ENGL 406
XML for Professional Communicators

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Course description:

eXtensible Markup Language (XML) underpins most modern document encoding, including the preparation of the BC Legislature's proceedings. This course offers a brief history of markup and of markup languages; an introduction to the development, principles, and applications of XML syntax; an overview of common XML encoding languages and environments, and an in-depth look at the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI-XML P5) and DocBook 5.1. You will learn to model content, read encoding guidelines, understand and customize schemas, write documentation, capture and update metadata, process XML datasets, and edit XML documents. The course will not teach website design or XML processing, but it will make you aware of the tools and technologies required to publish XML datasets on the web and convert XML-tagged content into HTML webpages (including XSLT and CSS). Classes combine instruction, demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on encoding practice. Visiting speakers from professional workplaces will share their experience with you. There are no textbooks to purchase for this course. All materials are either open-access publications or Dr. Jenstad's own materials.

Proposed assignments:

10% Three in-class quizzes early in the term (to ensure mastery of essential concepts).
25% Content modelling / needs analysis (encoded in DocBook using the Balisage schema).
25% TEI schema customization.
5%   HTML file.
5%   CSS file.
30% Edit a literary or historical document (or set of documents) OR create an XML database in TEI-XML using your own schema or a pre-existing schema.

Resources

Burnard, Lou. *What is the Text Encoding Initiative? How to Add Intelligent Markup to Digital Resources*. OpenEdition Press (2014). https://books.openedition.org/oep/426?lang=en.

Balisage documentation.
  https://www.balisage.net/DocumentModels/BalisageTL-1-5/index.html
Walsh, Norman. *DocBook 5.1: The Definitive Guide*.
  https://tdg.docbook.org/tdg/5.1/.
Text Encoding Initiative. *P5: Guidelines for Electronic Text Encoding
  and Interchange*.
Handouts and links shared via BrightSpace and Dr. Jenstad's website.