

# Multilingual Web Sites

Break-out group at the Multilingual Web W3C Workshop, 16 March 2012, Luxembourg  
Rapporteur: M.T. Carrasco Benitez

## 1. Conclusions

The main conclusions are to get **organized** and produce **standards**. An approach is to create a Multilingual Web Sites Community Group at the W3C; in the mean time, this has been done <http://www.w3.org/community/mws>

## 2. Starting point

The starting point is the document *Open architecture for multilingual web sites* <http://dragoman.org/mws/oamws.pdf>

The final document might be quite different; this document also helps as a primer.

## 3. Discussion

Following a preliminary exchange between Carrasco and van der Kreeft, there was an around the table where each participant explained his/her point of view. By the end, it seemed that the participants were describing the same object from different angles and that this break-out group could only scratch the surface of the problem. Carrasco filled with some background information, in particular the point of view of the **user** and the **webmaster**; and techniques such as *Transparent Content Negotiation* (TCN).

## 4. Background

Multilingual web sites (MWS) has two main stakeholders:

- **User**
- **Webmaster**

### 4.1. User

This term refers to the **grand public**: the end users viewing web sites. Hence, one has to be very conservative and changes must be very gradual. New techniques take a long time to propagate; typically five to ten years.

Users should expect different MWSs to behave in a similar fashion. To most users, MWS are **monolingual**; selecting languages and similar are barriers to get to the information in the desired language.

### 4.2. Webmaster

This term includes all the participants in the creation of MWS: authors, translators and publishers (ATP-chain). **Multilingual** is really the point of view of the webmaster. The **interoperability** among the tools in the ATP-chain is a key factor. New techniques should take less than three years to propagate.

## 5. Participants

Tony Graham  
Nico van der Watek  
Christina Valdés  
Dorothea Winterling  
Aki Giannikopoulos  
Tom Walton-Evans  
Moritz Hellwig  
Clara Bacciu  
Peggy van der Kreeft  
Carina Pellar  
David Filip  
Gerard Meijssen  
M.T. Carrasco Benitez (rapporteur)

Some people did not signed the list as per the photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ishida/6851192632>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ishida/6851186120>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ishida/6851191658/>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ishida/6997308441/>

Ω