Embedding Metadata and Other Semantics In Word-Processing Documents

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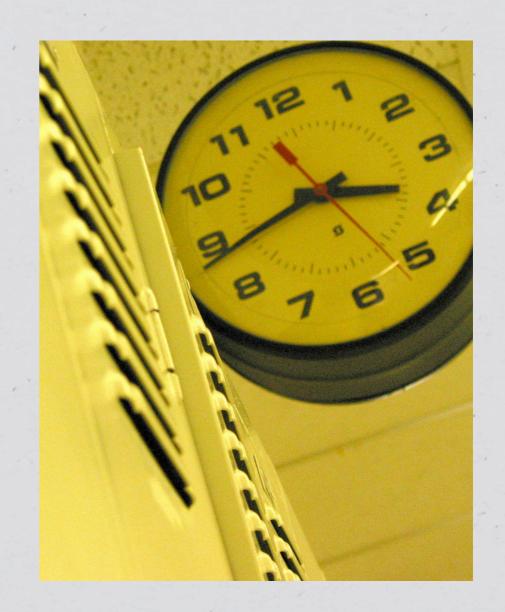
Jim Downing (University of Cambridge) (presenting)

[breath]

The paper supporting this presentation provides important detail and can be obtained from http://www.dspace.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/206423

Agenda

- * Motivations
- * Axioms of choice
- * Interoperability is Hard
- * The approach
- * Examples (+ chemistry)



http://www.flickr.com/photos/forezt/524108228

Why is this interesting?

- * We want to move towards semantically-rich documents for e-Research. In some disciplines 100% of documents start life in a word processor.
- * Introduction of real world constraints yields interesting result

Semantically Rich Documents

- * Enable automation
- * Prevent information loss
- * Better discovery
- * Improved presentation

Automation – zero click upload, not filling in redundant forms etc Information loss – rich data reduced to tables, images. Semantic information leads to richer alternatives for discovery and communication of research.

Fully Supported Research - all the supporting data delivered with the text

Constraints

Work
in the
real world,
today



Solution had to work in ICE – the Integrated Content Environment, a distributed authoring system in production at USQ.

Therefore the approach is PRAGMATIC!

Real World

- * Metadata, semantics and data not easily distinguished
- * Document creation == Metadata creation
 - * Not separable activities
 - * Metadata is in the document
- * Documents have multiple, distributed authors

Tools and Formats

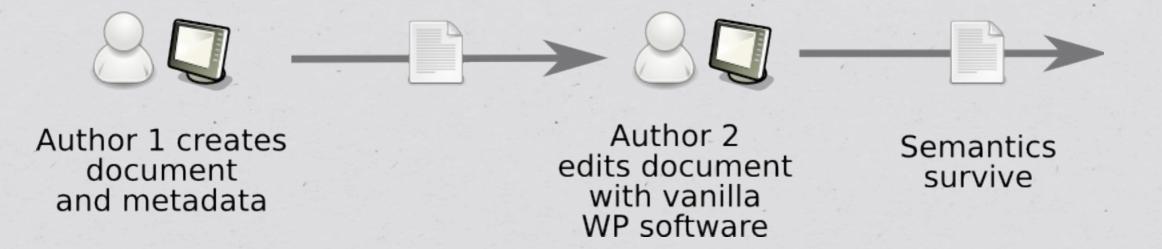
- * Microsoft Word [Adoption]
- * OpenOffice.org writer [Access]
- * ICE Integrated Content Environment



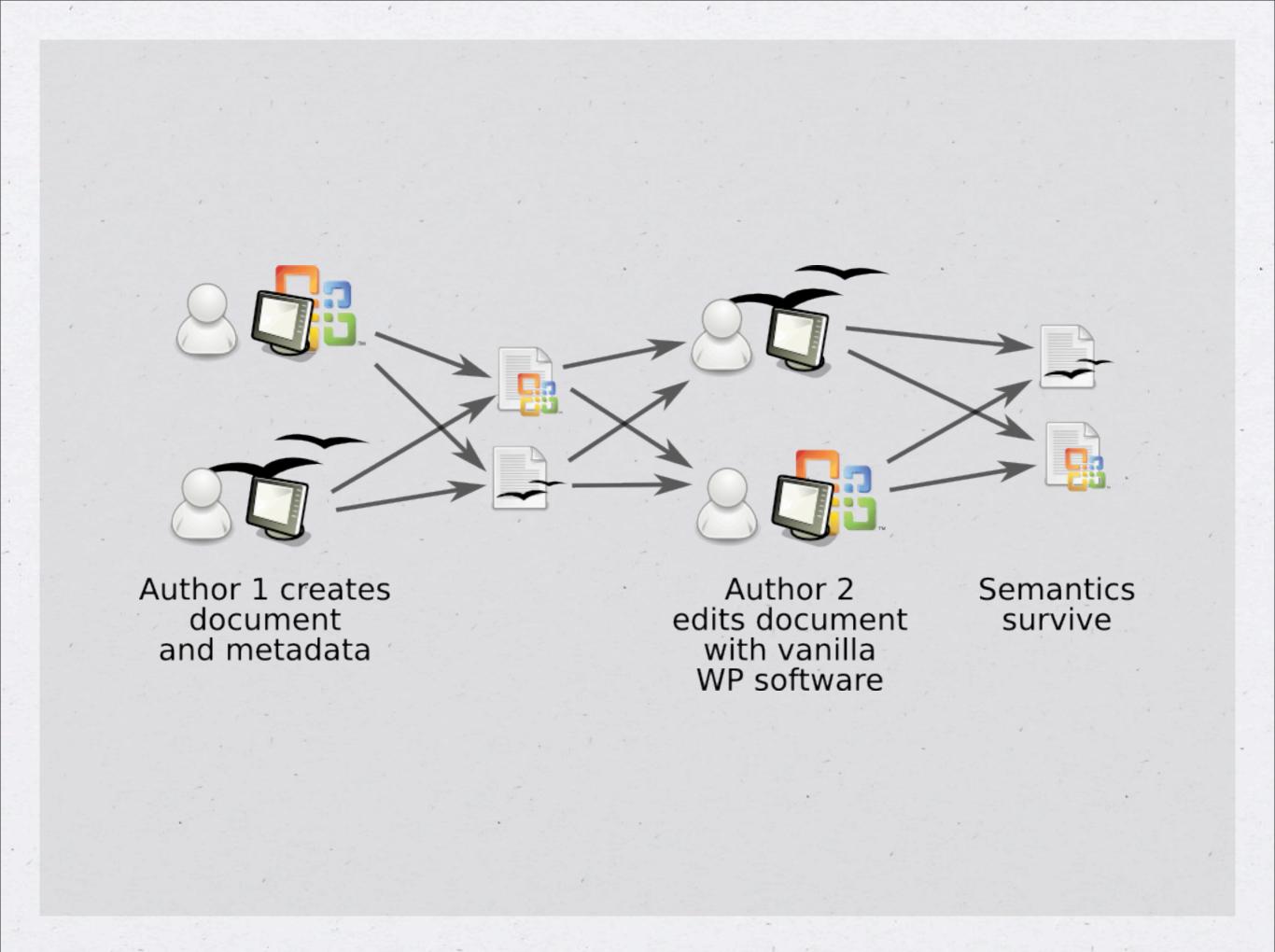
* .doc, .docx, OOXML, ODF

* HTML, PDF

The Difference Between Standards and Interoperability



This is the test that semantic solutions must work inside to be useful in production – once semantics are created, they must survive when the document is edited in the wild.



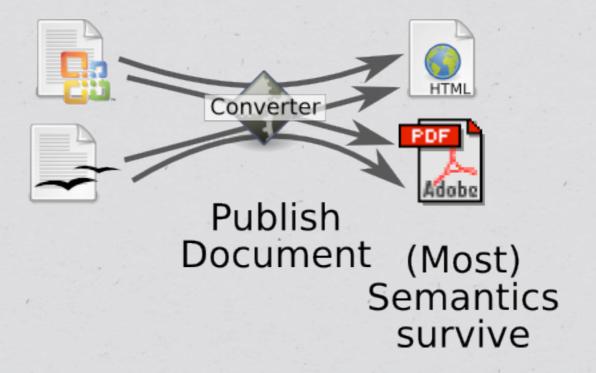
This is the simple subset of document interop we're talking about, including only word and OO Writer.

In the wild you can't control what formats people use to save, or the software they use.

If any of these routes destroys semantics, then we've lost interoperability.

There are a lot of standards already involved in this space, but none of them on their own deliver semantic data interoperability.

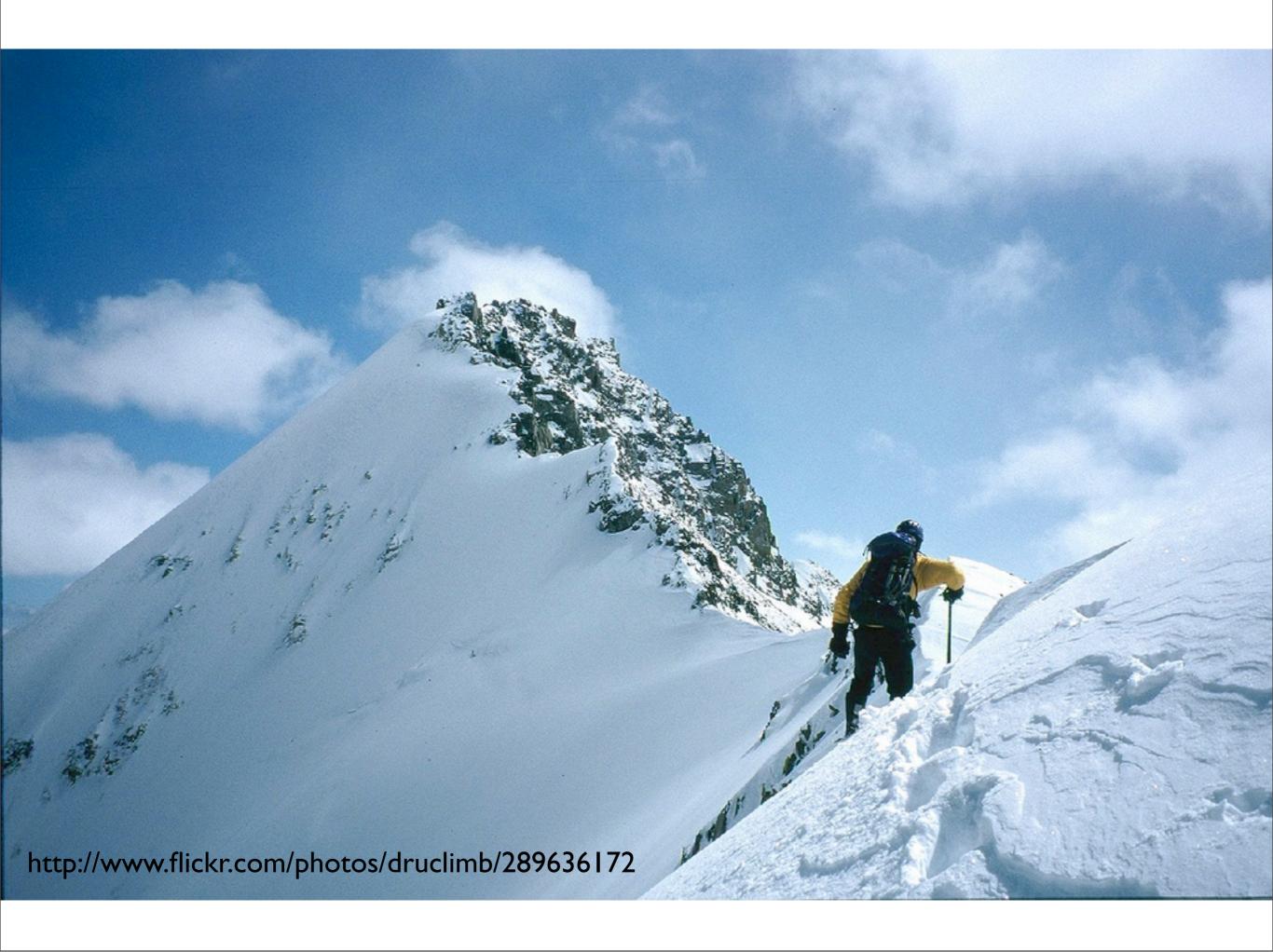
Interoperability in Publishing



PDF – scholarly publishing now

HTML - the medium term future of scholarly publishing.

Converter needed since HTML and PDF creation in OOo Writer and MS Word produce pretty poor results.

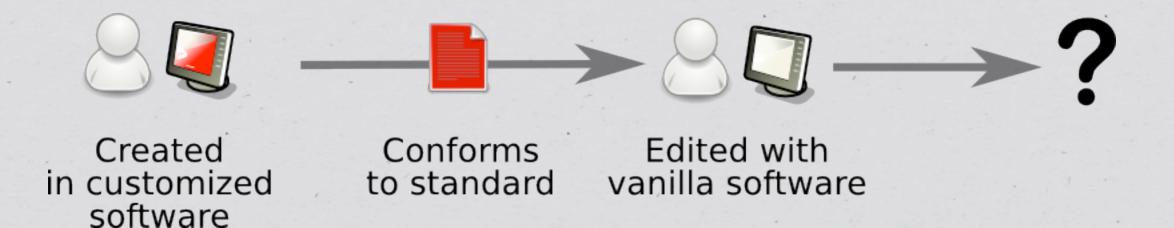


When you apply these interoperability constraints, the solution space gets very small. <metaphor>Like walking along a ridge, keep it simple and take small steps. The paths off to the side lead quickly to peril.</metaphor>

Approaches Ruled Out

- * MS Word "Smart Tags"
 - * No interop with OOo, but not necessarily a bad idea
- * MS Word foreign namespace XML encoding
 - * Expensive, no interop with OOo, lock-in issues
- * ODF 1.2 embedded semantic
 - * No Word equivalent in sight
- * Things that would destroy WYSIWYG such as using wiki markup in the word processor.

Define A New Encoding Standard?



Codifying a standard wouldn't work unless vanilla wp software can be shown not to destroy the information.

For delivering interoperability in this area, standards are not sufficient.

Microformats!

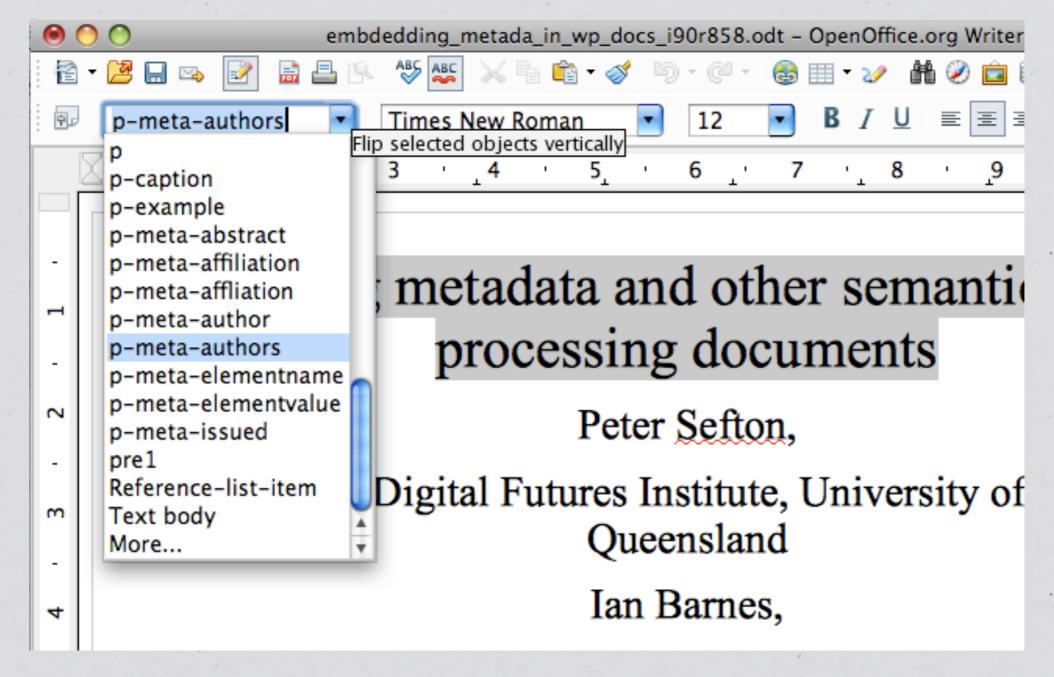
http://www.flickr.com/photos/onion/2046003604

Encoding Microformats

- * Tables: for, like, tabulating things
- * Styles: The original extensible inline semantic mechanism for word processing and still working!
- * Links
- * Frames: fragile
- * Bookmarks and fields: require lots of field testing, not all that reliable in an interop situation

The paper contains much more detail about the mechanism.

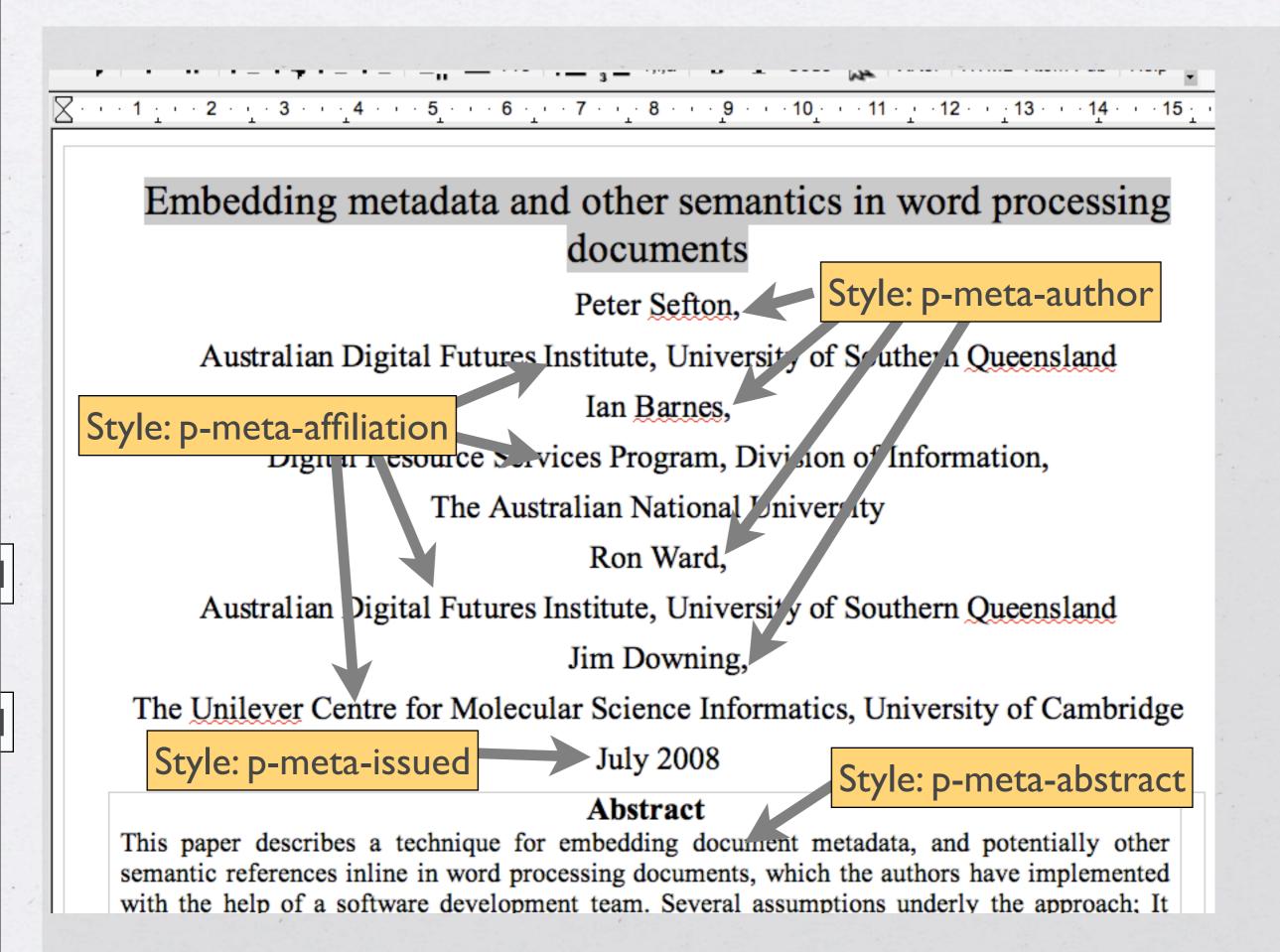
Styles



The style approach is: -

- * Simple
- * Metadata schema agnostic
- * User extensible

It doesn't /need/ any plugin / customized software to work.

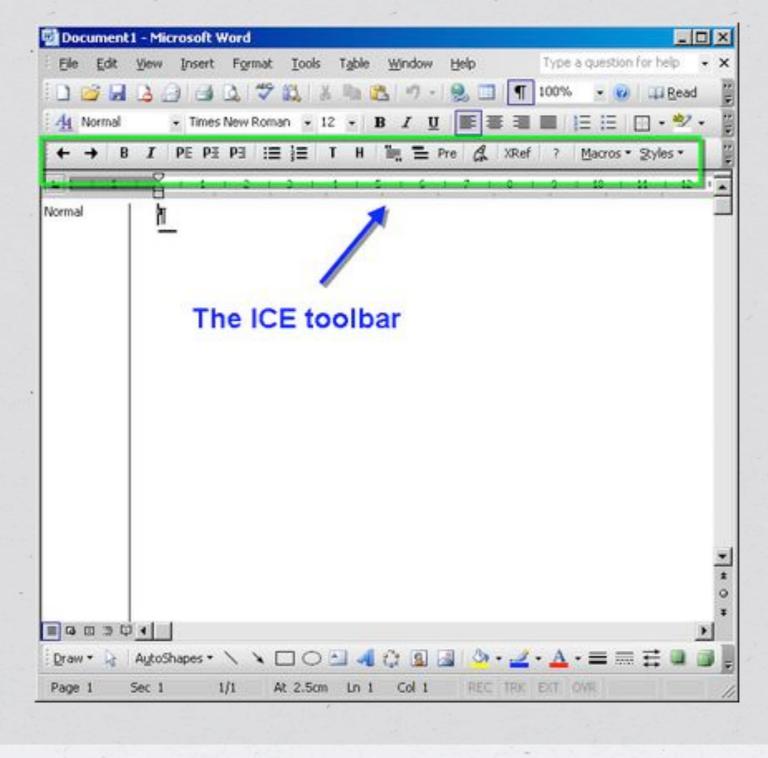


Styles can be nested by placing inline styled text within styled paragraphs.

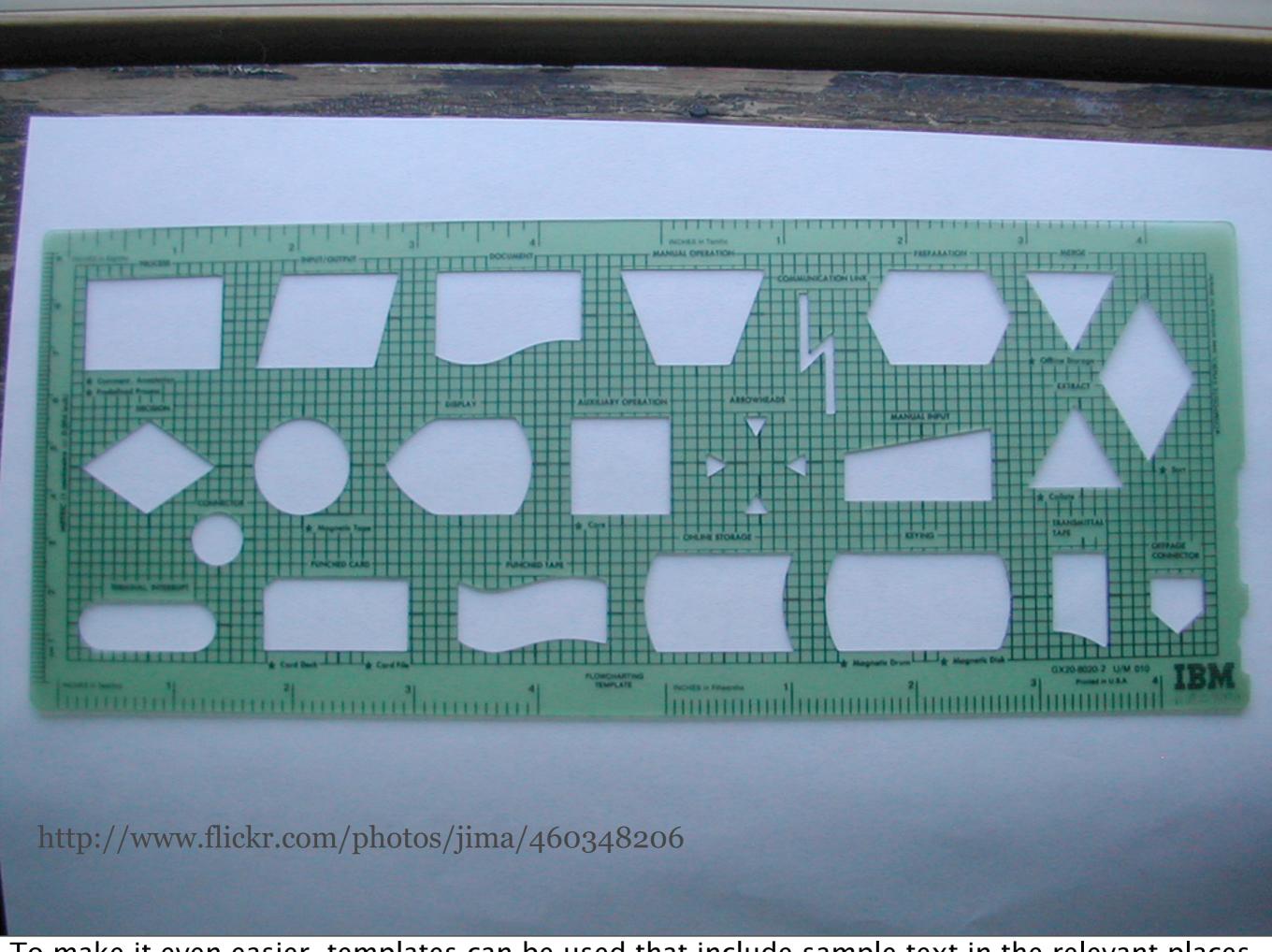
Metadata {meta-document-information}	
Title	Metadata in ICE documents
Author Name	Ian Barnes
Author Affiliation	ANU
Author Email	Ian.Barnes@anu.edu.au

Tables are also useful since the layout implies semantics

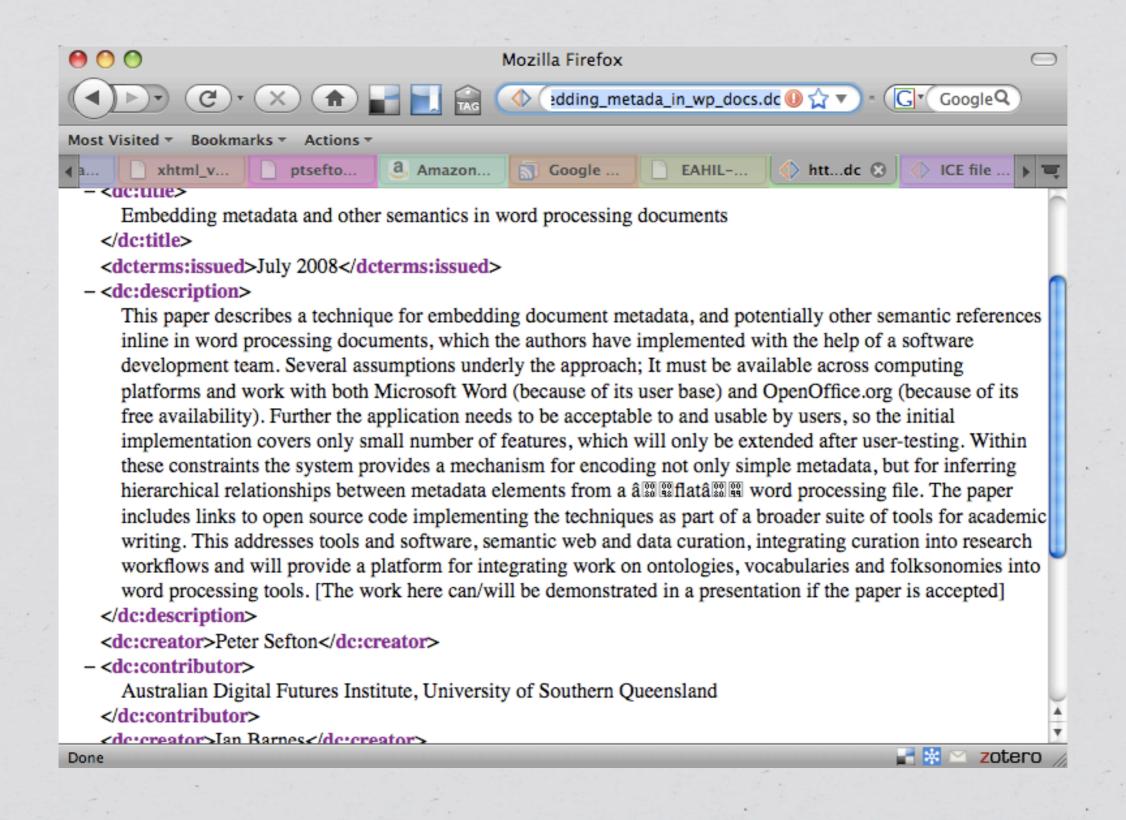
Toolbars



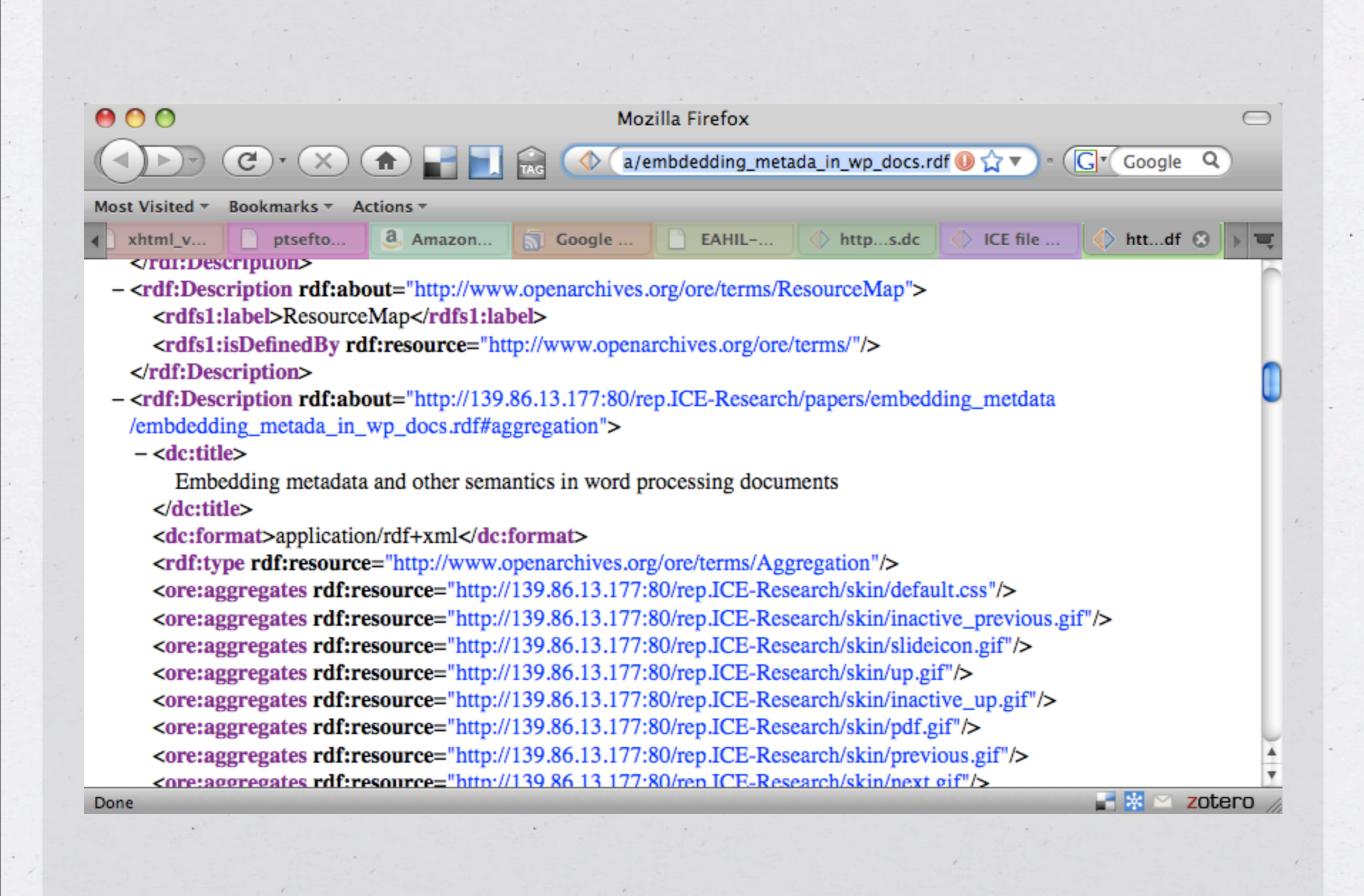
The toolbars are implemented for Word and Writer. They provide easy access to the common microformat encoding styles and structures. They also contain macros for communicating with the ICE system, and uploading the document to the Institutional Repo / publisher system etc.



To make it even easier, templates can be used that include sample text in the relevant places – all the user has to do is replace the sample text.



Dublin Core metadata can be extracted directly from the document.



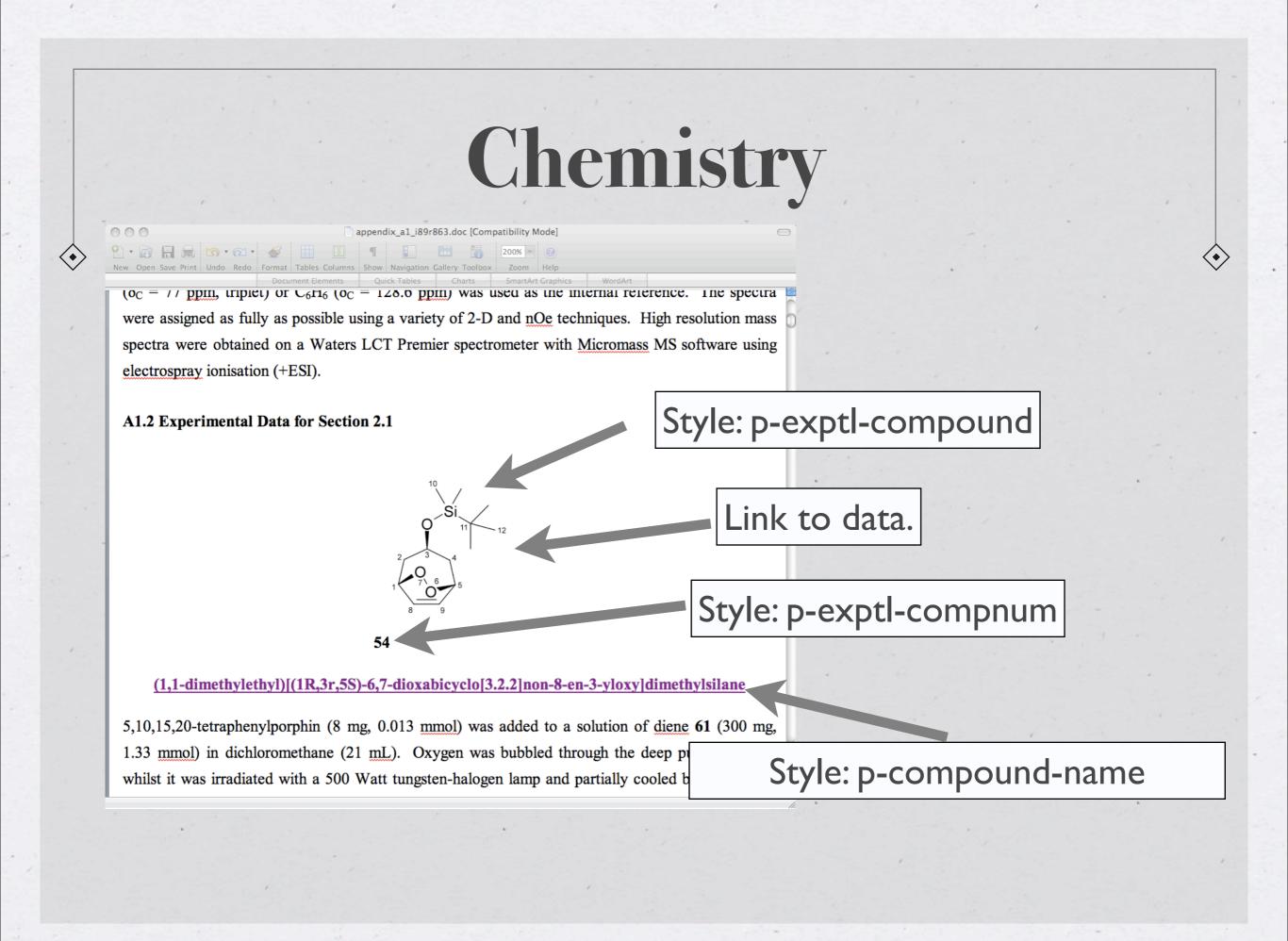
As can RDF metadata using the ORE vocabulary.

ICE-TheOREM

- * Semantics in chemistry thesis documents
- * Structural elements, Chapters, Appendices etc
- * Data (molecules, spectral data etc)
- * Chemical entities in text

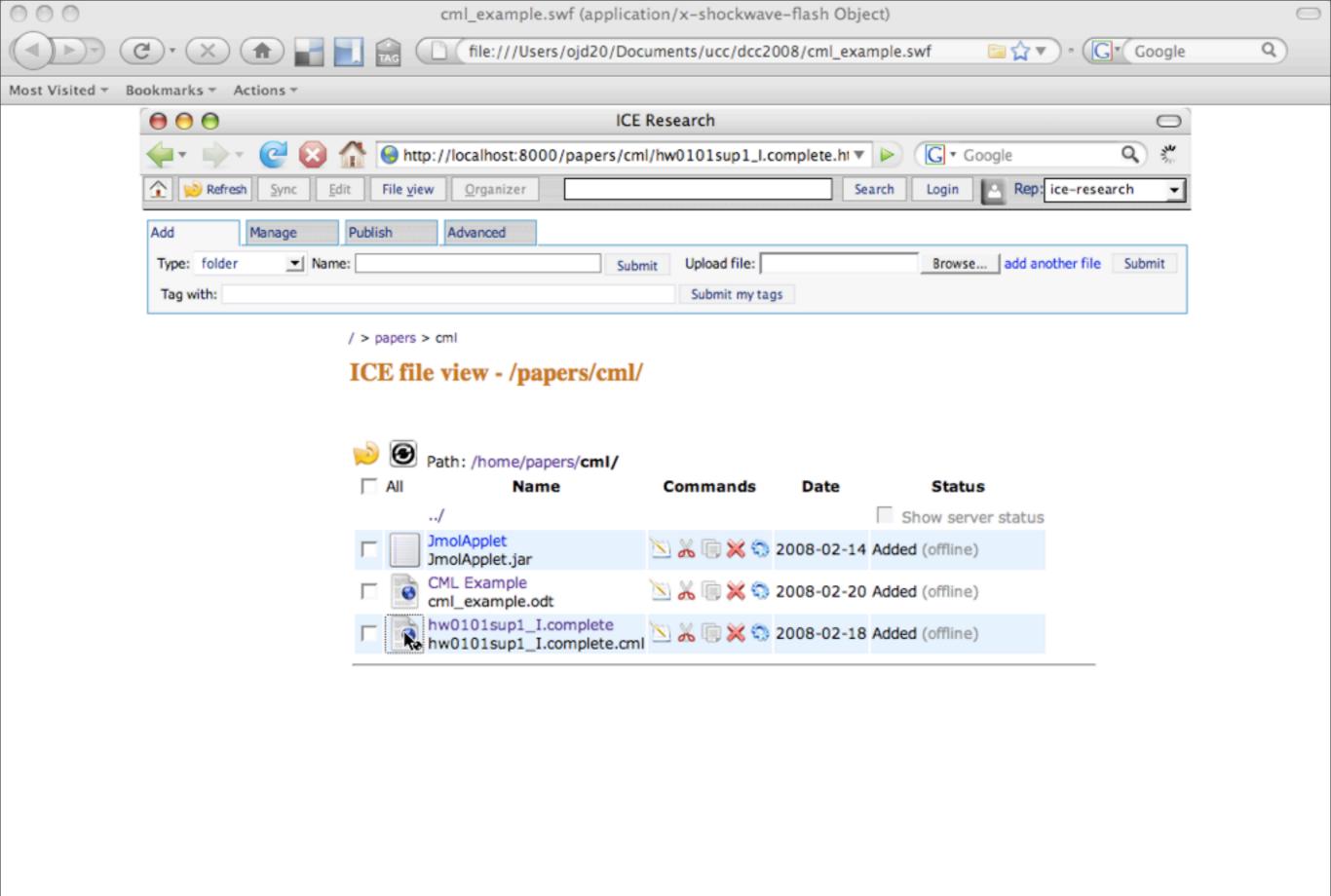


http://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/trac/theorem/



This text from a synthetic chemistry thesis.

Highlights the grey area between data and metadata – the compound name is data, but also the subject of the document.

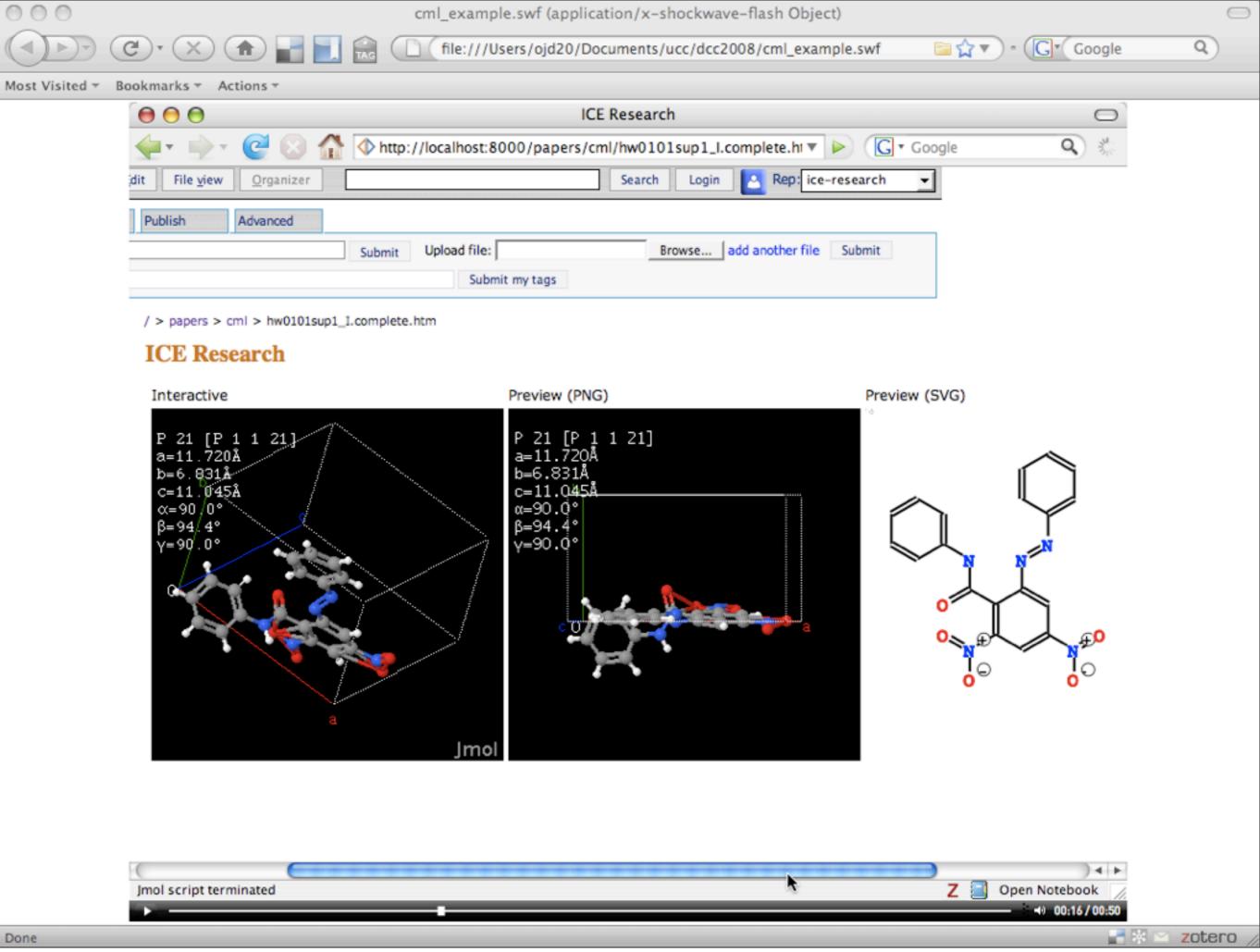


These screenshots taken from CML in ICE demo at http://ice.usq.edu.au/presentations/

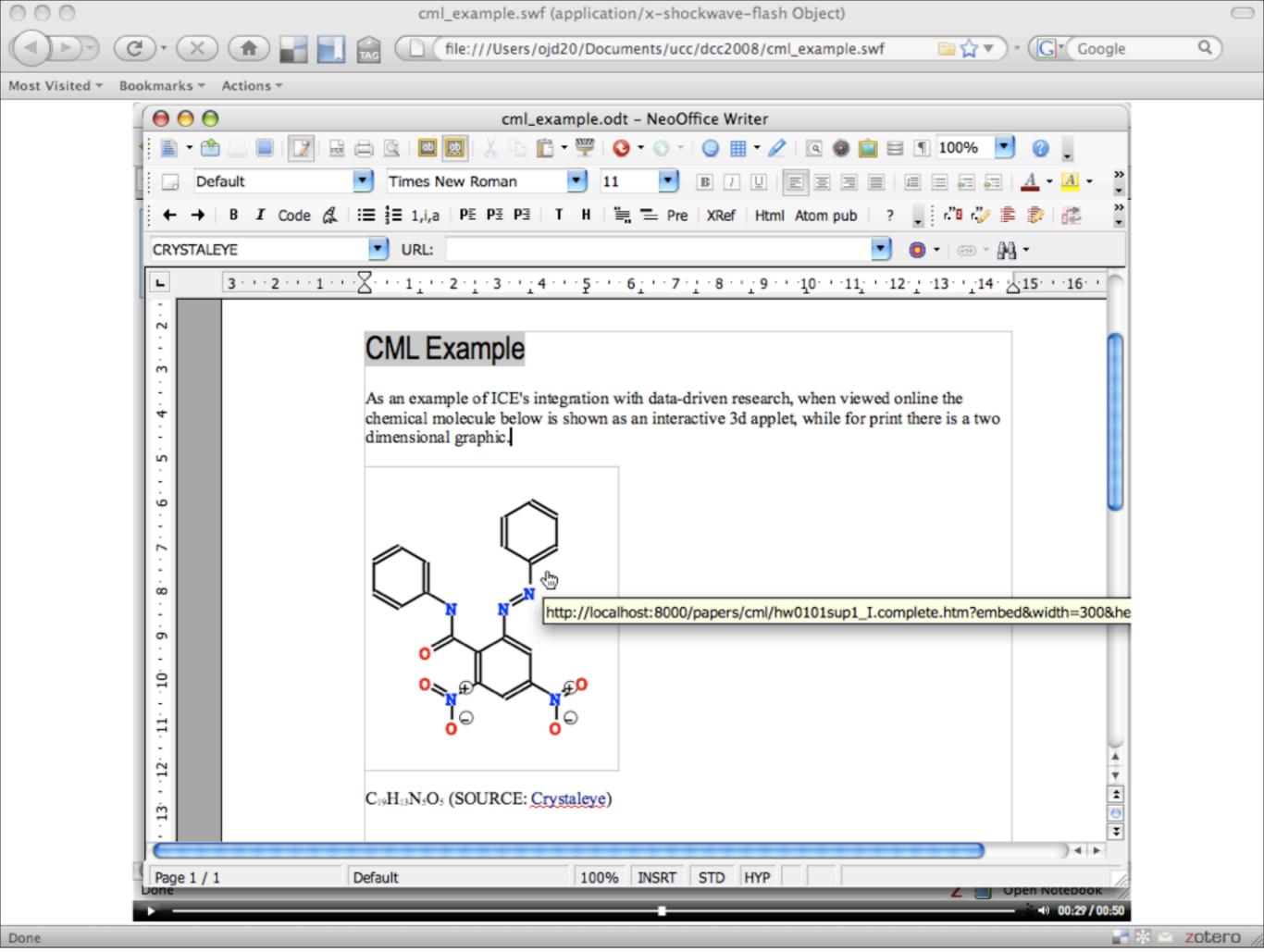
Waiting for localhost...

demos/index.htm

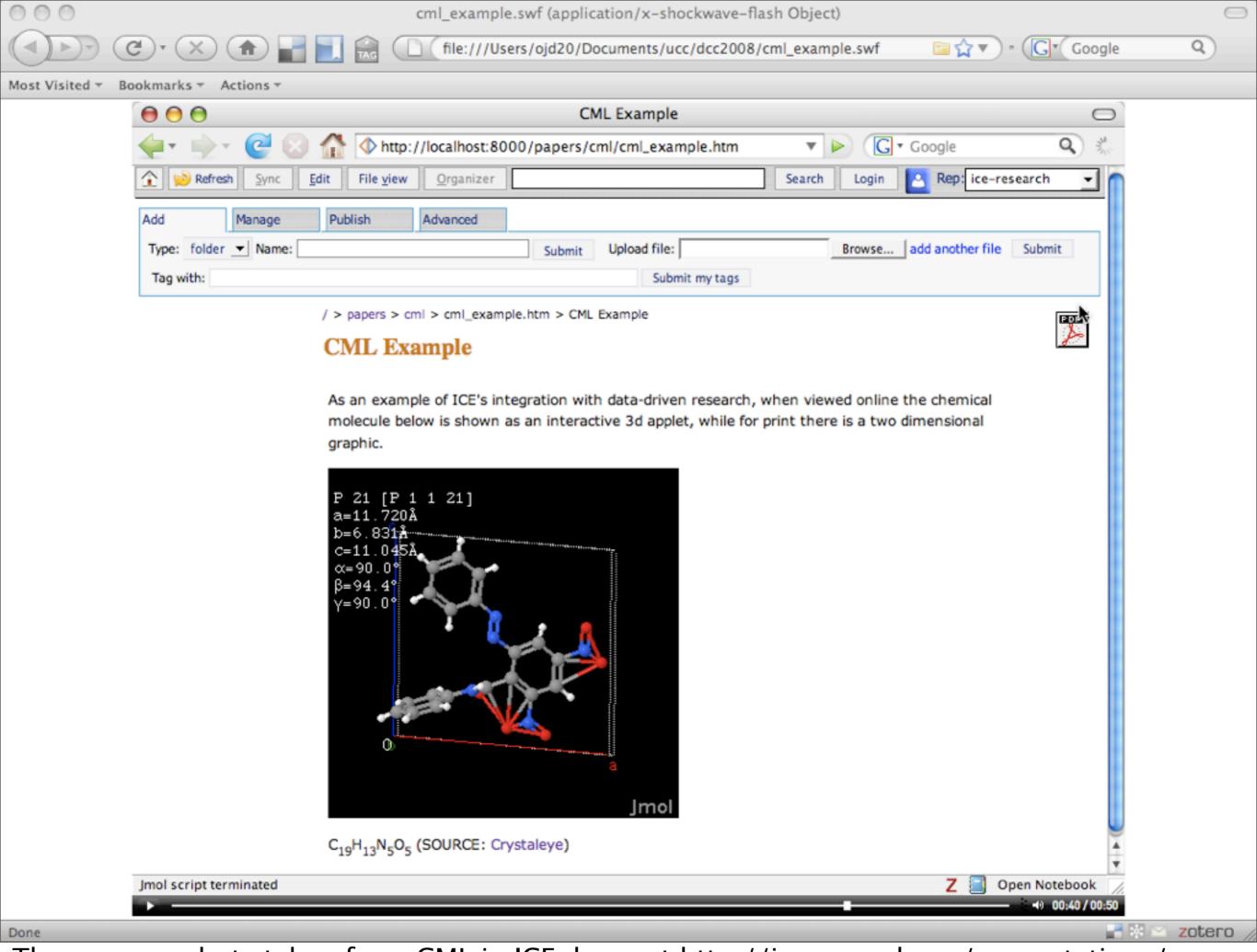
Z <a>Open Notebook



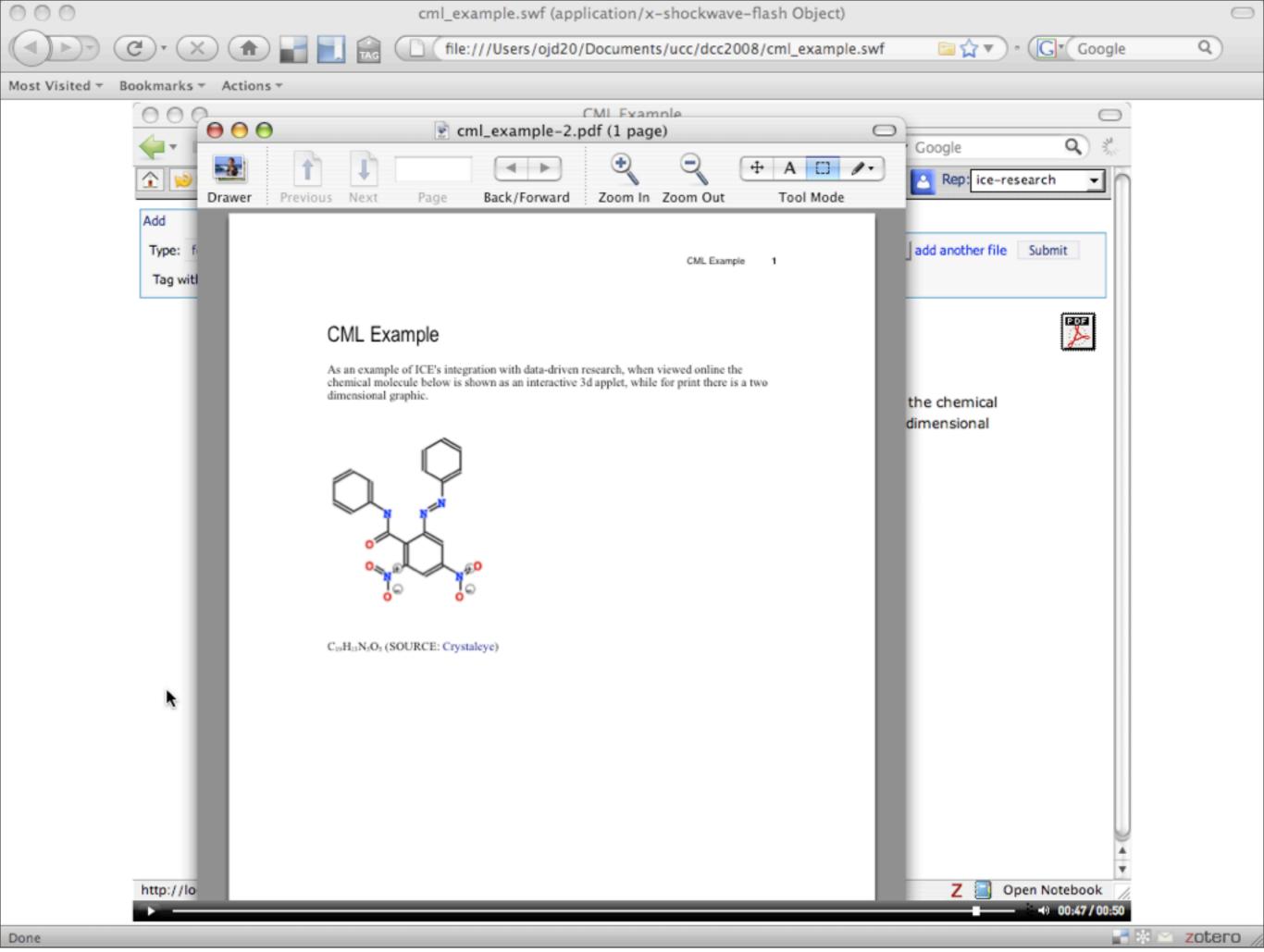
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ICE - Integrated Content Environment http://ice.usq.edu.au/ Demos at http://ice.usq.edu.au/presentations/demos/

ICE-TheOREM. Tag: jisctheorem https://wwmm.ch.cam.ac.uk/trac/theorem http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/digitalrepositories2007/theoremice.aspx

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