





World e-Parliament Conference 2008

25 - 26 November 2008 // European Parliament // Brussels





House of Commons - Canada Ian McDonald Deputy Principal Clerk



Introduction

- •What is Prism?
- •Overview of Prism
 - -Context
 - -Examples of how it Prism works
- Conclusion

What is Prism?

- Integrated application to manage information and publish core business documents:
 - House of Commons
 - Journals, Order and Notice Paper, Status of House Business, Hansard
 - Committees
 - Notices, Minutes, Evidence, Reports
 - International and Interparliamentary Affairs
 - Manage conference activities, business and Memberships of Parliamentary Associations, track activities of official parliamentary delegations (incoming and outgoing), visit reports
 - Bills

World e-Parliament

Conference 2008

• Authoring, publishing and interchange system with partners

What moved us to develop PRISM?

- Replace & integrate 9 major environments supporting Procedural activities and publishing.
- Prepare road to be able to respond to future service requirements

Prism – Current Context

- Application used by more than 900 users
- includes over 65 modules varying from classical record-keeping to sophisticated workflow management.
- uses a mix of technologies including SQL server, XML, etc...

Example 1 – Journals

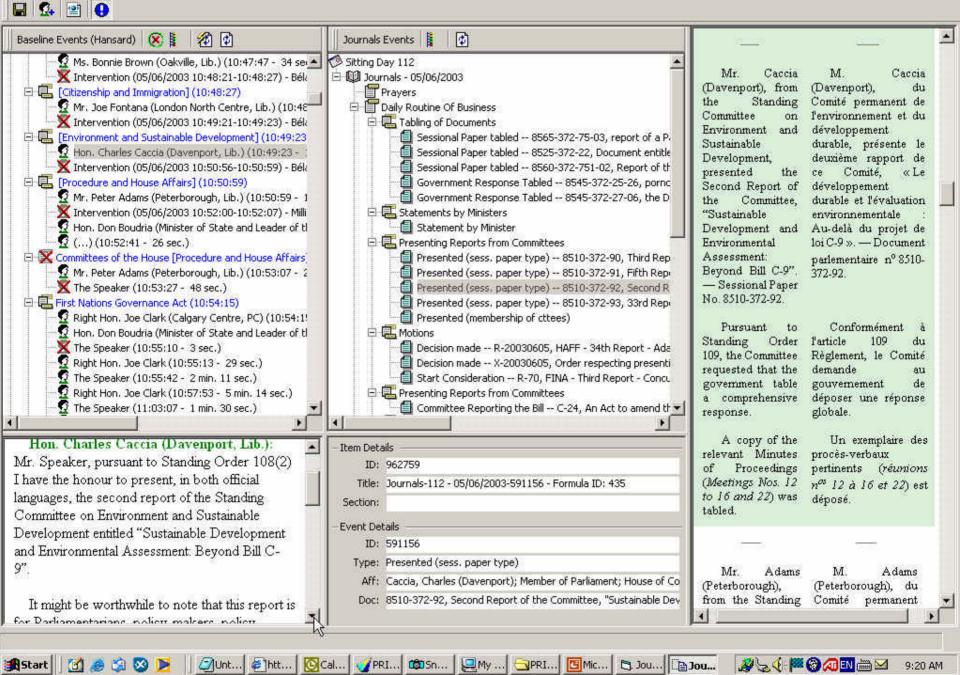
- Journals are the record of decision (minutes) of the House of Commons
- What we will see:
 - Almost every entry is recorded as an event
 - Each event is categorized with an Event Type with parameters that can be adjusted by the users
 - The events + event types are used to calculate the appropriate entries and creates the tagged XML fragments

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Mr. Peter Milliken (10:12:45- 16	Decision Method	By unanimous consent	•	wing:	remplacé par ce
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Motion / Amend X-20081120, Orde	purpose of considering the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne of the First	Chambre, pour l'étude de l'Adresse en réponse au discours du Trône au cours de		
Putting question pursuant to S.O.	Session of the 40th Parliament, Standing Order 50 be amended as follows:	la première session de la 40ª législature, l'article 50 du Règlement soit modifié de la		
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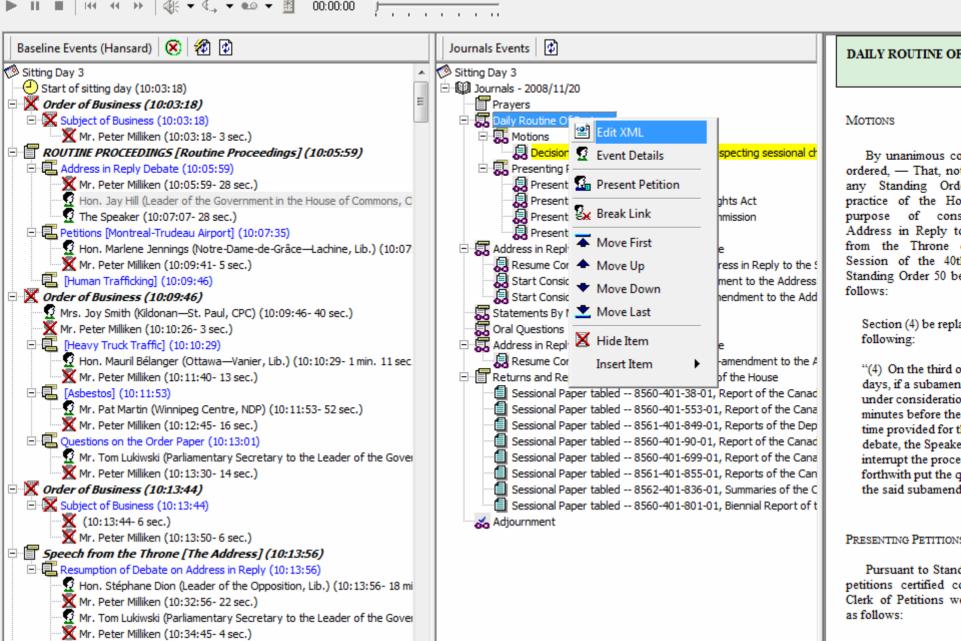




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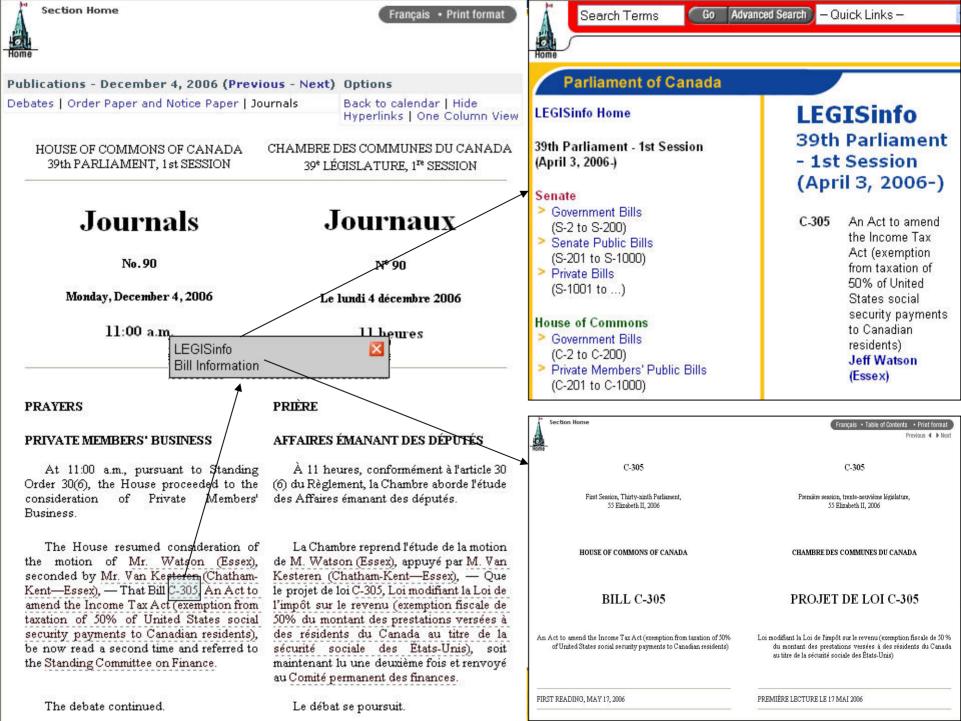
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Document: X-20081120, Order respecting sessional change to Standing C

Affiliation:



Example 2 – XML in Hansard

- Hansard (edited transcript) of the debates of the House of Commons
- Each time a Member speaks it is recorded as an Intervention event
- Digital audio is recorded and aligned with events
- Transcriber requests unit of work and receives outline of events and related audio

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E Prise 15 (11:47:21-11:49:16; 199 mots; ParenK)

Milliken, Peter (11:47:21 - 3 sec.)

G Bergeron, Stéphane (11:47:24 - 27 sec.)

 W Milliken, Peter (11:47:51 - 6 sec.)

Godin, Yvon (11:47:57 - 35 sec.)



Français

M. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères—Les Patriotes, BQ): Monsieur le Président, puisqu'il est question ici de mon vote ou de mon non-vote, et comme vous avez évoqué très clairement la confusion qui a régné de ce côté-ci de la Chambre au moment du vote, je pense que la chose indiquée à faire dans les circonstances serait effectivement de reprendre le vote, de telle sorte que mon vote puisse s'exprimer clairement cette fois-ci et sans la moindre confusion.

Français

M. Yvon Godin (Acadie—Bathurst, NPD): Monsieur le Président, je ne veux soulever qu'un seul point. Il y a un député qui est allé voir les greffiers de la Chambre pour leur indiquer qu'il n'avait pas voté. C'est clair et net.

Le député peut s'exprimer présentement à la Chambre, s'il le veut. Toutefois, si jamais on tenait un autre vote à la suite d'une confusion en Chambre, cela risquerait de créer un précédent. Ainsi, la prochaine fois que le résultat d'un vote serait de 149 contre 148, je pourrais me lever, vous indiquer, monsieur le Président, que j'ai constaté de la confusion à la Chambre des communes et demander un autre vote.

Monsieur le Président, votre décision a été prise et elle devrait être maintenue

Anglais

The Speaker: I think I have heard enough. There is clearly no agreement on having another vote at the moment. I would suggest that the House leaders have a little discussion about this and if they decide that another vote is in the best interests of the House, we are having votes this evening at 8 o'clock and it can all happen again then.

Therefore, I would suggest that in the meantime we let the House leaders have a discussion, perhaps with the whips, and see if the matter cannot be resolved. However, continuing debate on the matter here is unnecessary.



Conclusion (1/2)

- Why XML?
 - Open standard
 - Separate content from container
 - Prepare one XML document and render for various outputs:
 - full web layout
 - text layout
 - Print versions (still the *de facto* official version)
 - Prepare for future use

Conclusion (2/2)

- What have been the benefits and challenges in the implementation of XML and any future plans?
 - early adoption meant third party tools were in their infancy in 2000
 - Benefits: as planned, to be able to offer improved services to respond to client requests
 - Example: improved web sites for Chamber and committee business (new interface, search, hypertext in documents)







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