

Lex Dania XML status April 2005

Abstract

Lex Dania has tried to buy an editor. We have been making the first draft of the schemas and started up work on Meta-data and the reference groups. Furthermore we have started to define coexistence between Word and XML in the registration and web systems. But still the editor is the main challenge of the project.

Lex Dania XML status

Lex Dania XML is a joint project between the Danish Parliament (The Folketing) and the Danish Ministry of Justice. The aim is to change the file format of the documents in Retsinformation (the Danish central register for acts and rules) from Microsoft Word 6.0 to a standard XML conforming to the Danish Governmental XML-standard. René Løhde will present the Danish Governmental XML-standard based on the following goal: Getting governmental information to the public (Public Information On-line).

This presentation is a status on the progress of Lex Dania XML since the last work shop held in Denmark in September 2004. We have closed some tasks and we have identified some future challenges.

The main issue in making the new XML-system is to develop an editor, which is capable of providing the requested functionality and a very user friendly interface. We have had a hard time trying to make a request for proposal, getting the proposals and choose who to work with. Actually none of the bidders offered a solution which fulfilled the RfP. Instead we made an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Justice allowing us to use the NIREditor. We are currently working together with NIR to find out if the NIREditor and our demands fit together.

Together with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development we have developed a strategy for constructing our schemas. It consists of containers where the lower level is a cara-container containing the characters. The schemas consist of three levels: Top level defining the containers, middle level defining the containers used for Retsinformation and a bottom document level. The users can define their own containers (for the users own document handling systems) in the middle level.

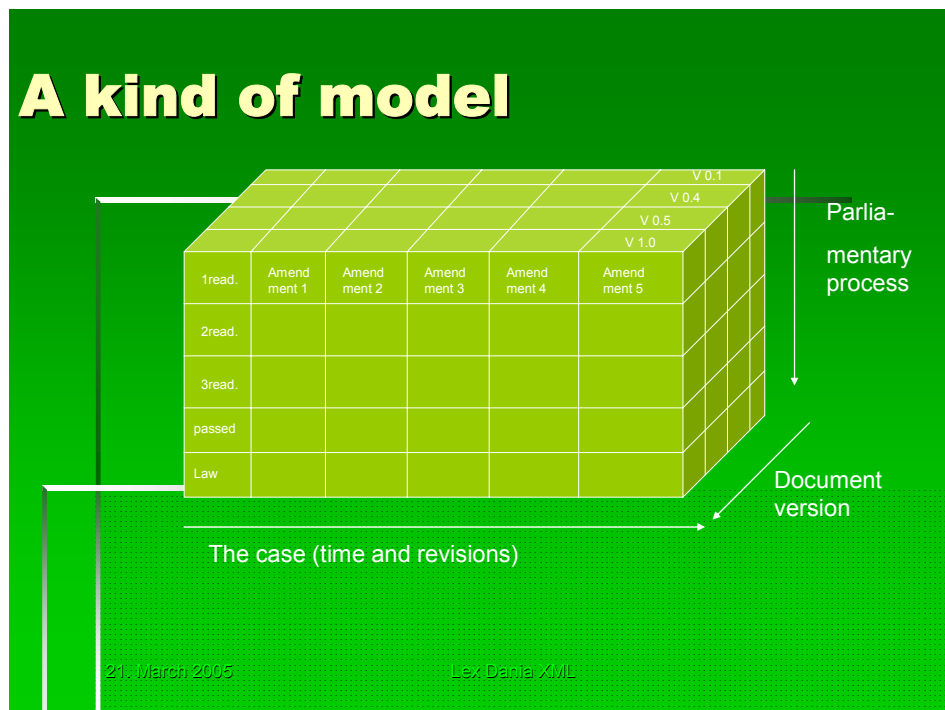
Recently one of the main issues regarding the schemas have been to define a way to describe consolidation. In theory we have found a way to do this. Mr. Ole Lianee will tell more about consolidation during his presentation.

As some of you know, Denmark already has a very well integrated document flow between the central government and the parliament.

As a part of the Lex Dania project we have to include handling XML-documents in the work-flow of Retsinformation together with Word documents. Mr. Søren B. Nielsen will in his session tell more about this aspect of the project.

We have increased the work with meta-data. This will be covered by Mr. Benny Høyer.

In my opinion we should separate meta-data and the document. Furthermore we should make a clear distinction between meta-data concerning the document, the work-flow of an amendment and meta-data concerning the case.



This illustration hopefully clarifies the three dimensions: The life of the document, the life of the process and the life of the case. Do not mix content (meta-data) of document, amendment and case.

Finally we have started work in our reference groups.

The Technical Reference Group has members from some of the ministries working with the issue of bringing the internal it-systems to work together with the surrounding system environment. We have just had the first meeting in the group and the main issue was the editor.

Mr. Ib Skovsted Thomsen is among the members of the Juridical Reference Group together with Søren B. Nielsen and Nina Koch. The group has the power to decide what should be administrative practice for the Danish government and for the parliament.

The challenges this year are to get an editor conforming to our demands enabling us to test our schemas. Another is to rebuild the it-system for Retsinformation and the Folketing (the Danish Parliament) making the systems able to handle XML-documents as well as HTML and Word. Yet another is the lack of defining our meta-data as we want to do.

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