when> | Subtag of <c:choose> that includes its body if its condition evaluates to true. |
| <c:otherwise> | Subtag of <c:choose> that includes its body if its condition evaluates to false. |
| <c:forEach> | For iteration over a collection. |
| <c:forTokens> | For iteration over tokens separated by a delimiter. |
| <c:params> | Used with <c:import> to pass parameters. |
| <c:url> | To create a URL with optional query string parameters. |