To: Chris Lindgren

From: Juliet Nakasi

Subject: DITA topic model design rationale

Date: 12/23/2015

My DITA topic model details how to use the figure and figure caption elements in HTML5. There are so many things that can be used with the figure and figure caption elements in HTML5. The introduction in the model discusses the figure and figure caption in a more general way, and talks about some of the things the two elements can be used for, and how they can be used. The tasks focus on just three things that seemed very relevant, and some of the things people had questions about. This particular model details three particular tasks: how to add a caption to an image, how to wrap code with the figure element, and how to use figure element with multiple images. A reference topic shows some of the sources I used to obtain some of the information. In order to better understand how some of the tasks work, I had to look up some sources that could provide more information. Therefore, the reference topic is where I cite all the sources.

When I was researching the two elements for the historicizing project, so many people had questions about the different things that the figure and figure caption can be used for, and how they can be used. The main questions revolved around the three tasks I chose for my model. Most people were really confused by how to add a caption to the images, whether one could have code in the figure element, and if it was possible to have more than one image in the figure element. Therefore, for the architecture of my model, I chose to show how each of the tasks builds off another. The main goal was to simplify how to use different things in the figure element, and how a caption can be added to every single one of them. I started with how to add a caption to the image. Once the figure element is used, a figure caption usually follows. Therefore, the task of how to add a caption was important to illustrate how the caption can be added, and how to format the caption using CSS. The caption can be at the top, or bottom of the page. It really depends on what the designer of the page wants it to look like. Adding a caption is almost straightforward, but knowing how to format it was not that obvious, nor simple. Most people that had issues with the figure and the caption asked a lot about how they could format the caption to fit their standards. Therefore, in my model I show how some simple formatting can be done.

The second task, which demonstrates how to wrap code with the figure element, was another important thing that people asked about. Like I mentioned in the introduction paragraph, figure and figure caption can be used in so many different ways. Wrapping code is one of those ways. This task helps the reader understand how they can wrap code using the figure element, and how to add a caption to the code. The caption part follows the same guidelines as those illustrated in the task above. The only thing different is how to wrap the code. Therefore, this particular task builds off the first task by showing how to wrap code, and then adding a caption with the guidelines in the first task.

The last task is how to include multiple images in one figure element. People wondered whether it was possible to have more than one image in the figure element, and whether it was possible to have a caption for every one of the images. It is indeed possible to have more than one image. The only caveat is there can only be one caption. Therefore, this task describes how to include the multiple images, and how to add a caption that describes the images. Again, this task kind of goes off the first task because it illustrates how to add the caption. The main difference in the way the caption can be added in this way the way it is not for the first two is that; a person can only use one caption. In the caption they refer to the images as figure 1, figure 2, etc.

Therefore, for the architecture of my model, the tasks build off the first task, which is how to add a caption for the different things added to the figure element. Essentially, one can have an image(s), graph, code, or video, and but when it comes to the caption, the format is the same. There can only be one caption regardless of what in used in the figure element.

I made my design decision when I was finalizing my historicizing project. I looked at the things most people had questions about, and how each can kind of relates off at least one of them. The main confusion seemed to revolve around the caption. Therefore, when I was coming up with my tasks, I decided to show how different things could be done in the figure element, but the one constant thing that almost never changes is the caption. I chose to start with how the caption can be used, and formatted to fit the designer’s taste. I figured once that was covered, It would be easy to show that regardless of what is in the figure element, the caption itself does not change much, or at all. Once the caption was covered, I decided to focus on what I believe could be the hard tasks for people to achieve when using the figure element. Adding a single image, and adding a video could be a little straightforward. However, wrapping code, and adding multiple images were a little bit tricky. Therefore, when I came up with the design, I chose to add those two tasks in addition to the caption task.

The figure and figure caption are pretty straightforward for the most part. Therefore, there are too many tasks I could work with. Coming up with steps for the different tasks was not that easy because most of these can be done by just letting the reader know, “add multiple figures here…” and add a caption. To make my model a little more consistent, I chose to explain some of the steps in a little bit more detail. I provided details for steps that might have been a little bit confusing to the reader. Therefore, that is why some of the steps have more details, and others do not. Those that were pretty straightforward, have one sentence. And those that were not have more than one sentence. In each task, I also made sure that there were two steps to maintain consistency throughout the model.

Adding a caption is a step in all the tasks because my model in a way focuses on how the caption is used in the figure element. When I came up with a design, I chose tasks that would enable me emphasis the caption in some way. That is why the last thing in every task is the step that involves adding a caption. Some of the information for the information for the caption is repetitive for all three tasks, but that was part of the design to show how important the caption is, and how it never changes that much in the way it is used for the different things.

Overall, I wanted to keep my model as simple as possible. I decided to focus on a few tasks, and made them as simple as possible. Some of the tasks seemed hard when I read different sources, but after designing my model, I think they are now simplified. My model meets my goal, which was simplifying some of the things that seemed hard when figuring out how to use the figure, and figure caption for the different tasks.