

XML for Information Management Workshop Post-Course Materials

The content of all the post-course e-mails should be driven by the needs of your workshop participants. We selected the sample texts and references below based on questions raised by the participants of the workshops we presented. Please feel free to borrow both the content and the resources, or to find new material that will better suit your participants' needs.

XML for Information Management Workshop, Post Course #1

This is the first of a series of three e-mails containing post course materials related to our discussions during the XML for Information Management Workshop. I hope you find them informative. Thank you again for participating in the workshop and please do not hesitate to contact either [other instructor's name here] or me if you have any questions.

Minnesota State Archives, eXtensible Markup Language Resources

<http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/xmlresources.html>

The Minnesota State Archives has compiled a number of web sites addressing XML. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but it will provide you with pointers to more information on XML and the XML family of standards.

XML and the Second-Generation Web

[Scientific American, May 1999. By Jon Bosak and Tim Bray]

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=0008C786-91DB-1CD6-B4A8809EC588EEDF>

Jon Bosak and Tim Bray were members of the W3C working group, which established the XML 1.0 specification, and undertake in this article to explain why and how XML was created. They focus on the benefits of XML, describe the strides which have been made with XLink and XSL, and offer steps to solving some of the initial difficulties of exchanging information through XML. The article's sidebar includes links to related subtopics, and illustrations of XML and how it works.

The XML FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about the Extensible Markup Language

<http://www.ucc.ie/xml/>

An introduction to XML including a comparison to other markup languages, what tools are needed to use XML, and what XML looks like.

Sincerely,

[name and contact information here]

XML for Information Management Workshop, Post Course #2

As promised, here is our second e-mail of post-course resources related to the XML for Information Management Workshop you attended at [the beginning of August]. During the workshop, many of you were interested in actual XML applications. Here are two references which provide lists of XML projects currently being undertaken in a variety of industries.

XML.gov

<http://xml.gov/>

The purpose of the XML.gov site is to facilitate the efficient and effective use of XML through cooperative efforts among government agencies, including partnerships with commercial and industrial organizations. For specific efforts, check out the links under Registered Efforts.

XML Cover Pages, Technology Reports

<http://xml.coverpages.org/techReports.html>

The XML Cover Pages are hosted by OASIS and are meant to provide comprehensive Web-accessible references supporting the SGML/XML family of markup language standards and their application. Under the Technology Reports section you will find links to XML Applications, General SGML/XML Applications, Academic Applications, and Government Applications.

And, one other interesting article:

XML - The Future of Metadata

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~visible/papers/xml-metadata.htm>

This article discusses how eXtensible Markup Language and metadata work together. The article also breaks down and walks through the make-up of an XML document.

Enjoy and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[name and contact information here]

XML for Information Management Workshop Final Post Course

[Other instructor's name here] and I hope you have found the post-course e-mails resulting from the XML for Information Management Workshop useful and informative. This will be our final post-course e-mail, but please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions.

Data Documentation Initiative, A Project of the Social Science Community

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/DDI/>

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an effort to establish an international criterion and methodology for the content, presentation, transport, and preservation of "metadata" about datasets in the social and behavioral sciences. In the social sciences, metadata are often called "codebooks." This is also a project that has incorporated the use of XML. The DDI committee has produced a Document Type Definition (DTD) for "markup" of social science codebooks.

What is XSLT?

<http://www.xml.com/pub/a/2000/08/holman/index.html>

A look at XSLT and XPath by XML.com. The material presented here assumes no prior knowledge of XSLT and XPath and guides the reader through background, context, structure, concepts and introductory terminology.

Lastly, we would greatly appreciate it if you would respond to a short, three question survey on your thoughts about the workshop now that two months have past, and on your reactions to the post-course materials. Your responses will help us to improve the process for future workshop participants as we continue to refine the metadata and XML workshops. Feel free to respond to these questions by e-mail.

- What are your reactions to the post-course materials you have received after the XML for Information Management Workshop?
- In what ways have you applied what you learned in the workshop to your daily work? If you have not applied anything you learned, why not?
- Is there any other information and issues that we should include in future workshops?

Thank you again for your participation in the XML for Information Management Workshop.

Sincerely,

[name and contact information for both instructors here]