

DocBook 4.3 Quick Reference



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Abstract

Quick reference card for Docbook 4.3.

This publication is available in Web form¹ and also as a PDF document². Please forward any comments to tcc-doc@nmt.edu.

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1. What is DocBook?

DocBook is a system for producing documentation from a single source document to both HTML and PDF forms.

This document is a quick reference guide to DocBook's elements. For complete instructions including account and directory setup, see *Writing Documentation with DocBook-XML*³.

2. Overall document structure

```
<!DOCTYPE article PUBLIC "-//OASIS//DTD DocBook XML V4.3//EN"
"http://www.oasis-open.org/docbook/xml/4.3/docbookx.dtd">
<article>
  <articleinfo>
    <title>document title</title>
    <titleabbrev>short title (optional)</titleabbrev>
    <authorgroup>
      <author>
        <firstname>first name</firstname>
        <surname>last name</surname>
```

¹ <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/docbref/>

² <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/docbref/docbref.pdf>

³ <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/docbook43/>

```

</author>
</authorgroup>
<address><email>email@nmt.edu</email></address>
<revhistory>
  <revision>
    <revnumber>$Revision: 1.4 $</revnumber>
    <date>$Date: 2008/01/03 03:46:19 $</date>
  </revision>
</revhistory>
</articleinfo>
<section id='I1'>
  <title>First section title</title>
  First section content...
  <section id='I2'>
    <title>First subsection title</title>
    First subsection content...
  </section>
  ...
</article>

```

Every section should carry an `id` attribute, such as the one shown above as `I1`; see Section 3, “Unique identifiers: the `id=` attribute” (p. 2).

3. Unique identifiers: the `id=` attribute

Attach an `id=` attribute to any DocBook element in order to give that element a unique identifier so you can refer to that element elsewhere.

XML identifiers must start with a letter or underbar. Remaining characters can be letters, underbar, digits, period, hyphen, and dollar sign. Examples: “n23”, “intro-section”.

4. Paragraphs and other block elements

These elements are formatted as a separate block.

<pre> <simpara> ... </simpara> </pre>	Simple paragraph.
<pre> <para> ... </para> </pre>	Paragraph that can contain other elements such as <code>itemizedlist</code> , <code>table</code> , etc.
<pre> <itemizedlist> <listitem> <para>...</para> </listitem> ... </itemizedlist> </pre>	Bullet list. Each <code>listitem</code> is a bullet, and may contain one or more <code>para</code> elements as well as many other types of content such as <code>table</code> , <code>itemizedlist</code> , and many more. To squash the list vertically, use <code><itemizedlist spacing='compact'></code> .

<pre><orderedlist> <listitem> <para>...</para> </listitem> ... </orderedlist></pre>	<p>Numbered list. To get letters instead of numbers, add to the <code>orderedlist</code> start tag a <code>numeration='lower-alpha'</code> or <code>numeration='upperalpha'</code> attribute. To get Roman numerals, use <code>numeration='lowerroman'</code> or <code>numeration='upperroman'</code>.</p>
<pre><procedure> <step> <para>...</para> </step> ... </procedure></pre>	<p>Procedure. The content of each <code>step</code> must be enclosed in <code>para</code> or some other container. If you attach an <code>id='S'</code> attribute to a given <code>step</code>, you can refer to that step elsewhere using <code><xref linkend='S' /></code>.</p>
<pre><variablelist> <varlistentry> <term>term</term> <listitem> <para>definition</para> </listitem> </varlistentry> ... </variablelist></pre>	<p>List of terms and their definitions. Terms will be unindented and boldfaced, and definitions will be indented below each term.</p>
<pre><qandaset defaultlabel='qanda'> <title>set title</title> <qandaentry> <question> <para>...</para> </question> <answer> <para>...</para> </answer> </qandaentry></pre>	<p>Set of question-and-answer sets. Each set may contain one or more questions and zero or more answers. To label each question with "Q." and each answer with "A.", use <code>defaultlabel='qanda'</code>. To number the sets, use <code>defaultlabel='number'</code>. To use a custom label on each question or answer, use <code>defaultlabel='label'</code>, and add an attribute <code>label=L</code> to each <code>question</code> and each <code>answer</code> containing the text to be used as a label.</p>
<pre><note> ... </note></pre>	<p>Note.</p>
<pre><warning> ... </warning></pre>	<p>Warning.</p>
<pre><important> ... </important></pre>	<p>Important note.</p>
<pre><caution> ... </caution></pre>	<p>Note of caution.</p>

<code><tip></code> ... <code></tip></code>	Tip.
<code><blockquote></code> <code><attribution></code> <i>Who said it....</i> <code></attribution></code> <code><para></code> <i>The quote....</i> <code></para></code> <code></blockquote></code>	Block quotation, indented more than regular paragraphs. The <code>attribution</code> is optional.
<code><programlisting></code> Actual source code ... <code></programlisting></code>	Displays of program source or other verbatim display. If you want regular proportional font (instead of monospaced), as for poetry, use <code>literallayout</code> instead of <code>programlisting</code> .
<code><calloutlist></code> <code><callout arearefs="I"></code> ... <code></callout></code> ... <code></calloutlist></code>	To add comments that refer to specific locations inside a <code>programlisting</code> , place elements like <code><callout id="I"/></code> at those locations, where <i>I</i> is an ID attribute (see Section 3, "Unique identifiers: the <code>id=</code> attribute" (p. 2)). Then, outside the <code>programlisting</code> , add each comment in its own <code>callout</code> element with the same identifier in its <code>arearefs=I</code> attribute.

5. Inline elements

These elements can be included inside paragraphs and other text. They are "in line," that is, they don't start a new line or new paragraph or other block.

<code>acronym</code>	For an acronym such as LASER.
<code>application</code>	Name of an application such as <i>MacOS X</i> .
<code>citetitle</code>	Title of a book, film, musical work, etc., e.g., <i>Mallrats</i> .
<code>code</code>	Program source code; shown in monospaced type.
<code>computeroutput</code>	Computer output; monospaced .
<code>emphasis</code>	Emphasized text; will be <i>italicized</i> . Use <code><emphasis role='strong'>...</emphasis></code> for strong emphasis (will be bold-faced).
<code>filename</code>	File names or other items such as URLs, e.g., " <code>http://www.nmt.edu/</code> ".
<code>firstterm</code>	Terms being used for the first time; <i>italicized</i> .
<code>guibutton</code>	Name of a <i>button</i> in a graphical user interface.
<code>guiicon</code>	Name of an <i>icon</i> in a graphical user interface.
<code>guilabel</code>	Name of a <i>label</i> in a graphical user interface.
<code>guimenu</code>	Name of a <i>menu</i> in a graphical user interface.

keySYM	Name of a key, such as <i>Tab</i> .
<code><link linkend='I'>T</link></code>	Hyperlink to the element with identifier <i>I</i> , using link text <i>T</i> .
quote	Inline quotations. Double-quotes “...” will be added around it.
replaceable	Part of a general case that is replaced with a specific value. Example: the <i>functionName</i> in “def <i>functionName</i> (...)”.
subscript	For subscripts such as “H ₂ O.”
superscript	For superscripts such as “4 th .”
<code><ulink url='U'>T</ulink></code>	Link to external URI <i>U</i> , using link text <i>T</i> .
userinput	For things a user types; shown in bold monospaced type.
varname	Name of a variable; shown in monospaced type.
<code><xref linkend='I' /></code>	Link to the section with identifier <i>I</i> , using the title of the section as link text.

6. Figures

For figures such as screen shots, where the same image will be used for both HTML and PDF form:

```
<figure>
  <title>figure title</title>
  <mediaobject>
    <imageobject>
      <imagedata fileref='image-file' />
    </imageobject>
  </mediaobject>
</figure>
```

For untitled figures, use `informalfigure` instead of `figure`, and omit the `title` element.

To change the displayed size of the figure, use a `scale='S'` attribute, where *S* is a percentage scale factor. For example, `scale='50'` would shrink the figure to half-size.

You may want to present different versions of the figure in the HTML and PDF renderings, especially with scalable forms such as the PDF produced by *xfig*:

```
<figure>
  <title>figure title</title>
  <mediaobject>
    <imageobject role='html'>
      <imagedata fileref='IH' />
    </imageobject>
    <imageobject role='fo'>
      <imagedata fileref='IP' />
    </imageobject>
  </mediaobject>
</figure>
```

where *I_H* is the HTML version and *I_P* is the PDF version.

For an inline figure that is embedded in an ordinary text line:

```

<inlinemediaobject>
  <imageobject>
    <imagedata fileref='IH'/>
  </imageobject>
  <textobject>
    <phrase>alt</phrase>
  </textobject>
</inlinemediaobject>

```

where *alt* is the alternate text to be shown when the image can't be displayed (e.g., for the blind).

7. Tables

For a simple table with a title:

```

<table>
  <title>T</title>
  <tgroup cols='N'>
    <colspec colwidth='W1' align='A1' />
    <colspec colwidth='W2' align='A2' />
    ...
    <thead>
      <row>
        <entry>H1</entry>
        <entry>H2</entry>
        ...
      </row>
    </thead>
    <tbody>
      <row>
        <entry>C1,1</entry>
        <entry>C1,2</entry>
        ...
      </row>
      ...
    </tbody>
  </tgroup>
</table>

```

T

Title of the table.

N

Number of columns.

W1

Width of the first column. Examples:

1.5in	Make this column 1.5" wide.
5pc	Five picas (1/6") wide.
14mm	Fourteen millimeters.

2*	When one or more <code>colwidth</code> attributes end in <code>*</code> , leftover horizontal space is distributed among these columns proportionally. For example, if two columns used <code>colwidth</code> attributes of <code>1*</code> and <code>3*</code> , the first column would get 1/4 of the space, and the second column would get 3/4.
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A1 Alignment of the first column: one of `left`, `right`, `center`, or `justify` (straight right margin).

H1 Heading for the first column. If there are no column heads, omit the entire `thead` element.

C1,1 Content of the cell in row 1, column 1.

For an untitled table, use `informaltable` instead of `table`, and omit the `title` element.

