



Steve published a research paper on the topic of accessibility for tables of statistical tables. This paper was of interest to federal agencies which published tables of statistical data such as the Department of Energy, Bureau of Justice Statistics. BLS, Federal Reserve. BJS held a meeting to define what constituted accessibility for tables in HTML and PDF. The question unfortunately went unanswered.

Concentrated on HTML because PDFs cannot be generated automatically until now. Accessible PDFs not on the list, but there is interest for the future. The Paper revealed limitations of HTML. Steven wrote proposals for the enhancements of HTML tables.

These proposals remain intact, as the issues remain.

1<sup>st</sup> proposal: Support for stub levels. Column down the left hand portion of a table. THS1 THS2, etc. Associate a stub heading with its parent. Cannot now do with regular HTML mark up.

2<sup>nd</sup> proposal: Table contexts. In HTML id reference can go anywhere on the page (reference to another spot on the same page). Issue regarding footnotes. The footnote and the table both require unique identifiers. Table A footnote 1, table B Footnote 1, etc. What has been proposed is a table context, so IDs or links would be within the context of that table. That would make things like producing footnotes easier.

3<sup>rd</sup> proposal: Some way of supporting footnotes. Concept of footnotes do not exist in HTML tables. A proposal for added elements for footnotes and footnote references was made.

After Steven published his paper, a number of inquiries arrived. People needed contents of a table cell read differently than how it would appear visually. No way to do it in HTML now. The abbreviation tag (ABBR) would allow the substitution of abbreviated text. In most cases, people do not want to support shorter text, they need to support longer text. Some way of specifying substitute text to be read would be helpful.

In the course of his presentation, it was noted that Steve elucidated the rationale for the Working Group's existence.

- 1) Define direction we would like Adobe to move.
- 2) AT vendors would use the eventual spec as a guide.

## **New Action Items**

Joe Clark to write to Dave Ragett at Busy Bones

Assignments: Propose Algorithm candidates, Loretta Guarino-Reid to propose how to associate table headers with data cells. Important that this work involve more than a single individual.

Form a subcommittee with Loretta - Neil Soiffer.

Determine how the Stub proposal could apply to cases unearthed. (example tables that have been submitted to the group – Richard Herring

Volunteer to review submissions – Steve Ferg

Unearth real world table examples with Headers to lower right - Greg Pisocky

Provide samples of tables with cells with diagonal lines – Angy Brooks

Post an item on PDF/UA blog seeking internationalization assistance – Duff Johnson

Action items for all, obtain tables with examples of vertical text. - All

Solicit for participation through the list serv too – Duff Johnson

### **Next meeting**

Telephone meeting in 2 weeks. Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 3 to 5 pm EST

Face to face in May at the AIIM Conference on Thursday, May 18, 2006.

### **Wrap Up and Schedule Next Meeting**

Johnson, Soiffer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm