

Federal Ministry of Education and Research



# 1. Datalink and XSLT

(cf. Fig. 1)

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(cf. Fig. 2)

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)

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Where?	Description	What?	
<u>Link</u> (2273227 Bytes)	Low-res photo with plate borders	#preview-image ivo://org.gavo.dc/~?kaptey	
<u>Link</u> (21003840 Bytes)	Greyscale wedge scanned with the data	#calibration ivo://org.gavo.dc/~?kaptey	
<u>Link</u> (268971840 Bytes)	The full dataset.	#this ivo://org.gavo.dc/~?kapi	
	A preview for	#preview	F

Fig. 4

# 3. Obstacle 1

```
Browsers will ignore
<?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 application/x-votable+xml;content=datalink

## 4. Solution 1

Cheat just a bit.

```
Browser requests look like this:
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 <xsl:variable name="access\_url\_index" select="count(vot:VOTABLE/vot:RESOURCE[@type='results'] /vot:TABLE/vot:FIELD[@name='access\_url'] /preceding::vot:FIELD)+1"/>
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/form1 or
- http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form<sup>2</sup>.

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

# 7. Desidrata

The XSLT only formats plain datalinks.

ightarrow adhoc:service RESOURCES Basic support should be straightforward

The XSLT doesn't properly handle multiple datasets.

 $\rightarrow$  Need hack to group by ID

The XSLT produces visually unattractive documents.

 $\rightarrow$  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?

<sup>1</sup> http://dc.g-vo.org/flashheros/q/web/form

http://dc.g-vo.org/kapteyn/q/web/form