

Abstract

The thesis deals with online publication on the internet, particularly from a media science specific point of view. Based on a reflexion of both advantages and disadvantages of electronic publication for the World Wide Web (WWW), it makes a fresh attempt at finding solutions for information storing as well as for user-adaptive, hypertextual information presentation. These solutions and techniques should not depend on the final screen design. Rather, the focus is on how to use the WWW-specific means of communication for the access on digital information. The goal is to generate dynamic web documents, based on structured hypertext units and using technology like XML-related markup languages and metadata. A central issue is the modelling of the man-machine-dialogue: How can simple man-machine-interaction within information systems be developed so that any reader becomes an active communicator? How can individual user characteristics be determined and processed for user-adaptive online-representation?

Areas of application are online reference books, journals, documentations, information systems and e-learning systems. The thesis refers on the grammatical information system "GRAMMIS", located at the Institute for German Language in Mannheim. In this way, practical questions and solutions can be directly evaluated on a real-world system.