DITA 1.3 proposed feature 13092

Contents

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Allow <ph> within <indexterm>.

Date and version information

Include the following information:

- Date completed: 2 Oct 2012
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- Email:

Original requirement

Without <ph> it is impossible to represent things like superscripts and subscripts in index entries (because <sub> and <sup> are specializations of <ph>. There is no reason to disallow <ph> within indexterm.

Use cases

Use cases include:

- Subscripts and subscripts within index entries
- Any other typographic or semantic markup specialized from <ph> that might be need to be used in an index entry.

Benefits

This change ensures that the content model of <indexterm> is not over constrained, allowing representation of any phrase-level typographic or semantic distinction that might be needed.

Costs

- Maintainers of the DTDs and XSDs:

  - Add <ph> the content model of <indexterm>, <index-see>, and <index-see-also>.
- Editors of the DITA specification:

  - How many new topics will be required?

    - No new topics
  - How many existing topics will need to be edited?

    - The generated content model description for <indexterm>, <index-see>, and <index-see-also> will reflect the addition of <xref>.
  - Will the feature require substantial changes to the information architecture of the DITA specification?

    - The feature does not represent a substantial change to the architecture.
- Vendors of tools:

  - XML editors will need to allow editing of the updated content models.
  - Processors may need to provide additional rules for handling <ph> within index terms. In particular, they cannot treat index terms as simple strings. (But note that <indexterm> already allowed <keyword> and <term>, so there has always been this requirement for index entries.)
- DITA community-at-large. Will this feature add to the perception that DITA is becoming too complex?

  - This change should not add to the perception of complexity for authors.

Technical requirements

Modify `commonElements.mod` to add "%ph;" to the content model for <indexterm>:

```
<!--                         LONG NAME: Index Term                          -->
<!ENTITY % indexterm.content
                      "(%words.cnt;|
                        %ph; |
                        %indexterm;|
                        %index-base;)*"
>
```

Modify `indexingDomain.dom` to add "%ph;" to the content models for <index-see> and <index-see-also>:

```
<!--                         LONG NAME: Index See                           -->
<!ENTITY % index-see.content
                      "(%words.cnt; |
                        %ph; |
                        %indexterm;)*"
>
<!ENTITY % index-see.attributes
              "keyref
                        CDATA
                                    #IMPLIED
             %univ-atts;"
>
<!ELEMENT index-see     %index-see.content;>
<!ATTLIST index-see     %index-see.attributes;>


<!--                         LONG NAME: Index See Also                      -->
<!ENTITY % index-see-also.content
                      "(%words.cnt; |
                        %ph; |
                        %indexterm;)*"
>
```

Examples

Index term with various typographic elements:

```
<p>Many people consider Euler's identity,
<i>e</i><sup><i>&#x03c0;</i><i>i</i></sup>+1=0,
<indexterm><i>e</i><sup><i>&#x03c0;</i><i>i</i></sup>+1=0 <index-see>Euler's
identity</index-see> </indexterm> <indexterm>Euler's identity</indexterm>
<indexterm>2.71828
  <index-see><i>e</i> (Euler's number)</index-see>
</indexterm>
to be the most beautiful equation in mathematics.</p>
```