1. Datalink and XSLT

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Datalink is great. But client uptake lags. (Temporary?) remedy: XSLT.

- What’s the plan?
- Obstacles
- Solutions
- Help!

2. The Plan

Use XSLT to turn this:
(cf. Fig. 3)

into this in common browsers:
(cf. Fig. 4)

3. Obstacle 1

Browsers will ignore
```xml
<?xml-stylesheet href='/static/xsl/datalink-to-html.xsl' type='text/xsl'?>
```
on application/x-votable+xml documents. However, datalink mandates delivering Datalink documents with

```xml
application/x-votable+xml;content=datalink
```

4. Solution 1

Cheat just a bit. Browser requests look like this:

```plaintext
GET /flashheros/q/sdl/dlmeta?ID=... HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost:8080
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;
DNT: 1...

Actual datalink clients have no business Accepting HTML. So: When a request comes in accepting both HTML and XML, we decide it’s a browser and return a text/xml media type.
5. Obstacle 2

VOTable is not exactly XSLT-friendly. I ended up dumping abominations like

```xml
<xsl:variable
    name="access_url_index"
    select="count(vot:VOTABLE/vot:RESOURCE[@type='results']/vot:TABLE/vot:FIELD[@name='access_url']
    /preceding::vot:FIELD)+"/>
```

Yikes.

6. Datalinks Tossed Around

I now start to include datalink columns in my tables – as in

- [http://dc.g-vo.org/flashheros/q/web/form](http://dc.g-vo.org/flashheros/q/web/form)
- [http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form](http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form).

As long as key clients understand our DL service blocks – perhaps that’s reasonable?

7. Desidrata

The XSLT only formats plain datalinks.

→ `adhoc:service RESOURCES`

Basic support should be straightforward

The XSLT doesn’t properly handle multiple datasets.

→ Need hack to group by ID

The XSLT produces visually unattractive documents.

→ Hm. Style it?

8. Action?

- Improve the XSLT (icons! flashy graphics! support for services.)
- Legalise the behaviour in an erratum?
- Identify columns linking datalink documents?

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1 [http://dc.g-vo.org/flashheros/q/web/form](http://dc.g-vo.org/flashheros/q/web/form)
2 [http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form](http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form)