

Standards for multilingual web sites

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Abstract

Additional standards are required to facilitate the use and construction of multilingual web sites (MWS), a vital component for a multilingual web. Users should have a similar experience when they visit unrelated multilingual web sites; webmasters should be able to construct new MWS with standard off-the-shelf software.

Most users are monolingual that might settle for a second best, if the preferred language is unavailable: selecting a language is just a hurdle. Multilingualism is mainly a webmaster point of view of web sites: how to create and maintain web sites with many languages, a complex problem.

The user interface standards should be a *best practices* guide combining existing mechanisms such as *transparent content negotiation* (TCN) and new techniques such as a *language button* in the browser. Servers should expect the same API to the content, though eventually one should address the whole cycle of *Authorship, Translation and Publishing Chain* (ATP-chain).

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