

Analyzing Document Structure and Creating Structure Definitions in FrameMaker 7

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Agenda

- About the presenter
- Document design
- Information typing
- Metadata
- Building EDDs



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About the presenter

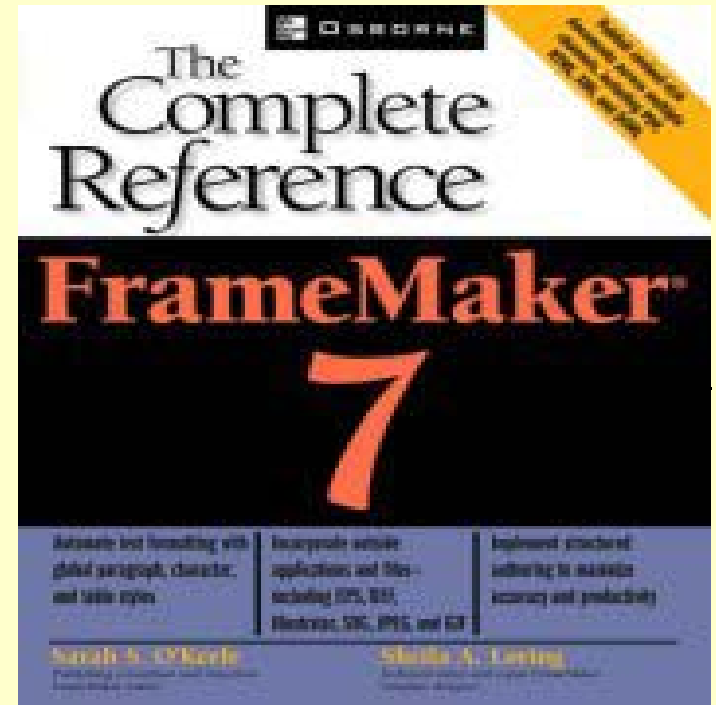
- Single-sourcing consultant
- Coauthor, *FrameMaker 7: The Complete Reference*, *Technical Writing 101*, and other books
- Founder, Scriptorium Publishing



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Free to a good home

- 888 pages
- Companion workbooks available
- More than you ever wanted to know about FrameMaker



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An even better freebie

- **FrameMaker 7**
- **Donated by Adobe Systems, Inc.**
- **Street price: \$795**

The logo for DocFRAME, consisting of the word "Doc" in white on a black background and "FRAME" in green on a white background, all contained within a thin black border. The logo is positioned on a light blue rectangular background that has a faint, repeating pattern of geometric shapes. A vertical black line extends upwards from the top of this blue area, and a horizontal black line extends to the right from the bottom of the logo.

Document design types

- Unstructured documents
- “Semi-structured” documents
- Structured documents

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Designing unstructured documents

- Determine look and feel.
- Match the look and feel.
- It's all presentation. No points for technical merit.



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Designing “ semi-structured” documents

- Determine look and feel.
- Create tags to implement look and feel.
- Documents are not structured with elements and hierarchy, but they’re organized.
- Presentation counts. Tags do, too.



Structured document design

- Determine document tagging structure.
- Often can extrapolate from existing documents.
- Formatting is automatic based on structure.



Designing structure templates

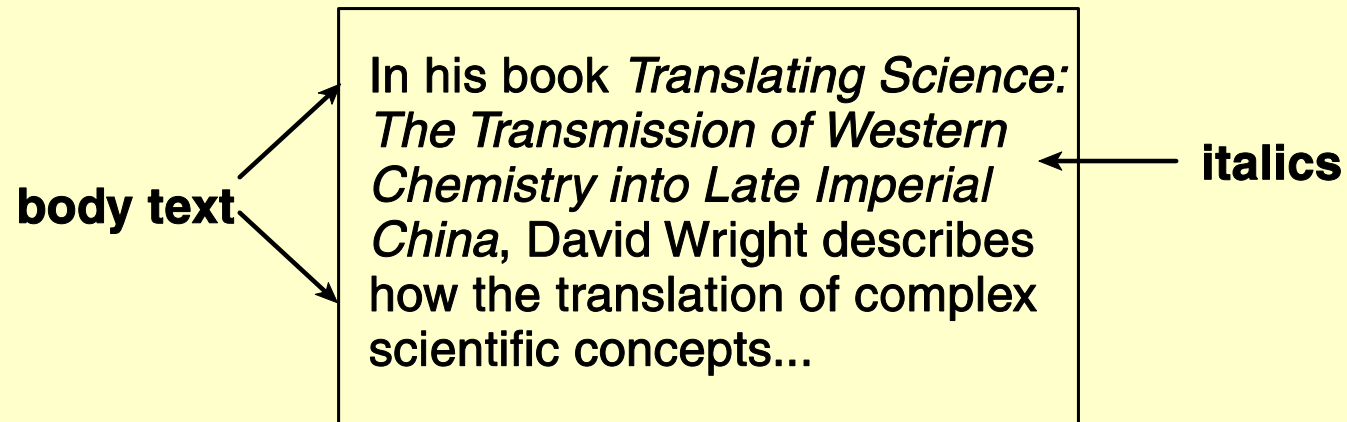
- Label content by function, not format.
- Create document hierarchy.
- Classify information with metadata.



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Designing structure templates



Paragraph

BookTitle

ISBN = "9004117768"

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Labeling content by function

- **Emphasis and BookTitle instead of Italics**
- **Generic vs. specific tags**
 - Procedure vs. Section
 - GlossaryDefinition vs. Para
 - Steps vs. List

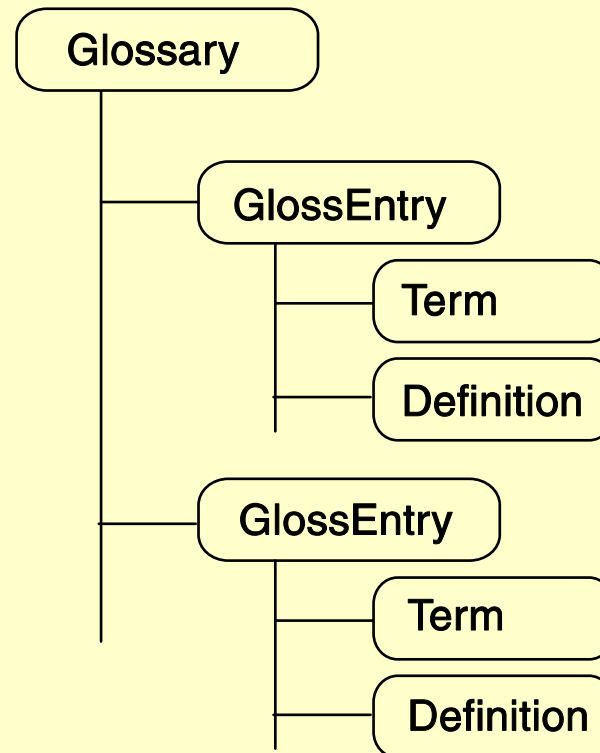
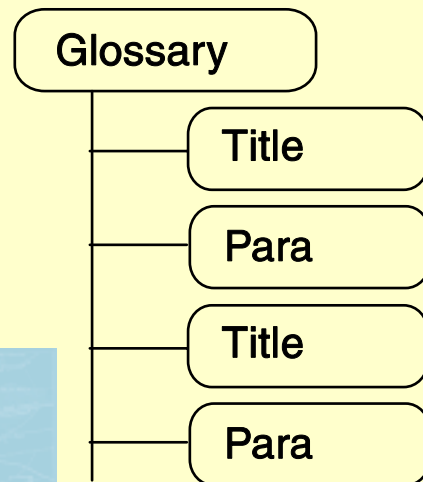


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Labeling content by function

Antoine Lavoisier
Nineteenth-century French chemist
who named oxygen

"Pass the Courvoisier"
21st-century urban hit by
Busta Rhymes



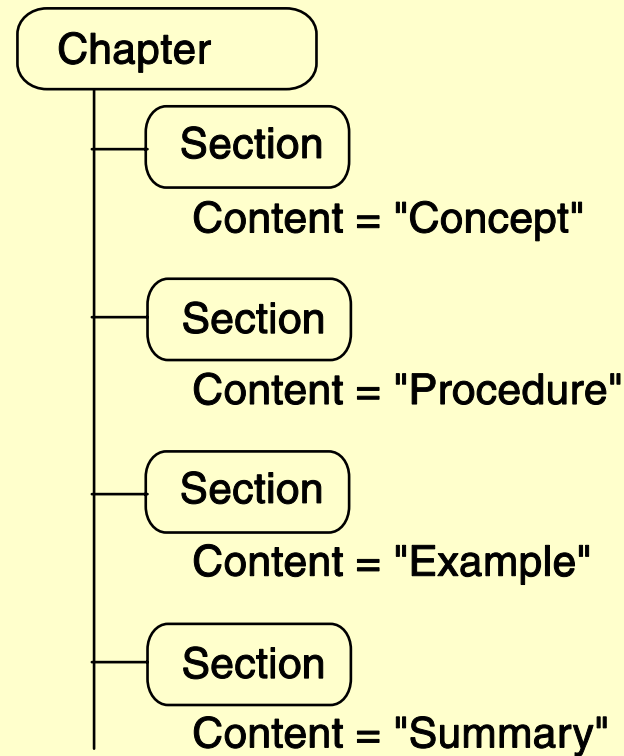
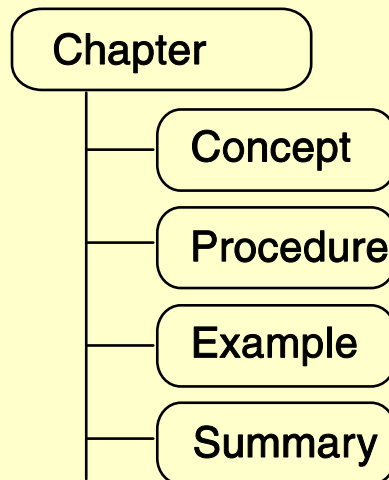
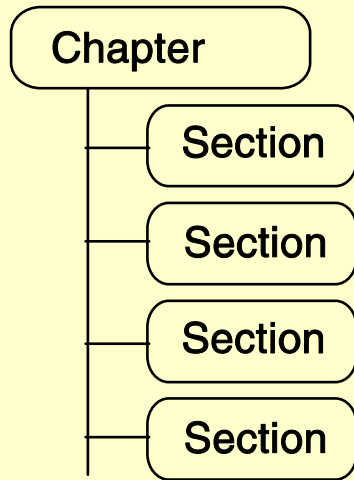
Thinking about information typing

- Procedure, Reference, Concept
- More complex structure
- Better labeling of information



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Thinking about information typing



Information typing considerations

- Balance maintenance requirements against advantages of more specific structure.
- Choose high-value areas to implement very specific structure.



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Creating document hierarchy

- Group information into logical chunks.
- Sections, topics, chapters, lists, glossary entries.
- Group chunks into bigger chunks.
- Think about reuse.

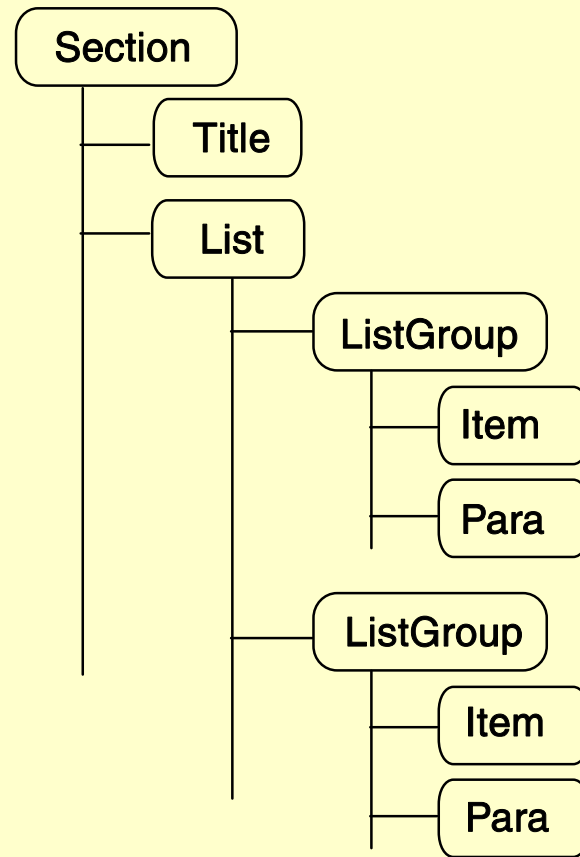
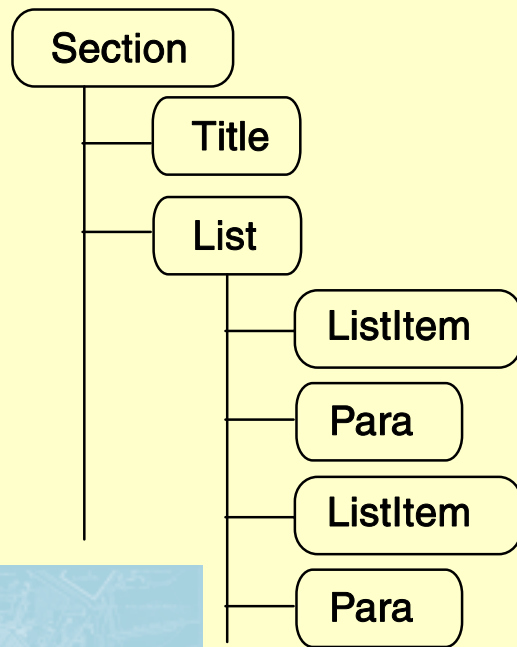


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How much structure?

A few of my favorite things:

1. Raindrops on roses
2. Whiskers on kittens



Classifying information with metadata

- Use attributes to save information about an element.
- Who, what, where, when, why?
- Think about storage, retrieval, and reuse.



Section

Author = "Antoine Lavoisier"
Language = "French"
Draft = "Beta"
Output = "Print"

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It's a bird, it's a plane, ...

- Element or metadata?
- Element name should convey basic semantics.
- Metadata can deliver additional information.

List

Type = Numbered, Bulleted, Checked

or

OrderedList

Unordered List

Type = Bulleted, Checked

Use elements when...

- Elements are used differently in structure.
- Significant semantic information is provided by element name:
 - List numbers vs. bullets
 - Formatting or semantics?



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Use metadata when...

- Communicating additional information (often formatting) not required by the structure

List

Indent = "10 pts."
BulletType = "diamond"

- Adding another dimension to content

Book

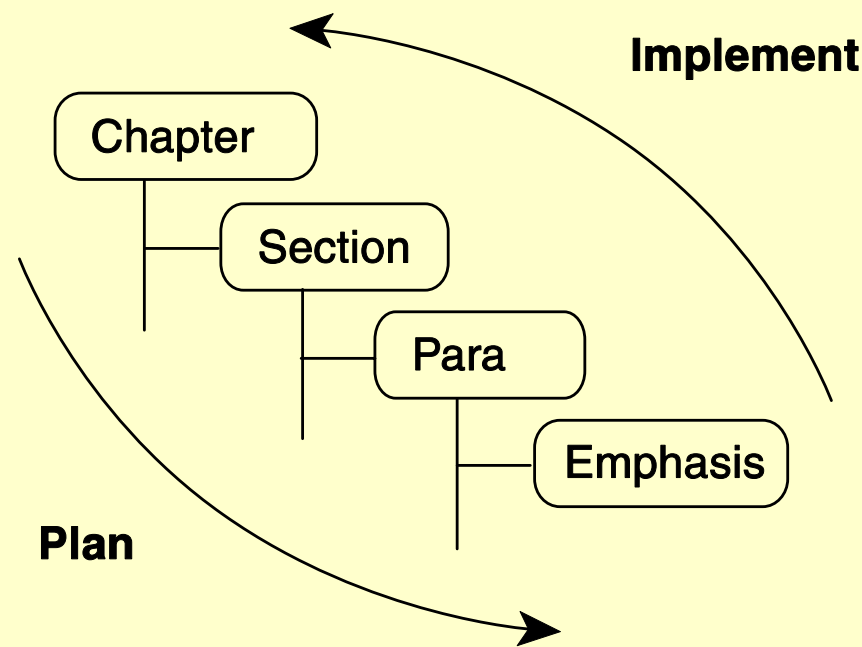
Platform = "Windows"
Version = "3.1.2"
Status = "beta"



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Building structures

- Plan from the top down.
- Implement from the bottom up.



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Building EDDs

- Build and test structure.
- Add attribute definitions.
- Add formatting information.



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Considering formatting options

- Separate EDD and formatting template
- Format change lists
- EDD-based overrides



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Separate EDD and formatting template

- Easier formatting maintenance
- Separate structure architect and template designer roles
- Requires two files

Element (Container): Definition

General rule: (<TEXT>|Emphasis|MenuItem|Strong|Hypertext|Link)*

Text format rules

Element paragraph format: gd_glossary def

Format change lists

- Formatting embedded in EDD (1 file for maintenance)
- Reuse
- Inheritance

Format change list: Tiny2Table

Basic properties

Indents

First indent: .15"

Left indent: .15"

Line spacing

Height: -2pt

Line spacing is not fixed.

Alignment: Left

Paragraph spacing

Space above: 4pt

Space below: 6pt

EDD-based overrides

- With a word like “overrides,”
need I say more?

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Support your local author

- Automatic element insertion
- Prefixes and autonumbering for fixed text
- Attributes for formatting switches
- Consistent naming conventions



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Tips for better EDD maintenance

- Use variables for common element groups (character-level elements, paragraph-level elements).
- Organize EDD by element type.
- Document your EDD!

Element (Container): Para

General rule: (<TEXT> | Footnote | CrossReference | IndexEntry | MenuItem | UserInput | Emphasis | Hypertext | Superscript | Strong | Link)*

Summary

- What are the three most important considerations in building structured templates?
 - Planning
 - Planning
 - Planning



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Resources

- This presentation:
[www.scriptorium.com/
structuredefs.pdf](http://www.scriptorium.com/structuredefs.pdf)
- Structured Authoring and XML white
paper:
www.scriptorium.com/structure.pdf
- DocFrame details:
www.scriptorium.com/docframe



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Q & A

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