

PDF/A Proof of Concept for XBRL

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Problem

- Purpose of Proof of Concept
 - Show PDF/A as viable alternative to HTML/ZIP for XBRL
 - Improve AI-readiness of reports
- Current XBRL Reporting
 - Tagged HTML binds visual data to XBRL facts
 - XBRL Report Package requires viewer tool
- Use Case Problem Statements
 - Inline XBRL costly for large filings, especially tables
 - Complex tooling, obscure semantics, poor AI extraction
- HTML vs PDF submissions
 - Multiple conversions required for HTML → AI
- For AI consumability
 - Current XML taxonomy misses filer's semantic intent
- Interest in PDF/A (by rule makers)
 - ISO standard with structural tagging support

Solution

- PDF/A with OIM Taxonomy for Al
- Embeds taxonomy in JSON directly in PDF
- Preserves both visual layout and filer semantics
- PDF/A as HTML rendering alternative (visual)
 - Pixel-perfect rendering and accessibility structure
- XBRL and metadata embedded in PDF/A
 - Facts mapped to structural elements with iXBRL features
- PDF viewer ⇒ structural element ⇒ XBRL template
- Direct mapping enables interactive viewers
- Structure model / template (diagram)
 - Supports transforms, scaling, and sign conventions

Proof of Concept & Use Cases

- Proof of Concept demo
 - Arelle plugin reads tagged PDF/A + JSON template
- PDF tools accommodation (UI plugins)
 - Tag-entry panes and XBRL fact viewing in PDF editors
- Use Case 1 Inline XBRL Reports
 - Replace HTML with PDF/A for filings and agency portals
- Use Case 2 Form templates (merged with static forms)
 - Pre-tagged PDFs eliminate filer need for tagging tools
- Use Case 3 Tagged tabular data
 - Combine tagged statements with xBRL-CSV for large tables
- PDF/A Portable Collection as the container
 - Embed OIM taxonomy and metadata files

Inline XBRL — HTML vs PDF Submissions

