TRANSFORMING XML AND HTML DOCUMENTS TO PDF USING CSS

PART 4 - ADVANCED FUNCTIONALITIES

Julien Lacour, Syncro Soft

julien_lacour@oxygenxml.com

Oxygen Webinar, September 15th 2021

© 2021 Syncro Soft SRL. All rights reserved.









Overview

- Hyphenation
- PDF Bookmarks
- PDF Metadata
- Text Extraction
- Dynamic Links
- Change Bars



Poll

What is your level of CSS knowledge?



Poll

What document type are you using as PDF input?



Poll

Are you familiar with XPath?



Before we start...

 "Le Tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours" (Around the World in Eighty Days) by Jules Verne

 Text and images are from Project Gutenberg https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/46541

CSS has been extracted into separate style-sheets



What is hyphenation?

- Can be manual or automatic
 - Use of the HYPHEN or SHY characters
 - Use of a hyphenation dictionary

Uses TeX typesetting system

Relies on hyphenation dictionaries



How to use Hyphenation

Use CSS 'hyphens' property

Use the 'auto' value (dictionaries)

```
body {
   hyphens: auto;
}
```

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/hyphens



How does a hyphenation dictionary work?

- Uses @lang or @xml:lang attribute
- Uses .hyp files (compiled dictionaries)
- Defines patterns containing
 - Some characters
 - One or more digits (0-9)
 - (Optional) One or two dots
- Creates hyphenation points for wrapping words



How does a hyphenation dictionary work?

Pattern:

- Sets of characters are matched against the words
- Dots are used to mark the starting/ending of a word

Match (for each word):

- Substring is assigned a digit 0-9 between the characters (hyphenation point)
- Pattern conflict: the highest value is assigned

Digits:

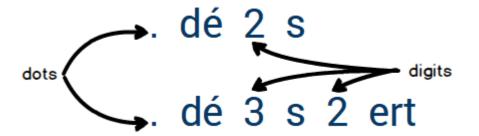
- Odd value: hyphenation is allowed
- Even value: no hyphenation is allowed



Example of Hyphenation

The french hyphenation dictionary

The 'désert' word





What is a PDF bookmark?

Additional way of navigating (similar to TOC)

Automatically created for HTML documents

Can be customized from CSS



How to customize bookmarks

- Use of the dedicated properties
 - bookmark-level
 - bookmark-label
 - bookmark-state
 - bookmark-target

Use of CSS content(), counter(), attr() and other functions

https://www.w3.org/TR/css-gcpm-3/#bookmarks



What is PDF metadata?

- Additional information about the document
 - Dynamic: collected from the document
 - Static: specified from the CSS directly
- Automatically created from HTML <meta> tags

External tools for filtering, indexing, or navigating

Accessible by search engines



How to define PDF metadata

- Use Oxygen's custom properties:
 - oxy-pdf-meta-author
 - oxy-pdf-meta-custom
 - oxy-pdf-meta-description
 - oxy-pdf-meta-keyword
 - oxy-pdf-meta-keywords
 - oxy-pdf-meta-title

Can be used with content() and attr() CSS functions



How to extract text from the content

Use Oxygen's oxy_xpath() function

Supports all XPath 2.0 functions

Works on both @page CSS at-rule and classic selectors

Can be tested using the XPath Builder

Warning: Must be optimized: can cause performance issues!



How to define PDF metadata

From <meta> tag:

```
<meta name="keywords" content="Phileas Fogg, Passepartout, Londres, Inde" />
```

From oxy_xpath() function:

```
oxy_xpath("normalize-space(substring-before(substring-after(text(), 'of'), ','))")
<title>The Project Gutenberg eBook of Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours, by Jules Verne*/title>

Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours
```



How to generate dynamic links

Use CSS target-counter() function

Gets a counter value for a given URL

URL target must be inside the document



Example of dynamic links

```
Counter name
.tdr > a {
 content: target-counter(attr(href), page); -> 57
}
<a href="#ch-10">42</a>
<h2 id="ch-10">X<br /> OU PASSEPARTOUT EST ...</h2>
```



How to display modifications

- Use Oxygen's custom ::changebar pseudo-element
- Use Oxygen's custom properties:
 - oxy-changebar-offset
 - oxy-changebar-placement
 - oxy-changebar-style
 - oxy-changebar-color
 - oxy-changebar-width

```
ins::changebar {
   -oxy-changebar-placement: start;
   -oxy-changebar-offset: 0.1in;
   -oxy-changebar-style: solid;
   -oxy-changebar-color: silver;
   -oxy-changebar-width: 1.5pt;
}
```



Additional Links

XPath documentation:

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/XPath/Functions/normalize-space https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/XPath/Functions/substring-before https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/XPath/Functions/substring-after

Oxygen PDF Chemistry User-Guide

https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_advanced_styling_hyphenation.html https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_pdf_output.html#ch_bookmarks https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_pdf_output.html#ch_metadata https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_advanced_styling_using_xpath_in_css.html https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_cross-references.html#ch_internal_links https://www.oxygenxml.com/doc/versions/23.1/ug-chemistry/topics/ch_change_bars.html

THANK YOU!

Any questions?

Julien Lacour julien_lacour@oxygenxml.com