

Borges Documentation Management System

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This presentation is an introduction to Borges: history and philosophy, features, current applications, and future developments.

1. Where Does Borges come from?

Borges is the result of a three-year process to develop an efficient way to manage documentation at MandrakeSoft.

Since our manuals became more complex and other projects appeared, it became clear that a powerful, unified management architecture was needed.

2. The Problems Borges Had to Solve

Borges had to help people cope with various and strong constraints:

- Many worldwide contributors
- Many translations
- Ever-changing material
- Tight deadlines

3. What Is Borges as of Now?

The system is currently made of a set of "make" commands and allows users to:

- Quickly install a full XML DocBook working environment through RPMs
- Easily create modular XML DocBook documents
- Efficiently compile these documents into HTML or PDF/PS
- Automatically manage different image formats

Borges Documentation Management System

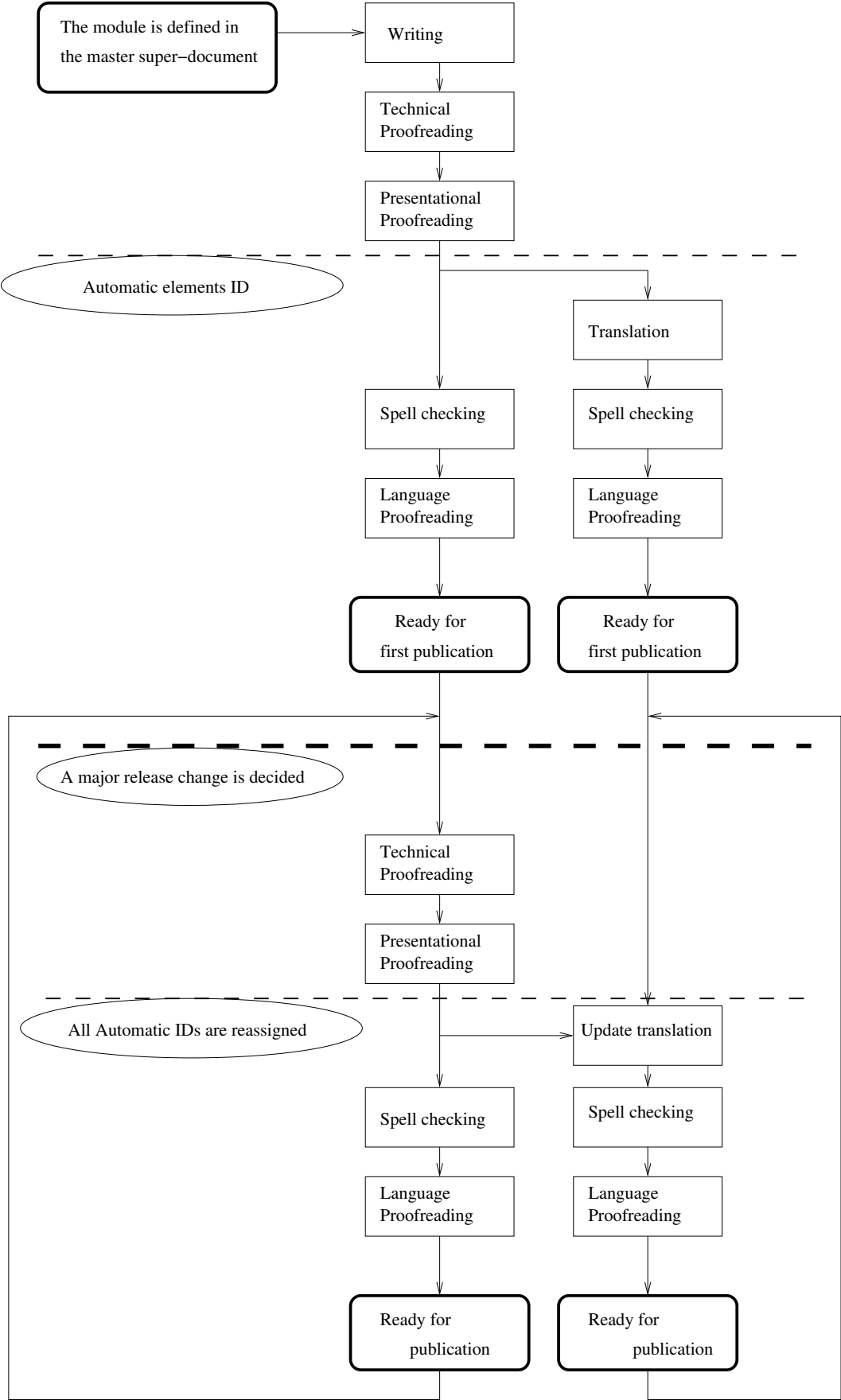
- Follow the life cycle of modules
- Verify that the translations are up-to-date
- Publish reports

To be used at its full capacity, Borges projects must be integrated into a CVS.

4. Features For Writers

- Write and publish the specifications for each document
- Generate templates for modules
- Emacs PSGML support
- Derivation of various documents from a single superdocument based on the exclusion of elements
- Automatic handling of images and diagrams, as well as external entities
- Validation of whole documents made easy

5. Life Cycle of Modules



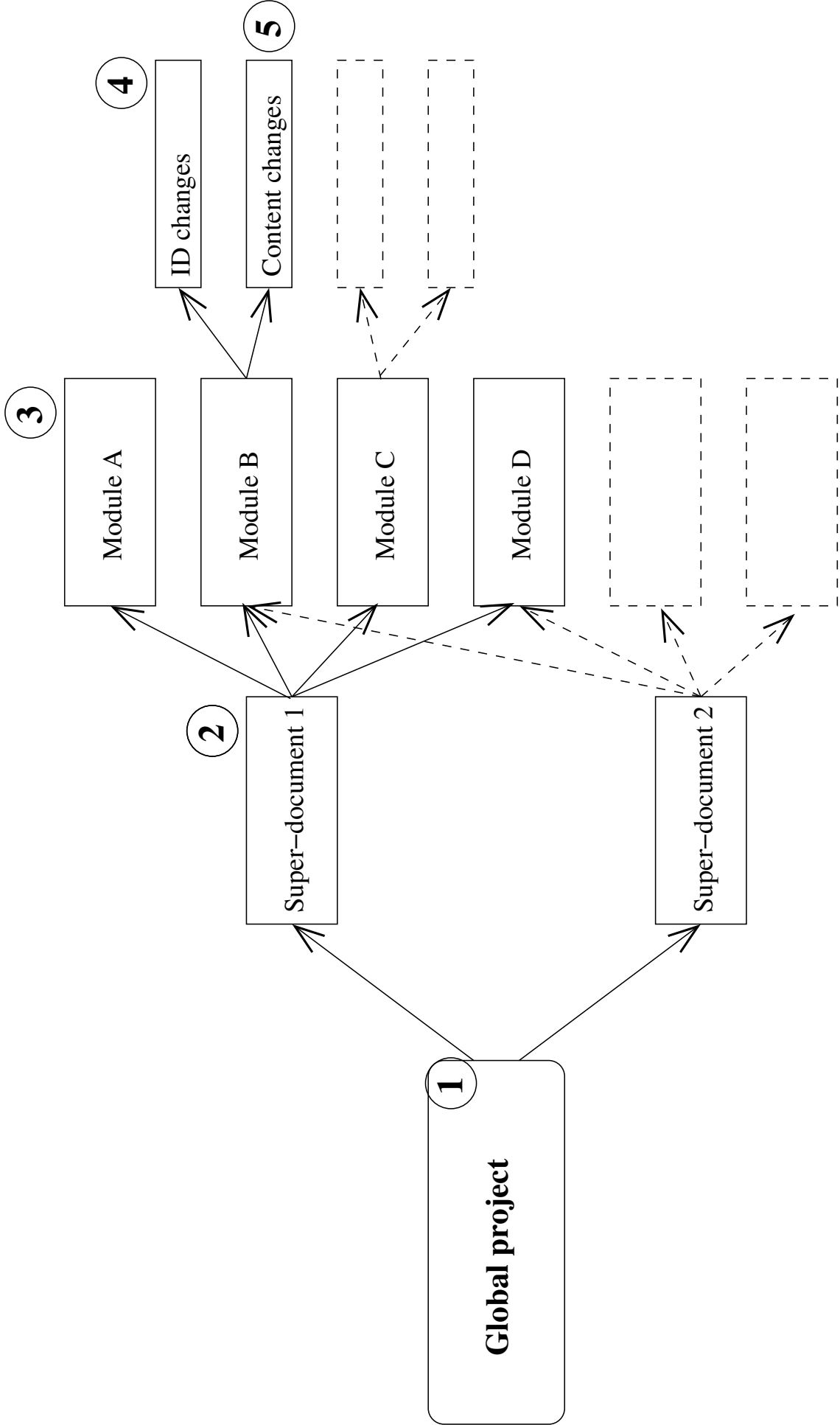
6. Features For Translators

- Notification of translation's availability
- Notification of translation's de-synchronization
- Presentation of out-of-sync text

7. Features For Project Managers

- Real-time project status, by document, by module
- Estimation of completion date
- Automatic generation of e-mails for authors
- Easy integration into CVS
- Possibility to import documentation from external sources

8. Available Reports



9. Use Cases

- MandrakeSoft's training manuals with a DocBook compatible DTD (3 manuals, 4 languages)
- MandrakeSoft's distribution manuals (5 manuals, 7 languages)
- Writing of novels (2 books, one language)

10. Current Limitations

- Only DocBook XML compatible DTDs
- No optimization
- Obscure CLI
- Subtle DocBook syntax for revision management and definition of documents
- Heterogeneous backend (many programming languages, dependencies, etc.)

11. Features Planned for V.1

- Nicer reports
- Cleanup of XML libraries
- Better handling of modules' revision history

12. For the Future

- Develop a web interface to "make" commands
- Integrate CVS features in that interface
- Allow to manage any XML DTD
- Allow to manage any object by encapsulating it in XML

13. Summary

What to remember about Borges:

- Borges makes the coffee
- Borges can be useful for beginners as well as experts

- Borges is open source
- Even if under active development, Borges can already be used for big documentation projects
- The Borges team seeks contributors of any kind: developers, writers, testers, ideas, etc.

14. Resources

- The Borges Home Page (<http://www.linux-mandrake.com/en/doc/project/Borges/>): anything you need about Borges can be on that page.

