

Benefits of Structured Authoring

Lynne A. Price, Ph.D.
Text Structure Consulting, Inc.



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

Outline

- **FrameMaker document models**
- **Demo of structured authoring**
- **Key benefits of structure**
- **What do you need to learn?**
- **XML**
- **DITA**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

FrameMaker: Two Document Models

- **Word-processing model**

A document is a sequence of tagged paragraphs

- **Structured model**

A document is a hierarchy of elements



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

Benefits

- **Manipulate elements**
- **Navigate through element structure**
- **Automatic context-sensitive formatting**
- **Guided editing**
- **Fewer names to remember**
- **Validation**
- **Compatible with XML**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

- **lprice@txstruct.com**
- **www.txstruct.com**
- **www.txstruct.com/papers/
BenefitsEseminar2011Sample.zip**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

Learning Structure

- **Understand hierarchy**
 - **Difference between second-level section and second-level heading**
- **Accept software-controlled documentation**
- **Plan for types of documents you will write**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

XML

- **eXtensible Markup Language**

```
<Chapter>  
  <Title>A Natural Source of Products</Title>  
  <FirstParagraph> ...
```

- **Same structured model as FrameMaker**
- **Originated for documents**
- **Popular for data**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.

DITA

- **XML tag set**
- **Widely available tools and support**
- **Customizable**
- **Topic-based**
- **Designed for distributed authoring, reuse, multiple translations**



Copyright ©2011 Text Structure Consulting, Inc.