

XML-Based Document Management for the French Ministry of Education



Organization Background

CNDP (Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique), the French national centre for educational documentation, gathers and publishes resources, under the supervision of the French ministry of Education, for all education system users and contributors (teachers, librarians, students, parents, etc...) in France.

Composed of over 500 employees, CNDP is also responsible for publishing news releases and statements (Bulletin Officiel) and the collection of statutes and regulations (RLR - Recueil des Lois et Règlements) issued by the French Ministry of Education. RLR is an essential tool that compiles, in 30,000 pages, all texts that rule the French education system. It is updated 8 times a year and is distributed to 10,000 subscribers. These publications available on paper and on CD-ROM represent a very important source of revenue for CNDP.

The Project

Before CNDP invested in the improvement of the management of their documentation, they were outsourcing both production and publishing processes to 3rd party suppliers.

Paper and CD-ROM updates to the CNDP documentation occurred frequently since timeliness and currency of information was crucial. With this architecture, maintenance was done through a 3rd party supplier – making updates inefficient and costly.

In order to increase efficiency and ultimately reduce costs, CNDP consulted 4DConcept, specialists in document management. Together, they concluded it was time to centralize their publications' management instead of having to deal with various suppliers looking after the production and publishing of their documentation.

In search for a new document management system which could easily be managed in-house, CNDP set some objectives:

- Regain control of their documentation

CNDP - Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique

Web site: www.cndp.fr

Industry: Education, Government

Type of application: Document management

IXIASOFT Products: TEXTML Server, WebDAV Extension

Critical functions:

- Content reuse
- Cost savings
- Advanced search capabilities
- Seamless integration

Partners involved: 4DConcept, Blast Radius (XMetaL)

- Adopt production standards
- Produce content efficiently and quickly – easy maintenance
- Have the RLR available on-line

The Challenge

In addition to the obvious time and budget constraints, CNDP faced technical problems inherent to the fact that they were outsourcing their production and publishing needs:

- Proprietary content management tools
- Production of documentation was outsourced
- The documentation was structured for paper publishing and not well-formed for electronic publishing
- Content analysis and DTD development
- Data conversion: the content was available in SGML format only

"We selected TEXTML Server for its unique functionalities: flexibility, ease of integration, and advanced searching capabilities. We decided to adopt XML as a standard to have a solution which would not easily be outdated and which would easily accommodate both print and electronic publishing. Other solutions evaluated did not perform well on handling large volumes of content which made IXIASOFT's XML technology an obvious choice".

Mathieu Huck, Business Development Director at 4DConcept

The Solution

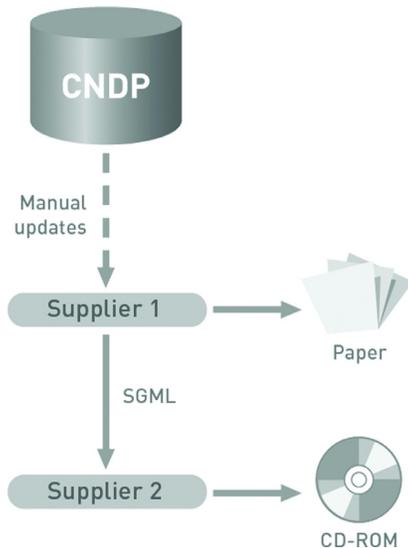
Standardizing CNDP's Documentation Using XML

One of 4DConcept's first recommendation was to standardize the usage of XML for production and publishing of all CNDP's documentation. Using XML as a basis for the document management application would simplify the exchange of information, enable powerful searching capabilities, and guarantee the longevity of the system.

Moving the Production In-House

Before moving to XML, the RLR authoring team was accustomed to sending their manuscripts to a service provider who updated the SGML database for the printed edition of the RLR, and then sent the SGML database to another service provider in charge of producing the CD-ROM version of the RLR. All tools in the system were the proprietary tools of the service providers.

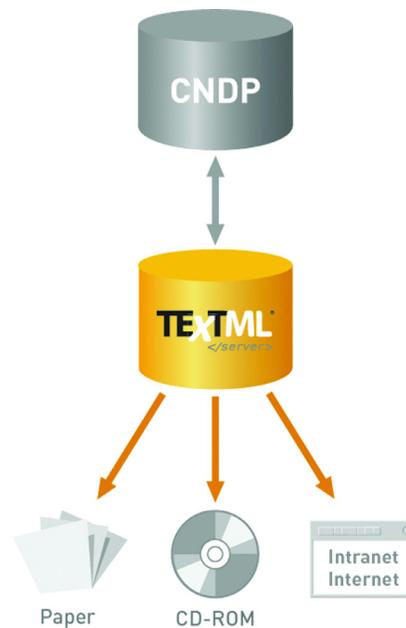
CNDP - Former document management system architecture



With the integration of TEXTML Server at the core of the electronic document management system, authors and

managers of CNDP documentation can centralize content, store it as native XML, and make full use of the document structure. This is made possible by TEXTML Server's powerful advanced search engine.

CNDP - Current document management system architecture



Leveraging the XMetaL Integration

In order to create reusable XML content in-house, 4DConcept suggested that CNDP use XMetaL as their content authoring tool. Because of its WebDAV support for collaborative authoring, XMetaL is able to easily connect to TEXTML Server via IXIASOFT's TEXTML Server WebDAV Extension.

Users are then able to utilize TEXTML Server as a primary repository for XML documents edited with XMetaL.

Results & Benefits

Regained Control of Technical Documentation

- Documentation production centralized within CNDP
- Documentation lifecycle managed end-to-end by CNDP

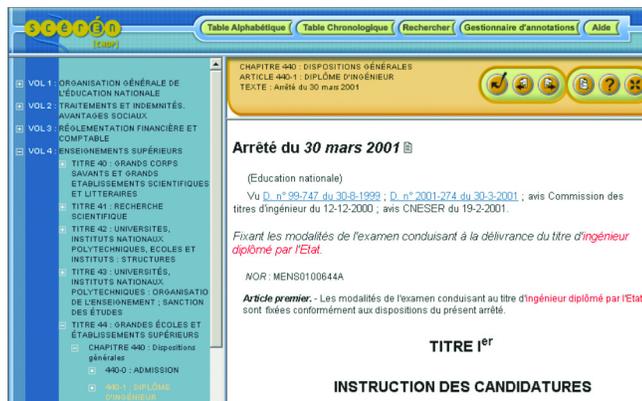
Reduced Costs

- Easier documentation maintenance and update
- Dramatic cuts in outsourcing costs since authors directly save updates to the central database
- Affordable solution, no need for powerful tools
- Dramatic cut in print cost, since users can choose to subscribe to paper, CD-Rom or online edition

User Satisfaction

- Easier, faster, more efficient search through the RLR thanks to advanced searching capabilities
- Better result accuracy
- Improved information structure
- Updates available instantaneously for searching and viewing thanks to dynamic indexing

The final application



About TEXTML Server

TEXTML Server is a native XML database and search engine whose purpose is to store, index and retrieve XML content. It is the first embeddable XML server for OEMs and developers of XML applications. It was designed as an OEM product to build document-centric XML applications, such as web content management systems, knowledge management, or digital asset management systems where the content consists mostly of rich semi-structured information. The key advantages of TEXTML Server include the ability to combine full-text and metadata search, speed of execution, schema independence, ease of integration, and aggressive OEM-g geared pricing model.

Future-proof Solution

- Perenity of XML language
- Scalable database that supports dramatic increase in documentation volume
- No further development required to move to online-only documentation



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