XML Query in Web Site Organization.

Metadata is, most often, relational data. SQL queries yield XML views of a conventional relational database, and require an XSLT processor. But a query language like XSLT (or SQL) can only address rigidly-structured information. We show a complementary tool, XML Query, which performs queries on anything that can be stored in XML; thus, it augments information by bringing databases and documents together. Another feature of XQuery is its ability to construct temporary XML results in the middle of a query and then navigate into that. Current best practice in knowledge organization is (at least arguably) Dublin Core metadata wrapped in RDF. We give two examples of using XQuery instead of XSLT: we generate Dublin Core metadata, and we combine topic maps and XQuery technology to navigate a web site. This work describes some of the practical aspects of re-designing the IUMJ website, to be unveiled at this Conference. A caveat: XQuery is not a W3C recommendation yet; as of February 20, 2004, it is in the Last Call stage. However, XQuery is the product of many years of development, several open-source implementations already exist, and the behavior of queries in XQuery has consequences for data modeling and navigation that justify this article at this time. (Received March 02, 2004)