

# Blaise and XML: Experiences Of An Outsourcing Project

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Xml is a standard for the representation of tree structures with decorated nodes and today it has become a common format for exchanging information in a platform-independent way.

Because of their hierarchical nature Blaise data and meta data are quite easy to convert into xml, however, various demands may influence the way this should be done – among them conformance to standards requirements and – of course – the particular application.

Statistics Denmark has recently been through a process of outsourcing telephone as well as personal interviewing for the Labour Force Survey while post processing of forms including coding still should be carried out in our office.

Among the tasks were definitions of a data exchange format using xml for the exchange of questionnaire data and development of tools for automatic generation of e.g. xml schemas to support validation of xml documents and for conversion between Blaise and xml.

The paper summarizes some experiences and challenges from this project.

Abstract