Legal models

- Formal models
- Standardized
- UML/OCL, OWL

MetaLex aims:

Improve:
1. Accessibility
2. Exchangeability
3. Maintainability
4. Quality of legal documents

Hinders for sharing legal documents

- No accepted simple XML schema for regulations exists
  - For Dutch, English, French, Arabic...
  - For Dutch and foreign legislation and decisions, EU and supranational legislation, bilateral treaties, internal business rules
- Nothing (yet) from LexXML, OASIS LegalXML
- Legal publisher and ‘portal’ XML
  - Too legislator- and language-market oriented
  - Only one ‘owner’ produces XML and metadata
  - Not open source

Decided to Design...

- Open and jurisdiction independent standard for describing content and intrinsic structure of legal documents
- Language: XML en RDF (schema)
- What:
  - Structure text and references (XML)
  - Role (RDF)
  - Content (RDF/OWL)

And further...

- Tools for
  - Editing
  - Generating (cf. E-POWER workbench)
  - Validation
  - Browsing and search
- Manuals
  - Users
  - Technical reference

Features standard

- Generic and extensible
- Language and jurisdiction independent
  - Core in English (generic)
  - Language specific vocabulary
- For more than search- and presentation purposes
Applications

- **On structure:**
  - Search and retrieval (IR)
  - Presentation
    - MetaLex → XSL-FO (→ PDF, RTF, PS, PCL, TXT, SVG, VRML...)
  - Exchange (import/export)
    - SdU XML → MetaLex
  - Document management

- **On content:**
  - Advanced search
  - Decision Support
  - ...

Organisation

- Standardisation Board
  - Legal publishers
  - Public Administrations
  - Academics
  - Third parties

- **Goals:**
  - Maintaining standard
  - Certifying extensions

Did I tell you that...

- **META**lex is
  - An open standard?
  - A minimal provision for tagging regulations?
  - Extensible for any conceivable purpose?
  - Jurisdiction-independent?
  - Language-independent?
  - Compliant with the newest W3C standards and proposals?
  - Partly developed within E-POWER project (IST 2000-28125)

Where to get it:

www.metalex.nl

Extensibility

- **Standard is basic provision:**
  - When in doubt, leave it out
  - Make the easy things easy, and the hard things possible

- Additional or more specific definitions can be added

- MetaLex and non-MetaLex can be mixed

Multi-language

- **XML element names in different languages**
  - language-specific schemas and word-for-word translation with XSL stylesheet

- Different languages in 1 document, at the "sentence level"
  - Using standard xml:lang attribute
Use of W3C standards

- XSL (eXtensible Stylesheet Language) for transformation between languages, MetaLex and RDF, and XML and XHTM
- Equivalent XML schema and RDF schema
- Namespaces and static URL and URN names for regulations, persons, and public bodies
- XML Linking and XPointer support for references

Projects

- EU Luxemburg (Pascale Berteloot, publications): Connecting Cexlex and Eurlex in the NatLex project
- DEON 6th Framwork 2nd call proposal
- MetaLex
- ...
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