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WRIT 5662

Task and Architecture Documentation Process for Creation Using DITA

For my DITA project, I decided to simply re-draft the website I have been working on with my client into a type of deliverables format. After speaking with Kristina, the TA, I decided that it would be prudent for me to visualize what the actual site would look like as an html file or a PDF. I had, of course, seen the HTML in the early stages but not under auspices of Oxygen and DITA. This would also give me a chance to bury the hatchet in the frustrating relationship I had with the other coding techniques! I feel as though I didn’t really *connect* as well with HTML and XML. This was a chance to reinvent the site using a much more user-friendly writing program.

So I went back to Pete, my client, and asked for his feedback on how he would like the site to function and had liked my early ideas of a minimalist approach without redundancy. The Introduction to DITA piece from Exact Learning Solutions mentions that “the 'cut and paste' approach is still the most commonly used strategy in producing technical documentation for online training delivery. This results in high levels of content replication, low levels of content reuse and the high costs of engaging subject matter experts (SMEs) in never-ending proofreading cycles” (Exact, 2012). I explained to Pete that the DITA process would be the most effective architecture program for what we need to communicate to the user.

So from that conversation, I thought of a great new category that really encourages the user to take action within the framework of Pete’s recruiting site. This was a section that focused simply on how to get a job and what skills people are looking for. There was then a description of these skills listed in this section. By organizing the topics in such a way, I can help prepare the information for potential content, process and design reuse (Priestly, 2001) later on.

So I began to create my project categories and give them different descriptions and fill in the necessary content to show to Pete. Then, after discussing the various changes with him, I began to incorporate little chunks of his old site that were still very much relevant to the new design. I was essentially recreating most of what he had already done but in a minimalist framework.