

RESEARCH OUTPUTS / RÉSULTATS DE RECHERCHE

A Methodological Approach for Web Sites Reengineering

Estiévenart, Fabrice; Francois, Aurore; Henrard, Jean; Hainaut, Jean-Luc

Publication date:
2003

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (HARVARD):

Estiévenart, F, Francois, A, Henrard, J & Hainaut, J-L 2003, *A Methodological Approach for Web Sites Reengineering..*

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

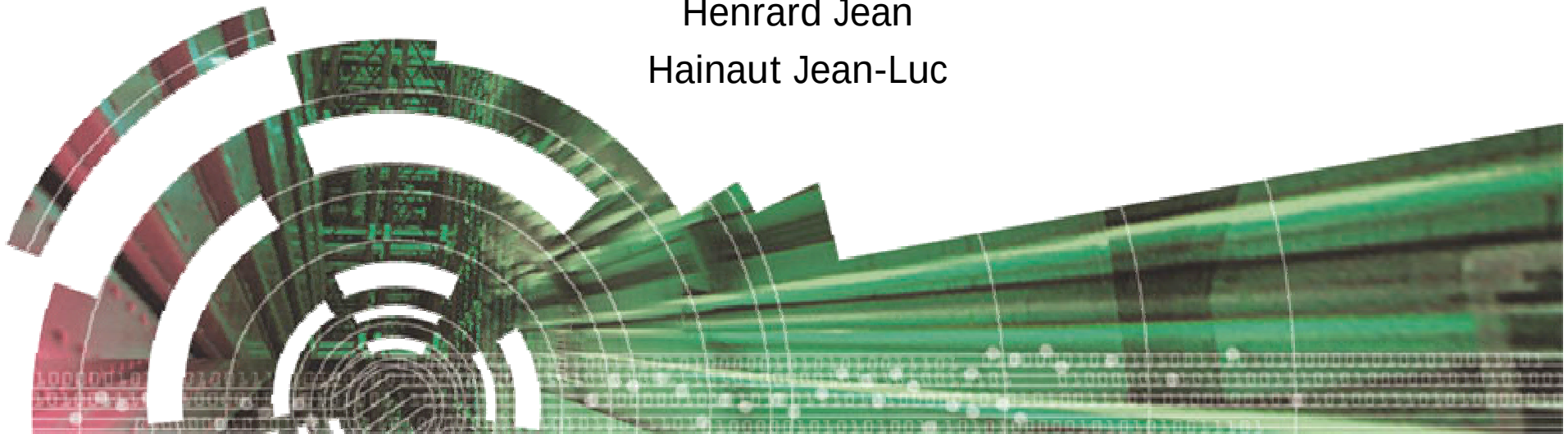
A Methodological Approach for Web Sites Reengineering

Estiévenart Fabrice

François Aurore

Henrard Jean

Hainaut Jean-Luc



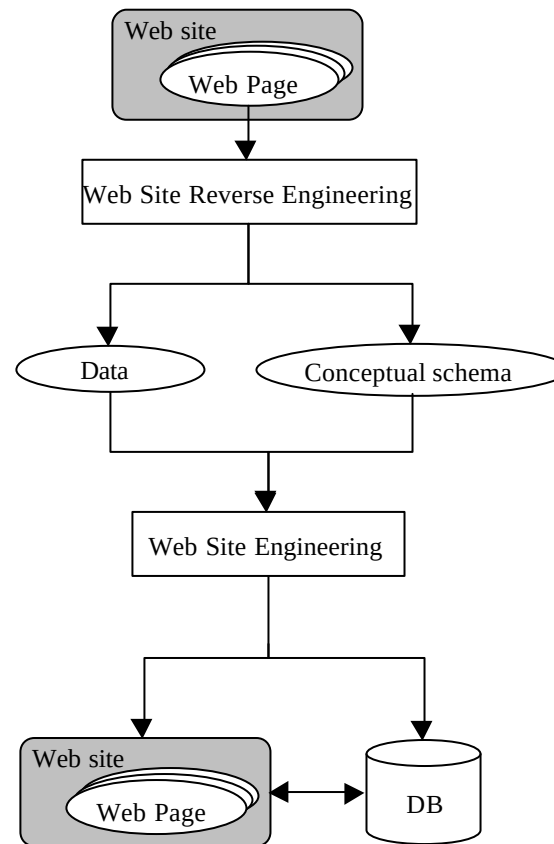
Context

- Still many static web sites...
 - Advantage
 - easy to create
 - → for small web sites
 - Drawbacks
 - data and layout are mixed up
 - maintenance problems
 - → out-of-date or redundant information
 - → non-homogeneous design
 - Solution
 - DBMS + scripts (php, Perl,...)

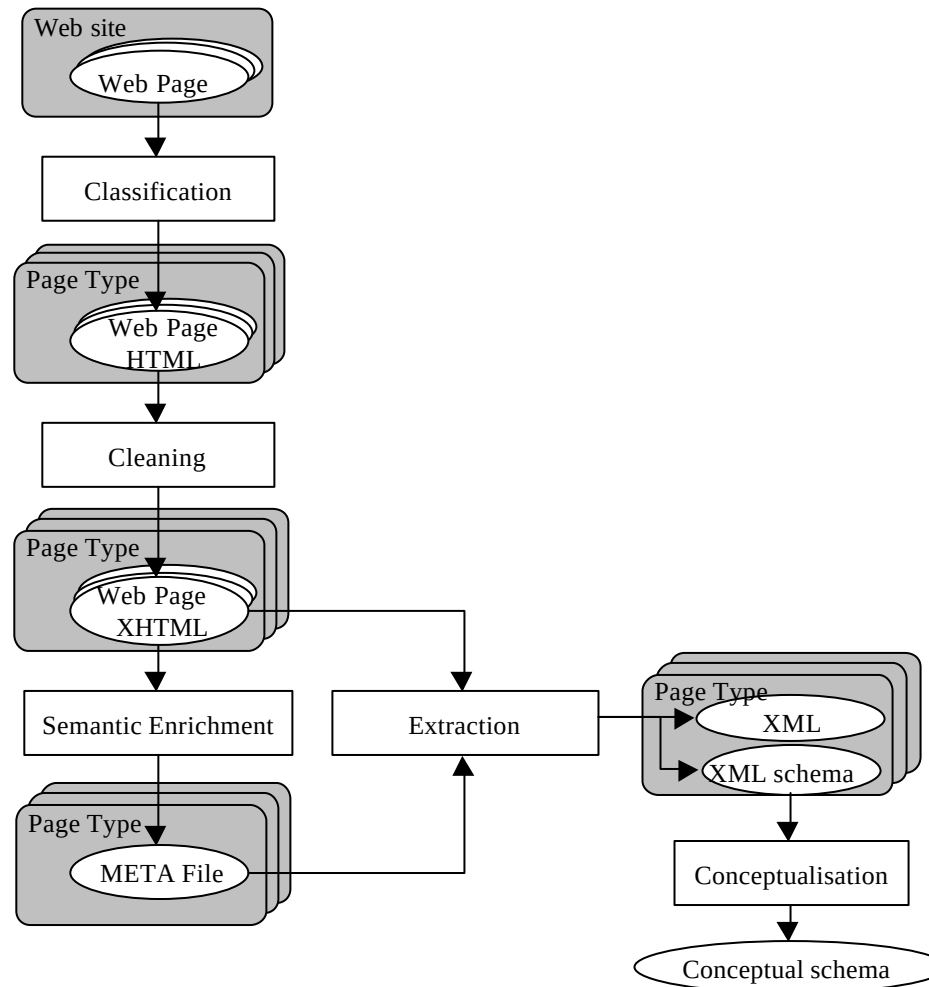


Goals

- To provide methods and tools for web sites reengineering :



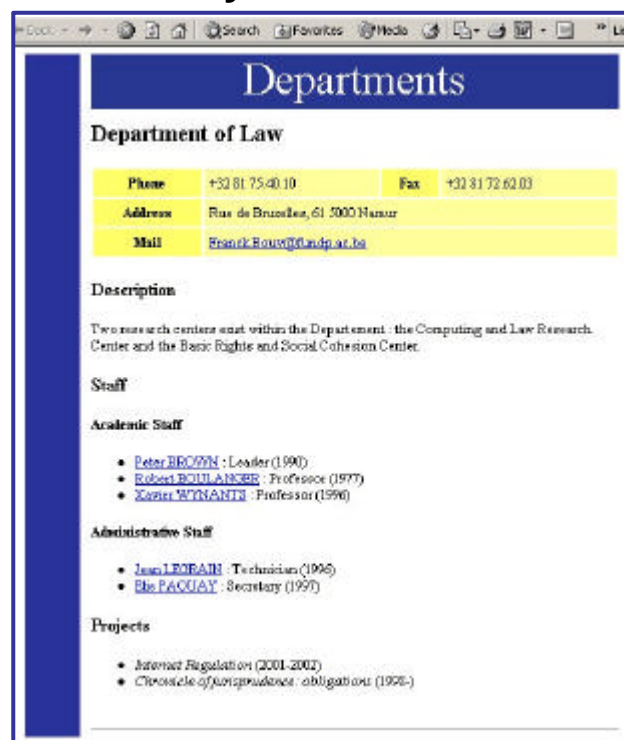
Method : overview



Method : step 1

• Pages classification

- « Page type » = a set of pages relative to the same concept, that display very similar information in a very similar layout



Method : steps 2 and 3.1

- HTML cleaning
- Semantic enrichment
 - For each page type
 - Concepts identification and description on a sample page
 - « Concept » = a part of the HTML tree describing the layout, the structure and possibly the value of a certain reality
 - Ex : the concept « Phone Number »


```
<tr>
  <td align="middle" bgcolor="#FFFF66">
    <b>Phone :</b>
  </td >
  <td bgcolor="#FFFF99">+32 71 72.23.49</td>
</tr>
```
 - Ex : the concept « Address » composed of « Street » and « City »


```
<table width="100%">
  <tr><td><b>Address :</b></td></tr>
  <tr><td>Quality Street, 25</td></tr>
  <tr><td>London</td></tr>
</table>
```



Method : the META file

```
<HTMLDescription xmlns:meta="http://www.cetic.be/FR/CRAQ-DB.htm">
  <meta:element name="Department">
    <html>
      <head>...</head>
      <body>
        <table>
          <meta:element ref="DeptName"/>
          <meta:element ref="PhoneNumber"/>
          <meta:element ref="Address"/>
        </table>
      </body>
    </html>
  </meta:element>
  <meta:element name="PhoneNumber">
    <tr>
      <td align="middle" bgcolor="#FFFF66"><b>Phone :</b></td>
      <td bgcolor="#FFFF99"><meta:value/></td>
    </tr>
  </meta:element>
  ...
</HTMLDescription>
```



Method : step 3.2

- Application to other pages of the same type
 - there may be layout and structure differences between pages of the same type → a same concept may have several descriptions
 - **Example** : a layout difference

```
<tr>
  <td><b>Name :</b></td>
</tr>
```

```
<tr>
  <td><i>Name :</i></td>
</tr>
```

- **Example** : a structure difference

```
<table width="100%">
  <tr><td>Address :</td></tr>
  <tr><td>Quality Street, 25</td></tr>
  <tr><td>London</td></tr>
</table>
```

```
<table width="100%">
  <tr><td>Address :</td></tr>
  <tr><td>New York</td></tr>
  <tr><td>Main Street, 110</td></tr>
</table>
```



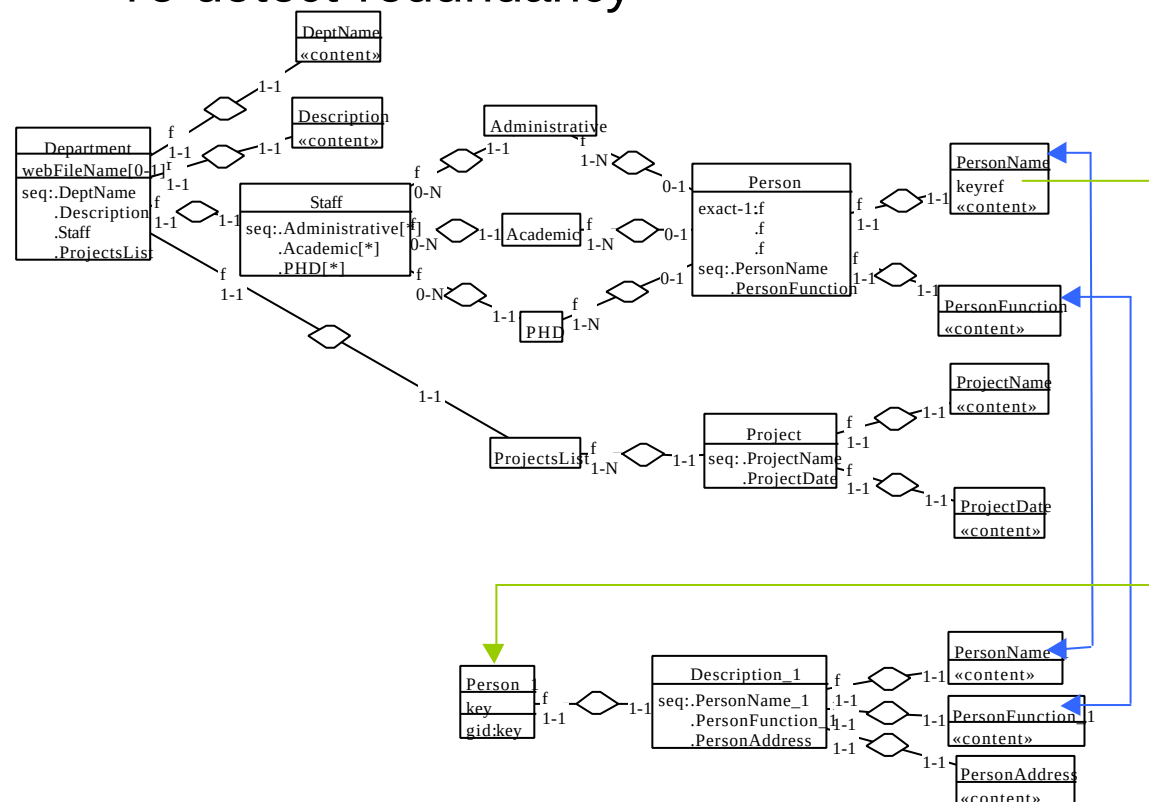
Method : step 4

- Data and schema extraction
 - Data extraction
 - Web pages + META file → XML document
 - Data structure extraction
 - META file → XML schema



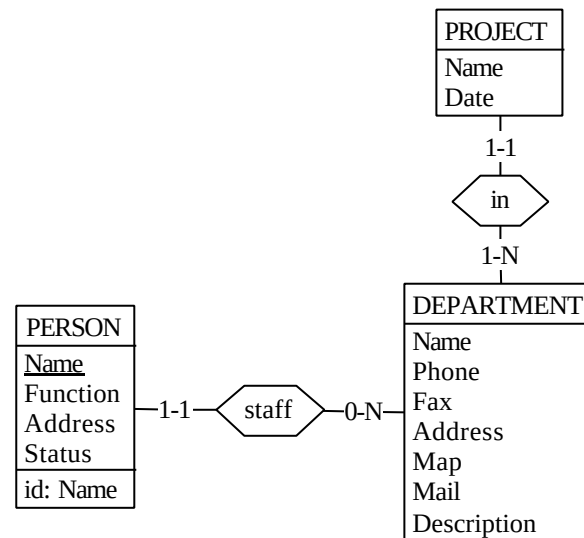
Method : step 5.1

- Schema integration
 - To discover relationships between concepts
 - To detect redundancy



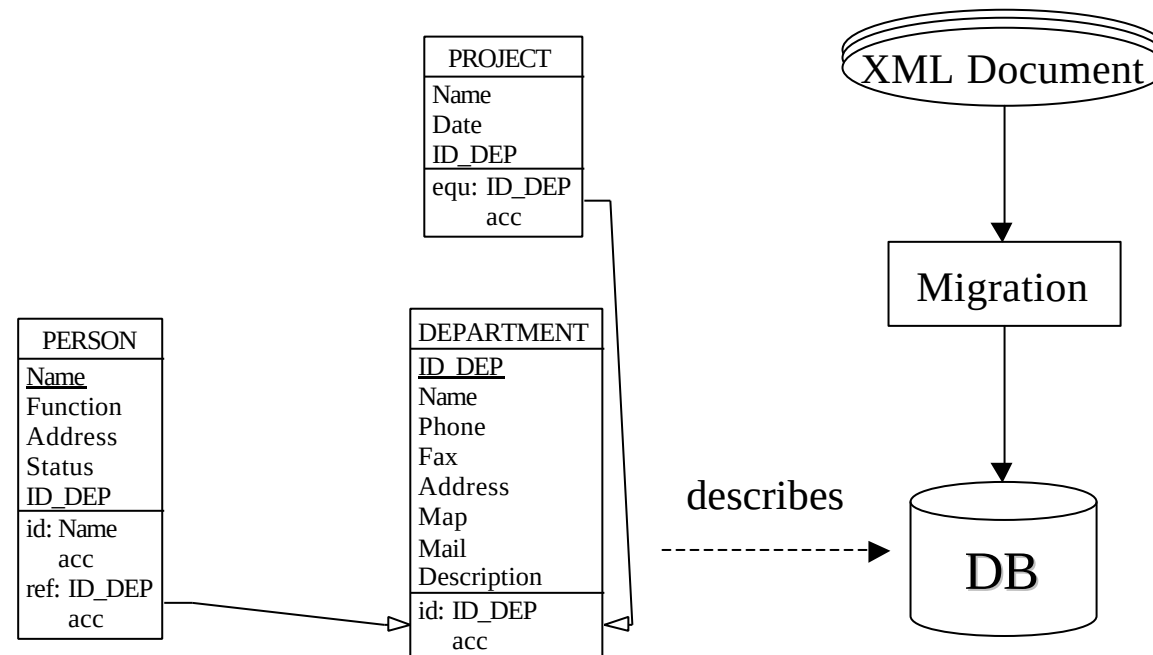
Method : step 5.2

- Schema conceptualisation



Web Site Engineering

- Database engineering + Data migration



Tools

- HTML cleaning
 - Tidy
- Semantic enrichment
 - XML editor or the semantic browser (based on Mozilla) to edit/generate the META file
- Data and schema extraction
 - XML parsers (Java DOM)
 - *pageType.extractSchema(METAfile) → XMLSchema*
 - *pageType.extractData(HTML*, METAfile) → XML*
- Schemas integration/conceptualisation and database engineering
 - CASE tool DB-Main



Conclusion and future work

- A method and tools to extract from a web site data and their structure
- Difficulty : enormous diversity of web pages structures and layouts to represent the same reality
- Future work
 - test on real-size web sites
 - refine the semantic enrichment step
 - improve GUI
 - automation/assistance based on heuristics

