

# DocBook Version 5.1

## Committee Specification Draft 02 / Public Review Draft 02

**18 August 2015**

**Specification URIs:**

**This version:**

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/docbook-v5.1-csprd02.html>  
(Authoritative)  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/docbook-v5.1-csprd02.xml>  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/docbook-v5.1-csprd02.pdf>

**Previous version:**

None

**Latest version:**

<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/docbook-v5.1.html> (Authoritative)  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/docbook-v5.1.xml>  
<http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/docbook-v5.1.pdf>

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**Additional artifacts:**

This prose specification is one component of a Work Product that also includes:

- RELAX NG DocBook Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+ITS Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org>

- </docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/dbits.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+XInclude Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbookxi.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.sch>
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- An XML Catalog accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/catalog.xml>
- An NVDL Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/docbook.nvdl>
- DocBook V4.x conversion tools accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/tools/>

#### Related work:

This specification replaces or supersedes:

- *The DocBook Schema Version 5.0*. 1 November 2009. OASIS Standard.  
<http://docbook.org/specs/docbook-5.0-spec-os.html>

#### Declared XML namespaces:

<http://docbook.org/ns/docbook>

#### Abstract:

DocBook is a general purpose [XML] schema particularly well suited to books and papers about computer hardware and software (though it is by no means limited to these applications).

The Version 5.1 release introduces assemblies for topic-oriented authoring. It also addresses a selection of bugs and feature requests.

The Technical Committee provides the DocBook 5.1 schema in other schema languages, including W3C XML Schema and an XML DTD, but the RELAX NG Schema is the normative schema.

#### Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the DocBook Technical Committee on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the current location noted above for possible later revisions of this document. This document is updated periodically on no particular schedule.

Technical Committee members should send comments on this specification to the Technical Committee's email list. Others should send comments to the Technical Committee by using the "[Send A Comment](#)" button on the Technical Committee's web

page at <https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/docbook/>.

For information on whether any patents have been disclosed that may be essential to implementing this specification, and any offers of patent licensing terms, please refer to the Intellectual Property Rights section of the Technical Committee web page (<https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/docbook/ipr.php>).

Any other numbered Versions and other technical work produced by the Technical Committee (TC) are listed at [https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc\\_home.php?wg\\_abbrev=docbook#technical](https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=docbook#technical).

#### **Citation format:**

When referencing this specification, the following citation format should be used:

[DocBook-5.1] DocBook Version 5.1. Edited by Norman Walsh. 18 August 2015. OASIS Committee Specification Draft 02 / Public Review Draft 02. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/docbook-v5.1-csprd02.html>. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/docbook-v5.1.html>.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

DocBook is general purpose [\[XML\]](#) schema particularly well suited to books and papers about computer hardware and software (though it is by no means limited to these applications).

The [DocBook Technical Committee](#) maintains the DocBook schema. Starting with V5.0, DocBook is normatively available as a [\[RELAX NG\]](#) Schema (with some additional [\[Schematron\]](#) assertions). A non-normative [\[W3C XML Schema\]](#) version will be published when it is available. DocBook builds on existing XML technologies: it uses [\[XLink\]](#) for linking, [\[W3C XML Datatypes\]](#) for atomic data types, and anticipates the use of [\[XInclude\]](#) for transclusion.

### Note

DocBook has been under active maintenance for more than 20 years, it began life as an [\[SGML\]](#) document type definition.

The Version 5.1 introduces assemblies for topic-oriented authoring and addresses a selection of bugs and feature requests.

The DocBook Technical Committee welcomes bug reports and requests for enhancement (RFEs) from the user community. Please send comments and requests for enhancement to the DocBook comments list, [docbook-comment@lists.oasis-open.org](mailto:docbook-comment@lists.oasis-open.org) mailing list. Outstanding requests can be seen in the archives as well as in the [SourceForge tracker](#) interface.

## 1.2. Terminology

The key words *must*, *must not*, *required*, *shall*, *shall not*, *should*, *should not*, *recommended*, *may*, and *optional* in this OASIS Committee Specification; are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC 2119\]](#).

## 1.3. Normative References

[XML]

T. Bray, J. Paoli, M., E. Maler, F. Yergeau, Editors, [Extensible Markup \(XML\) 1.0 \(Fifth Edition\)](#), W3C Recommendation, 26 November 2008.

[XLink]

Steven DeRose, Eve Maler, David Orchard, Norman Walsh, editors. [XML Linking Language \(XLink\) Version 1.1](#). World Wide Web Consortium, 2005.

[XInclude]

Jonathan Marsh, David Orchard, Daniel Veillard, Norman Walsh, editors. [XML Inclusions \(XInclude\) Version 1.0 \(Second Edition\)](#). World Wide Web Consortium, 2006.

[W3C XML Datatypes]

Paul V. Biron and Ashok Malhotra, editors. [XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes Second Edition](#).

World Wide Web Consortium, 2004.

[ITS]

David Filip, Shaun McCance, Dave Lewis, et. al., editors. [\*International Tag Set \(ITS\) 2.0\*](#). World Wide Web Consortium, 2013.

[RELAX NG]

[\*ISO/IEC 19757-2:2008 Information Technology—Document Schema Definition Language \(DSDL\)—Part 2: Regular-grammar-based validation—RELAX NG\*](#). Publicly available at: [http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/c052348\\_ISO\\_IEC\\_19757-2\\_2008\(E\).zip](http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/c052348_ISO_IEC_19757-2_2008(E).zip).

[Schematron]

[\*ISO/IEC 19757-3:2006 Information Technology—Document Schema Definition Language \(DSDL\)—Part 3: Rule-based validation—Schematron\*](#) Publicly available at: [http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/c040833\\_ISO\\_IEC\\_19757-3\\_2006\(E\).zip](http://standards.iso.org/ittf/PubliclyAvailableStandards/c040833_ISO_IEC_19757-3_2006(E).zip).

[RFC 2119]

Bradner, S. "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>.

[RFC 7303]

Thompson, H. and C. Lilley, "XML Media Types", RFC 7303, July 2014, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7303>.

[DocBook 5.1: TDG]

Norman Walsh. [\*DocBook 5.1: The Definitive Guide\*](#).

## 1.4. Non-Normative References

[DocBook 5: TDG]

Norman Walsh. [\*DocBook 5.0: The Definitive Guide\*](#). O'Reilly Media. April 2010.

[SGML]

JTC 1, SC 34. *ISO 8879:1986 Information processing -- Text and office systems -- Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML)*. 1986.

[W3C XML Schema]

Henry S. Thompson, David Beech, Murray Maloney, et. al., editors. [\*XML Schema Part 1: Structures Second Edition\*](#). World Wide Web Consortium, 2004.

## 2. The DocBook RELAX NG Schema

### 2.1. Distribution

The DocBook RELAX NG Schema (and associated non-normative schemas and tools) are distributed with this specification. DocBook is also available from the mirror on <http://docbook.org/>.

This prose specification is one component of a Work Product that also includes:

- RELAX NG DocBook Schema (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schema (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+ITS Schema (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/dbits.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+XInclude Schema (non-normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbookxi.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Schematron (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schematron (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook+ITS Schematron (normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/dbits.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook+XInclude Schematron (non-normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbookxi.sch>
- An XML Catalog (non-normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/catalog.xml>
- An NVDL Schema (non-normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/docbook.nvdl>
- DocBook V4.x conversion tools (non-normative) accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/tools/>

### 3. Identifying DocBook Documents and Schemas

For systems that can make use of public identifiers, e.g., systems where the informative DTD is being used, the following public identifier *should* be used for DocBook V5.1: “-//OASIS//DTD DocBook V5.1//EN//XML”.

#### Note

Historically, when DocBook was defined by a DTD, DocBook documents could be identified by the presence of standard public and/or system identifiers in the document type declaration. RELAX NG, the normative schema language for DocBook V5.0, does not provide any equivalent mechanism.

### 4. Conformance

This specification normatively defines DocBook V5.1 with a RELAX NG grammar and a set of Schematron assertions. A conformant DocBook V5.1 document *must* be valid according to both the grammar and the assertions.

DocBook documents are described by a set of schemas:

- “Plain” DocBook documents and DocBook Assembly documents. The schema for assembly documents is separate as a convenience for authors, it is conceptually part of the whole set of DocBook documents.
- DocBook + International Tag Set (ITS) Version 2.0; this schema allows authors to write



valid DocBook documents that satisfy ITS Conformance Type 1 as defined in [ITS].

- DocBook + XInclude markup; this schema is not normative. It allows authors to write documents which mix DocBook markup and XInclude in many (but perhaps not all) reasonable places.

The schemas in question are:

- RELAX NG DocBook Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+ITS Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/dbits.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook+XInclude Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbookxi.rnc>
- RELAX NG DocBook Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbook.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook Assembly Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/assembly.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook+ITS Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/dbits.sch>
- RELAX NG DocBook+XInclude Schematron accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/rng/docbookxi.sch>
- An NVDL Schema accessible from <http://docs.oasis-open.org/docbook/docbook/v5.1/csprd02/schemas/docbook.nvdl>

The reference documentation (see [DocBook 5.1: TDG]) describes general processing expectations for each element and some of the circumstances in which they may or may not apply. Understanding and conforming to these processing expectations where practical is likely to improve interoperability.

## Note

[DocBook 5: TDG], the reference documentation for DocBook V5.0, much of which still applies to DocBook V5.1, is also available in published form from *O'Reilly Media*.

## 5. Release Notes

See <http://www.relaxng.org/> for a list of tools that can validate an XML document using RELAX NG. Note that not all products are capable of evaluating the Schematron assertions in the schema.

## A. Acknowledgements (non-normative)

The following individuals have participated in the creation of this specification and are gratefully acknowledged: Steve Cogorno, Gary Cornelius, Adam Di Carlo, Paul Grosso, Dick Hamilton, Nancy Harrison, Scott Hudson, Mark Johnson, Gershon Joseph, Jirka Kosek, Larry Rowland, Michael Smith, Robert Stayton (Secretary), Norman Walsh, (Chair, Editor).



## B. Revision History (non-normative)

### B.1. Disposition of Comments

The following list summarizes the disposition of comments on the first public call for review. Further details about these changes can be found [online](#).

1. Appendix subsections should be numbered "A.1... A.2" etc. spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
2. Citation formatting spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
3. Citation problem spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
4. PDF version has no footers spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
5. Status section wording. spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
6. TAB-1159: URL Redirects (12) spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
7. TAB-1160: Hanging Paragraphs spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
8. TAB-1161: Normative vs. Non-Normative text unmarked spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
9. TAB-1162: Missing Normative References - RELAX NG grammar + Schematron assertions spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
10. TAB-1163: Incorrect Citation and updated Normative Reference (XML) spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
11. TAB-1164: Incorrect Citation and updated Normative Reference (XLink) spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
12. TAB-1165: Incorrect Citation and updated Normative Reference (W3C XML Datatypes)

spec51

Accepted and fixed.

13. TAB-1166: RELAX-NG citation in normative references spec51

Accepted and fixed.

14. TAB-1167: Schematron citation in normative references spec51

Accepted and fixed.

15. TAB-1168: RFC 2119 incorrect citation spec51

Accepted and fixed.

16. TAB-1169: RFC 3023 - Superseded spec51

Accepted and fixed.

17. TAB-1170: DocBook 5 as Normative Reference? Uncited spec51

Accepted and fixed.

18. TAB-1171: DocBook 5.1 as Normative Reference? Uncited in text spec51

Accepted and fixed.

19. TAB-1172: XML Schema Part 1: Updated and corrected citation spec51

Accepted and fixed.

20. TAB-1173: [XML] not cited by standard spec51

Accepted and fixed.

21. TAB-1174: [XLink11] is not cited by standard spec51

Accepted and fixed.

22. TAB-1176: Update RFC 3023 references spec51

Accepted and fixed.

23. TAB-1177: [SGML] is not cited by standard spec51

Accepted and fixed.

24. TAB-1178: Citation of W3C XML Schema? spec51

Accepted and fixed.

25. TAB-1179: Reference to listing of resources outside the standard spec51

Accepted and fixed.

26. TAB-1180: Schemas not declared normative or non-normative spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
27. TAB-1181: 2.1 Assemblies Non-Normative? spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
28. TAB-1182: 2.1 incorrect reference spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
29. TAB-1183: 3. Identifying DocBook Documents and Schemas mixed Normative and Non-Normative text spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
30. TAB-1184: Conformance Clause missing normative reference spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
31. TAB-1185: A. The DocBook Media Type Normative? Non-Normative? spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
32. TAB-1186: Appendices B. Acknowledgements and C. Revision History should be marked as non-normative spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
33. TAB-1187: Unclear if assemblies are subject to conformance and how. spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
34. TAB-1188: Vague and inappropriate style in second part of conformance clause spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
35. TAB-1189: Imprecise normative references in conformance clause. spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
36. The month in the date should be spelled out. spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
37. Title page formatting issue spec51  
Accepted and fixed.
38. Small errors in Schematron syntax.  
Accepted and fixed.

## B.2. Changes in DocBook V5.1

DocBook V5.1 fixes a number of bugs, summarized below, and adds a significant new feature designed for the purpose of topic-based authoring: assemblies.

### B.2.1. Assemblies

One modern school of thought on technical documentation stresses the development of independent units of documentation, often called topics, rather than a single narrative. Instead of writing something that DocBook users would easily recognize as a book consisting of a preface, several consecutive chapters, and a few appendixes, the author (or authors) write a set of discrete topics covering different aspects of the system as if they were wholly independent.

In a typical online presentation system, for example the world wide web or online help, each topic is a page that stands alone. Except, of course, that just as no man is an island, no topic is completely unrelated to the other topics that are available.

From any given topic, there may be topics of obviously related interest. The nature of the relationships may vary. Some topics are related by physical proximity (if you're interested in the ink cartridges in a printer, you may also be interested in the print head), others by their procedural nature (adding or replacing memory, adding or replacing a hard drive, or even changing the CPU are all topics that might logically follow a topic that describes how to open the computer case).

In a single narrative, it is the responsibility of the author to manage these relationships. He or she can reasonably assume that anyone reading chapter 4 has read chapters 1, 2, and 3. If the reader needs to be directed elsewhere, a cross reference can be used (for example, "for more information on paper jams, see Section 3.5, *The Paper Path*").

In a topic-oriented system, authors are explicitly instructed to write independent units. No linear order can be assumed and many forms of explicit cross-reference are discouraged.

Documentation managers treat the library of available topics very much as programmers treat libraries of available functions. Just as any given program can pick and choose from the available libraries, the documentation for any given system can pick and choose from the available topics.

If you imagine a large documentation group managing the documentation for several related systems (different models of printer, different configurations of a software system, computers assembled from different components, etc.) it's easy to see the appeal of topic-oriented authoring.

In a successful deployment, you might find a library of say 1,000 topics which, taken together, document five or six related systems, each of which uses 700-800 topics. Some topics are used in every system, many are used in several systems, and a small number of topics are unique to a specific system.

In order to make such a documentation platform functional, you need not only the individual topics, but also some sort of "map" or "assembly" file that describes which topics from the library are used, what relationships exist between them and, at least for print presentation, what linear order is to be imposed upon them.

DocBook uses assemblies for this purpose, see [DocBook 5.1: The Definitive Guide, Chapter 6](#).

## B.3. Changes in DocBook V5.1CR3

This release contains a bug fix.

1. [Fixed](#) issue [#305](#); made navigational components optional in `sect1`.

## B.4. Changes in DocBook V5.1CR2

This release contains bug fixes and improvements over V5.1CR1.

1. [Use](#) final ITS 2.0 schemas.
2. [Fixed](#) issue [#303](#); moved `multimediaparam` into the `*data` elements and allow the `*data` elements to be repeated.
3. [Added](#) RDFa Lite attributes to DocBook; removed the separate customization layer.
4. [Added](#) source for `catalog.xml`.

## B.5. Changes in DocBook V5.1CR1

This release contains bug fixes and improvements over V5.0.

1. [Updated](#) the `db4-upgrade.` script.
2. [Added](#) an RDFa Lite extension schema.
3. [Merged](#) ITS changes.
4. [Fixed](#) issue [#300](#); added a class to `see/seealso` to handle the 'under' case.
5. [Fixed](#) issue [#277](#); added a result element.
6. [Added](#) `@its:version`, improved better handling of extensibility.
7. [Merged](#) pull request [#5](#) from kosek/master.
8. [Updated](#) ITS to support ITS 2.0
9. [Fixed](#) issue [#298](#); don't allow secondary without primary in `indexterm`.
10. [Fixed](#) issue [#295](#); allow navigation components at the beginnings of sections.
11. [Fixed](#) issue [#293](#); removed spurious, duplicate 'other' value.
12. [Attempt](#) to implement the whole proposal for accessibility attributes in CALS tables.
13. [Fixed](#) issue [#293](#); allow admonitions in formal objects.

14. [Fixed](#): issue [#299](#); allow articles in sets.
15. [Added](#) scope attribute to CALS tables.
16. [Removed](#) format attribute from output element; the standard effectivity attribute outputformat can be used instead.
17. [Added](#) outputformat as an effectivity attribute.
18. [Added](#): AltGr and Return to keycap class values.
19. [Renamed](#) fileref attribute to href in on resources in assemblies.
20. [Fixed](#) bug in Schematron assertions about XLink, thanks to Hussein Shafie
21. [Fixed](#) issue [#292](#); added pgwide to informalexample and informalequation.
22. [Made](#) info on structure and module optional in assemblies.
23. [Implemented](#) recent [TC decisions](#) about assemblies.
24. [Adopted](#) the recent proposals to add attributes/parameters to audio and video objects.
25. [Fixed](#) reference to broken pattern; make sure linking attributes are on areas.
26. [Fixed](#) issue [#285](#); made content optional in components and sections.
27. [Allow](#) link in extendedlink, in preparation for arc and locator being removed in V6.0.
28. [Added](#) extendedlink changes to the V6.0 future use comments.
29. [Fixed](#) issue [#289](#); allow multiple procedure elements in task.
30. [Fixed](#) issue [#288](#); allow tag elements to nest
31. [Reworked](#) XLink attributes to support simple/extended links.
32. [Added](#) pattern for imagedata, SVG, and MathML content (so that it can be extended by the XInclude schema).
33. [Added](#) XInclude to images and equations; allow foreign, namespace-qualified attributes on the xi:include element.
34. [Fixed](#) issue [#276](#); broaden content model of contrib.
35. [Fixed](#) issue [#282](#); update HTML informatable attributes.
36. [Fixed](#) issue [#283](#); allow production to contain rhs+.
37. [Fixed](#) issue [#284](#); support ISTC as a biblioid class.
38. [Attempt](#) to implement Larry's latest suggestions about assemblies.
39. [Fixed](#) issue [#281](#); allow xi:include in set.

40. [Fixed](#) issue [#280](#); added security context and other to system item.
41. [Fixed](#) issue [#279](#); allow dedication in article.
42. [Changed](#) Schematron namespace to official ISO Schematron URI.
43. [Allow](#) topic in chapter and appendix (as an alternative to narrative content) per May 2010 TC meeting.
44. [Fixed](#) content model of book and part to make topic an alternative, not part of the component mixture.
45. [Allow](#) the other major components of an assembly to be top level elements (so they can be stored in separate files, for example).
46. [Allow](#) an assembly without any structure elements.
47. [Tweak](#) assembly schemas.
48. [Allow](#) override element in assemblies.
49. [Generalized](#) toc/index to db.navigation.components in assembly structure and module for consistency
50. [Updated](#): in assembly, if at least one resource is required, then at least one structure should be required as well.
51. [Removed](#) description attribute from assemblies (no content in attributes!); added some repurpose documentation for attributes and attribute values.
52. [Added](#) repurpose for type attribute.