

ISO Update

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Abstract

SC34, Document Description and Processing Languages, is a component of ISO/IEC JTC1, Information Technology Standards. SC34 is responsible for some of the most essential standards behind modern information management and data interchange, notably SGML (ISO 8879). Many of the standardization efforts in the W3C, OASIS, and other bodies, are based on SC34 standards like SGML, HyTime, and DSSSL.

Although SC34's history goes back to the late 1970s, it is very active in current projects, notably Topic Maps. New projects related to topic-map modeling and processing are just getting started. Other standards, such as DSSSL, are being updated.

SC34 has three working groups, Information Description, convened by Dr. Charles Goldfarb, Information Presentation, convened by Dr. Yushi Komachi, and Information Association, convened by Steve Pepper.

Information Description

- SGML-Standard Generalized Markup Language (ISO 8879)
- SDIF-SGML Document Interchange Format (ISO 9069)
- Registration Procedures for SGML Public Identifiers (ISO/IEC 9070)
- Techniques for Using SGML (ISO TR 9573)
- Conformance Testing for SGML System (ISO/IEC 13673)
- APIs for document processing

Information Presentation

- DSSSL-Document Style Semantics and Specification Language (ISO/IEC

10179)

- Fonts (ISO/IEC 9541)
- Font Registration (ISO/IEC 10036)
- SPDL-Standard Page Description Language (ISO/IEC 10180)
- Font Services (ISO/IEC TR 15413)

Information Association

- HyTime (ISO/IEC 10744)
- Topic Maps (ISO/IEC 13250)
- ISMID-Interchange Standard for Modifiable Interactive Documents ((ISO/IEC 13240)
- ISO HTML (ISO/IEC 15445)
- SMDL-Standard Music Description Language (ISO/IEC 10743)

If you are interested in participating in the work of SC34, you may contact your national standards body or the International SGML/XML Users' Group (<http://www.isgmlug.org/>), which maintains a liaison with SC34.

SC34 has an official Web site operated through JTC1 (<http://www.jtc1.org>) and an unofficial one maintained by its chairman (<http://www.y12.doe.gov/sgml/sc34/sc34oldhome.htm>).

Biography

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James D. Mason - James D. Mason, originally trained as a physicist, mediaevalist, and linguist, has been a writer, systems developer, and manufacturing engineer at U.S. Department of Energy [1] facilities in Oak Ridge since the late 1970s. In 1981, he joined the ISO's work on standards for document management and interchange. He has chaired ISO/IEC JTC1/SC34, which is responsible for SGML, DSSSL, Topic Maps, and related standards, since 1985. Dr. Mason has been a frequent writer and speaker on standards and their applications. For his work on SGML, Dr. Mason has received the Gutenberg Award from Printing Industries of America and the Tekkie Award from GCA.

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