

# WinHelp to HTML:

## Planning Strategies

(Mid-Nov. 1997)

### 1. Introduction

#### Problem: Confusion

1. Transmission and display technologies are changing rapidly – so we have the *technically* inevitable confusion resulting from this rapid change.
2. These changes are producing an historic paradigm shift – so we have the *politically and economically* inevitable confusion of a power struggle.

We will try to make as much sense of this chaos as we can, and point directions where you can find more information to draw your own conclusions and make your own decisions. If you encounter a term you're not sure of, see if we've covered it in the **Glossary**.

#### Organization

This version of the Planning Strategies has the following organization:

- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Introduction                     | 7. Issues To Consider |
| 2. Brief History of the Present War | 8. Decisions To Make  |
| 3. The Combatants                   | 9. Conclusions        |
| 4. HTML <i>Help</i>                 | Glossary              |
| 5. NetHelp / JavaHelp / Oracle Help | Resource List         |
| 6. XML / DHTML                      |                       |

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- Caveats:**
1. Scribble & Count has worked with HTML*Help* (we've had the pre- $\beta$ ,  $\beta$ , 1.0, & 1.1  $\beta$  installed), have attended three conferences and two classes, and talked with one Netscape both Microsoft project leads. But we've never completed an HTML*Help* project or even begun to write for NetHelp, JavaHelp, HyperHelp, or WebWorks.
  2. The situation is changing rapidly; so even if we're 90% right today, we'll be less than that tomorrow. (You should compare this analysis to the one we distributed following the San Diego launch of HTML*Help*.)

## 2. Brief History of the Present War

[I once owned a 1708 book by that name; it dealt with what we now know as the War of the Spanish Succession. Never heard of it?? Our trauma, too, shall pass.]

### Background of Hypertext

Origin of term (1965)

Invention of technique (1975)

HyperCard (1985)

### Schism (1990)

WinHelp vs. Hypertext

### Netscape-Microsoft Feud (1996--)

### Alternatives

SGML (1980s), XML (1996), DHTML (1997)

### Janet Reno's Anti-trust Suit (10/21/97)

### Anti-Microsoft Conference 11/13/97

**Summary:** We are witnessing a major power struggle in which online help is just a minor theatre. But the outcome will affect us dramatically. Other venues:

- Browser War (Microsoft vs Netscape)
- Anti-trust / Stop-Gates Movement
- Operating System War (Windows vs Java)

You need to understand the O/S War; it makes sense out of a lot of other events.

## 3. The Combatants

This will be a brief introduction; some of them will be described in following sections.

### WinHelp

No need to belabor this; you know what this is about.

### Traditional HTML

Leisurely development from ver. 1.0 ⇒ ver. 3.0

3.2 got sticky – and it deteriorated from there.

DHTML is described below

### HTML*Help*

Microsoft has two goals: develop an HTML-based help that subordinates Java. [But the Microsoft solution can't alienate the WinHelp community; you should listen to Ralph describe the pressure our approval (or lack of it) holds over him.]

## Netscape / Sun / Oracle

I've joined them because they're all Java-based – and because the Netscape-Sun collaboration is imminent, and participation by Oracle is logical. Together they pose a real threat to Microsoft's help plans, and even to its operating system.

## Others

Bristol's HyperHelp / Quadralay's WebWorks / Inso's DynaText / possibly someday Acrobat

Mostly specialized (tho important in their realm). S&C doesn't know much about them, but we don't think they change the generalizations presented here.

## Languages

**SGML:** Parent of HTML (and dozens of others). Big corps have used it for years. Many think it's too rigid and difficult.

**XML:** Structurally, midway between HTML and SGML; an important possible compromise between HTML and SGML

**DHTML:** The other important compromise. Level 1 Spec is overdue; both Microsoft and Netscape have trademarked versions of the term.

**Sources:** It's hard to get balanced overviews in this chaos. But lurk in CompuServe's Hypertext Forum and on the WINHLP-L list; browse the InternetWeek and HotWired Websites; and make searches with HotBot. All are cited in the **Resource List**.

## 4. HTML*Help*

### The Intent

One small aspect of Microsoft's plan, after a very late start, to seize control of as much of TCP/IP operations as it can. (Beginning with Win98/NT5, its operating systems will depend on TCP/IP, and Microsoft doesn't want a major challenge from Java.)

**Note:** But they also know that the help authoring community won't let them sacrifice WinHelp functionality in order to do so.

### The Team

Ralph Walden (Lead), and Kate Harper (Asst. Lead).

Ralph reads everything in appropriate sections of CompuServe's Hypertext Forum, filters heavily the traffic on WINHLP-L, has someone else scan his e-mail (so don't even try).

## Evaluation

### Strengths:

- The application (not the O/S) will own help – so many help files can be open at once.
- Revision & download will be easy (default notation for new material).
- Dynamic relationship between organization & topics (hard to get lost in hyperspace).
- Information types (filtering mechanisms not yet implemented throughout).
- Supports both context sensitive (traditional help) and stand-alones
- Compresses more than WinHelp (**Note:** But there's virtually no saving in file size as long as you still have to ship a viewer).
- Eventually all of WinHelp's indexing power (much better than HTML)
- Better images and image editing than WinHelp had. (**Note:** But IE4 has a bug that minimizes this advantage.)
- Good secondary windows.
- HTML-quality animation and tables.
- Customizable icons.

### Weaknesses:

- So far, supports only 32-bit Windows. (**Note:** Mac/Unix both due in early 1998; Windows 3.x may never be supported.)
- Slower than WinHelp.
- Requires viewer. (**Notes:** Currently only IE 3.02 and 4 support. Win98 and NT 5 will support, but don't expect anyone else in near future. Viewer does not have to be the default browser.)
- Popups are currently ASCII text-only; no formatting or graphics.

## Development Schedule

The 1.0 / 1.5 / 2.0 schedule of several months ago has been significantly revised (and this is *before* we see the results of the impending Sun/Netscape collaboration or of the Justice Department's anti-trust suit).

Each release has been fairly stable and bug-free; so far, this has been achieved by pulling features not ready for release. (That's not typical Gates; what he'll do for the releases due to be folded into Win98 and NT5 is anybody's guess.)

### 1.0 (San Diego, Aug 97)

- Tri-pane window
- context-sensitivity
- info types in TOC
- unformatted popups
- rudimentary full text search

### 1.1 (late-Nov)

Cutoff for inclusion in Win98 (which is due out mid-year). Following are planned:

- info types in index and find
- .CHM will support merged .HHM files
- A-links

**1.2 (Feb 98??)**

Cutoff for inclusion in NT 5. Following are planned:

- K-links
- JavaScript and VBScript
- Advanced full text search
- Download updates?

**2.0 (summer 98)**

Not coordinated with any event (except, maybe, Ralph's retirement). Following are planned:

- Full WYSIWYG in HTML Workshop
- everything missed during releases above

**Sources:** Microsoft Website; and CompuServe Hypertext Forum (see **Resource List**).

## 5. NetHelp / JavaHelp / Oracle Help

We've combined these because they probably will be. But we don't know as much about them.

### The Intent

To stop Microsoft. (And, collaterally, to produce in-house help.)

**Note:** Netscape is thinking in terms of browsers; Sun in terms of operating systems; Oracle's intentions are not entirely clear

### The Team

**NetHelp:** Corey Bridges (Lead); James Hom (Product Manager)

**JavaHelp:** Eduardo Pelegri-Llopert (Specifications Head); Roger Brinkley (Implementation Head)

**Oracle Help:** We don't know these people.

### Evaluation

**Strengths:**

- Cross-platform support
- Exploits well all HTML features through ver. 3.2 (especially tables, a WinHelp problem)
- Full text search
- Compression and encapsulation (details not yet clear)
- Site management
- Good context mapping
- Multiple-level TOC and indexing (but more than three levels is bad practice)
- Animation.

**Weaknesses:**

- Viewer needed (Netscape 3 for NetHelp1; Netscape 4 for NetHelp2; Sun bundles a viewer)
- Most WinHelp features (popups, advanced indexing, etc.) require special applets.
- Not compressed (size issue)
- Not one file (size & management issues)
- In NetHelp, not all objects can have events associated with them. (**Note:** Sun will change that.)

## Development Schedule

Many of us were puzzled by lack of reports coming from Netscape. One apparent reason: negotiations with Sun; expect more soon.

**NetHelp****NetHelp 2:** Aug 97**NetHelp 3:** RFC on the Netscape Website.**JavaHelp****Specs:** 4Q 97**beta:** 1Q 98 (They're planning a major announcement at Seattle Conf. in Feb)**Final:** 2Q 98.

**Sources:** Netscape and Sun Websites; NetHelp FAQ on KNOWware Website; JavaHelp mailing list. All are cited in **Resource List**.

## 6. XML / DHTML

So far, all the alternatives have been called HTML-based help, but the claims that HTML has run out of legs are frequent and persuasive. Some major software houses (such as Adobe) have invested a lot of money in the proposition that the future lies in SGML. Perhaps; but we suggest you spend at least as much time becoming acquainted with XML and DHTML; see the **Resource List** to start.

**Note:** Another variant, iHTML has arrived but has not yet addressed aspects of interest to help authors.

In any event, the arrival of a help standard based on either XML or DHTML should provide only minimal disruption to Microsoft's plans; they'll have had a big hand in developing it.

### XML (Extensible Markup Language)

A subset of SGML, but each author defines what is needed in a way less cumbersome than data type definitions. XML is also touted to facilitate database conversion to hypertext (database mining). O'Reilly is promoting it, but neither Microsoft nor Netscape have copyrighted variants of the term (as they have with DHTML).

## DHTML (Dynamic HTML)

Another subset of SGML, with the intent of providing more flexibility and power than old-time HTML has. This is particularly true in the revision process. The framework that is now being developed is called Document Object Model (DOM). It will allow cascading style sheets, scripting languages (JavaScript, VBScript). Conflict over the roles of applets and Active-X controls is a major stumbling block to development. But its initial spec is overdue, and suspicions abound that it will be subsumed by XML.

**Sources:** InternetWeek's Website; an XML book published by O'Reilly; the SGML/HTML/XML article in STC's *Inter<sup>com</sup>*. All are cited in the **Resource List**.

## 7. Issues To Consider

### Need Viewer

So far, everyone needs a viewer:

**Microsoft:** IE 3.02; IE 4; Win98/NT5; anti-trust suit potential complication.

**Netscape:** Navigator 3.0 or later for NetHelp 1; 4.0 or later for NetHelp 2.

**Sun:** Bundles own viewer.

### Platform Independence

Those firmly in the Windows camp 1) have much easier choices, and 2) can often afford to wait. Those who aren't have it much tougher – especially if they can't wait.

### Active-X vs. JavaScript

Microsoft is aggravated by Java's challenge to VB and Visual C++ as programming language – but they're worried big-time about Java as an alternate O/S. (Some have suggested Microsoft's Java proposals indicate they're willing to sacrifice VB and VC++ if they can relegate Java to the status of premier programming language.)

### Local or Remote?

Nearly all WinHelp resided locally (or was hosted on a LAN); the TCP/IP nature of HTML means, theoretically, that the files can be hosted anywhere on Earth. But no one will wait very long for a "What's This?" popup to load.

**Remember:** WinHelp will be shipped indefinitely (in fact, Windows CE help is still under development)

## 8. Decisions To Make

There are three major decisions:

- Determining when (almost certainly not whether) to move to TCP/IP-based help
- Determining which help/publishing system to use
- Determining which authoring tool to use (almost certainly not whether to use one).

We'll consider each.

### When To Move

Again, this is not a question of *whether*. Unless you're retiring or changing careers in the next few years, you'll move.

Scribble & Count uses an 10-question test:

1. Do you need to be TCP/IP- or HTML-based *now*? (Why?)
2. Do you need to cross platforms?
3. Are you mandated by a boss or client whose mind you can't change?
4. Do you *really* need a feature provided by HTML*Help*, NetHelp, HyperHelp, etc? (**Note:** Some WinHelp authoring tools provide add-ons that bring some HTML functionality to 32-bit WinHelp.)
5. Can you afford to cut 16-bit platforms loose?
6. Does your target audience have access to the required viewer, or can you easily provide it?
7. Is the slower speed of HTML acceptable?
8. Is distribution of frequent updates via WinHelp a problem?
9. Do you need to filter topics for security reasons?
10. Are you addicted to the adrenaline rush of being on the bleeding edge?

The goal is to flunk. Whereupon, we say: "Congratulations. You can convert at your leisure (and probably use HTML*Help* eventually)". [**Note:** When you do move, do not believe your authoring tool's promises that there will be *no* learning curve and *no* problems converting your WinHelp documents. It *may be* relatively easy, but there will be bumps.]

If you pass the test (and you have to decide how many "yes" answers constitute a passing grade), we suggest you seek professional advice. The **Resource List** has a lot of places to find it.

**Sources:** Blue Sky has a White Paper that asks (and answers rather shallowly) the "when" question; see the **Resource List**.

## Which Help System To Use

Harder for us, because we know Windows so much better than we know the others. This should contribute somewhat to your thinking:

- **Unix:** If you have a major Unix commitment, add one or more points for a NetHelp/ JavaHelp decision (and maybe look at HyperHelp; if you author in Frame, look hard at WebWorks).
- **Mac:** If you have a major Mac commitment and can wait a few months, look at *HTMLHelp's* Mac solution (due out in early 98).
- **Context-Sensitivity:** If you do a lot of context sensitive software documentation, add a few points for NetHelp/JavaHelp; if your projects are largely stand-alones, add lots of points for *HTMLHelp*.
- **WinHelp:** If you like WinHelp's functionality (popups, window customization, indexing, macros, etc) *HTMLHelp* will probably be your eventual home; take the test above to see if you can wait until its fully developed.
- **Microsoft:** If your audience uses IE almost exclusively and/or will quickly upgrade to Win98 or NT5, pass this handout on to someone who needs it; your only decision is to author now in 1.1 beta, or wait for 1.2 or 2.0.

If you need more help, start with the **Resource List**, but you may want to look further.

## Which Authoring Tool To Use

Microsoft is including HTML Workshop with each release. It's better than WHAT and NotePad combined, but Ralph admits that even after it becomes WYSIWYG in ver. 2.0, it's basically a low-key ad for a commercial authoring tool.

### *Choose from the WinHelp Side, or the HTML Side?*

S&C recommends tools from the WinHelp side of the house:

- HTML tools don't (yet) offer support for help's unique features;
- Even when they do, WinHelp developers know more about HTML than HTML developers do about WinHelp.

Most of the major WinHelp HATs support NetHelp, and both Netscape and Sun have rudimentary editors you can download.

### *Choose a Major Vendor*

The WinHelp/*HTMLHelp* authoring tool field has narrowed considerably in the last year, and it will narrow in the next year or so to – at most – the following: RoboHELP, Doc-To-Help, ForeHelp, HDK, and HWA. (The latter stays around only because Stefan is a genius and his overhead is next to nothing. Add Help Breeze if you're a romantic.)

The situation is confusing for us authors; for the HATs, it's a financial killer. Only major tools from vendors with deep pockets will be able to provide adequate support in the future.

**Note:** In 1996, Scribble & Count issued an article that argues this point as its secondary thesis. See the **Resource List**.

## 9. Conclusions

This is a potpourri of opinions.

1. Stay with WinHelp until you have a good reason to move. Sometime next year (or by 1999), "it's time" might be sufficient; but to move now requires compelling reasons revealed by one or more of our 10 questions.
2. Monitor the situation (look how fast Microsoft's schedule changed between its 1.0 launch in San Diego (August) and the 1.1 beta released at the Austin conference (October). Use any means you can to stay abreast, including the those in the **Resource List**. Be aware that staying current won't come cheap in either time or money.
3. Use a major authoring tool, probably one from the WinHelp side of the merger.  
**Note:** And practice with it: with a major tool, authoring and conversion should be fairly easy, but it won't be a snap.
4. Understand the power and money behind by the rutting of the O/S bulls (Windows vs. Java); we're a minor theatre in the larger war, and most decisions won't be made according to what is logical from our perspective.
5. If you're a contractor, decide how much of the hypertext market you want to consider a competency, and know whom to refer other clients to.

## Glossary

Very brief; if you want to truly understand almost any term here, you'll have to do more than read this definition. Start with the **Resource List** that follows.

### Active-X

Microsoft's code that controls the functionality of applications and that more-or-less competes with JavaScript. Microsoft promised to make the architecture open – but Netscape maintains both that Gates held something back and that it's not worth using anyway. Active-X (or JavaScript, for that matter) is vaguely similar to Windows DLLs.

### Bridges, Corey

NetHelp's Project Lead.

### Brinkley, Roger

In charge of JavaHelp implementation.

### CGI files

Common Gateway Interface, the major scripted protocol used for interactivity. Both JavaScript and Active-X are improvements, so CGI's days are numbered.

### .CHM files

(Pronounced "chum".) Compiled Help M\_\_\_ (the "M" was a typo they couldn't correct in time). The compiled, compressed, merged file equivalent to the .HLP we all know.

### .CSS files

Cascading Style Sheets, roughly equivalent to an MS Word or FrameMaker template. A .CSS file describes a set of styles; one or more HTML files make reference to it.

### DOM

Document Object Model, the underlying basis for DHTML. Three (possible four) levels are planned: **level 0** is HTML 3.0; **level 1** was due 3Q97; **levels 2 and maybe 3** are due in 1998. The delay of level 1 is largely due to inability of Microsoft and Sun/Netscape to agree.

### DHTML

W3C's attempt to bring peace to the HTML Wars. DHTML uses existing tags, will add the powerful ability of scripts and Active-X to modify them on the fly. Both Netscape and Microsoft have copyrighted variants of the term, indicating that they 1) see a future in owning a piece of the concept, and 2) won't stop fighting anytime soon over their relative portions. (DHTML, however, has been missing in action for over a month, and concerns are increasing over its long-term health. If it folds, look for its supporters to split, in some proportions, between XML and Java.

### filter

A selection process; in our case the process that the user (or security administrator) invokes to select some help topics and hide others.

### Harper, Kate

HTMLHelp's Project Asst.

**HAT**

Help Authoring Tool. Most are produced by 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors -- but Microsoft made WHAT available for WinHelp and has included *HTMLHelp* Workshop in its *HTMLHelp* releases, and both Netscape and Sun have issued editors you can download from their sites. Scribble & Count has written an article on selecting a HAT.

**.HHC files**

*HTMLHelp* Contents file. Equivalent to WinHelp 4 .CNT file.

**.HHK files**

*HTMLHelp* Keyword file. There is no equivalent WinHelp file.

**.HHM files**

An individual *HTMLHelp* file. Merging multiple HHMs into one CHM file is planned for v. 1.1.

**.HHP files**

*HTMLHelp* Project file. Equivalent to WinHelp 4 .HPJ file.

**Hom, James**

NetHelp's Product Manager.

**HTML-based help**

The generic term that includes *HTMLHelp*, NetHelp, JavaHelp, HyperHelp, and whatever some wannabe player contributes before the dust settles on the HTML Wars. (By then, it may more accurately be called TCP/IP-based help.)

**HTML Wars**

My term for the post-v 3.0 battle that has been raging over emerging TCP/IP standards. With Microsoft heavily invested, you know that billions of dollars are at stake. Also at stake is the schedule of when we can start producing HTML-based help that wide audiences can read.

**HTMLHelp**

Microsoft's entry into HTML-based help.

**HTMLHelp Workshop**

The help authoring tool included with *HTMLHelp*. (Actually, it's five tools: a tag editor that's better than NotePad; a projects editor; a contents editor; and index editor; and a graphics tool.) It's free and better than WHAT – but Ralph Walden freely admits it's a testimonial for purchasing a commercial HAT.

**HyperHelp**

Bristol Technologies' Unix-based authoring tool. (See Bristol Website in **Resource List**.)

**iHTML**

Inline HTML, another attempt to modernize the stodgy markup language. As yet no applications for help authors.

## information types

HTMLHelp's system of classifying topics into customizable categories, such as:

- **level category** (beginner/intermediate/advanced types);
- **function category** (technical/managerial/procedural types);
- **language category** (English/Dutch/Chinese types);
- **etc.**, as desired.

These can be filtered by the user (or system administrator). You can make a category inclusive (beginner can be combined with intermediate); or exclusive (beginner *can't* be combined with intermediate, or French can't be combined with Spanish). Or the type can be hidden from some users as a security feature.

## Java

A powerful and complex programming language. JavaScript's apparent relationship to it has more to do with marketing than substance.

## JavaHelp

Sun's entry into HTML-based help. Merger (or *very* close co-operation) with NetHelp seems likely; details uncertain as of mid-Nov. 1997.

## JavaScript

A scripting language that more resembles macros than Java.

## NetHelp

NetHelp's entry into HTML-based help. Merger (or *very* close co-operation with JavaHelp seems likely; details uncertain as of mid-Nov. 1997.

## OOP

Object oriented programming, a concept that has developed over the last decade to provide both specificity and flexibility by endowing all components with attributes, properties, events, etc. Applications of OOP are what make Java, JavaScript, DHTML, XML, Websites, etc. platform-independent.

## Oracle Help

Oracle's Java-based entry into the HTML Wars. One purpose behind their efforts is obviously to provide a help system that suits their purposes; observers have suggested it also wants a seat at the Java/Microsoft negotiating table.

## Pelegri-Llopert, Eduardo

In charge of JavaHelp specifications.

## SGML

Standard Generalized Markup Language, the superset which includes HTML. Like all supersets, it's vague and general; specificity is achieved thru a rigidly structured definition section. Some vendors, lead by Adobe, are investing significant resources into the possibility that this emerges as the new standard. Compare XML and DHTML.

**TCP/IP**

The protocol that runs the Internet, one of the major differences between the Net and stand-alone Windows, where Microsoft dominates. (This attempt to dominate TCP/IP goes a long way in explaining the HTML Wars.)

**tri-pane**

HTML*Help*'s three-panel default window, consisting of a button bar on top, a dynamically updated, sizable, hideable contents panel on the left, and a contents window on the right. Microsoft copied it from others, but their support will make it the standard display. (**Note:** Netscape's standard display might be called "tri-pane-plus-one".)

**W3C**

World Wide Web Consortium, the staid certifying body that presided over the orderly evolution of HTML 1, 2, and 3, but got bogged down in politics surrounding HTML 3.2. A year ago, they had redefined the concept "overtaken by events"; now they are trying to reassert themselves thru leadership of the process of establishing DHTML standards, but they have missed a recent deadline.

**Walden, Ralph**

HTML*Help* Project Lead. Ralph reads and answers all postings in relevant sections of CompuServe's Hypertext Forum, and filters comments on WINHLP-L (see **Resource List** for access information).

**WebWorks**

Quadralay's FrameMaker-to-HTML authoring tool. (See Quadralay Website in **Resource List**.)

**WHAT**

WinHelp Authoring Tool, the rudimentary HAT available free from Microsoft.

**XML**

Extensible Markup Language, another attempt to bring peace to the HTML Wars. Compare **SGML** and **DHTML**.

## Resource List

This is a very selected list, designed to help you keep up to date, designed to help you make decisions concerning the WinHelp-to-HTML transition. *It is not a general WinHelp bibliography.* Most entries are Web sites; but all media (including Ftp sites and paper publications) are interfiled. Content annotations are included to help identify which aspects of the transition issue are addressed by each resource.

Blue Sky Software Corporation. *Microsoft and Netscape HTML based Help: a White Paper.*

Issued occasionally. 800/459-2356; or [info@blue-sky.com](mailto:info@blue-sky.com).

[Elementary. Also RoboHELP-biased – but since RH is the industry leader, most of the migration issues are addressed.]

Blue Sky Website. [Http://www.blue-sky.com](http://www.blue-sky.com).

[Information on RoboHELP and WinHelp Office]

Bristol Technologies Website. [Http://www.bristol.com](http://www.bristol.com).

[Information on HyperHelp]

Forefront Website. [Http://www.ff.com](http://www.ff.com).

[Information on ForeHelp]

Help University Website. [Http://www.helpuniversity.com](http://www.helpuniversity.com).

[Links to their "Library" and "Resources" pages are particularly relevant.]

HotBot Search Engine. [Http://hotbot.com](http://hotbot.com).

[Search engines vary widely; this (run by HotWired Magazine) is one of the best for focused queries and particularly good for online topics.]

HotWired Website. [Http://www.hotwired.com](http://www.hotwired.com).

[The link to the news page is probably the most useful.]

Hypertext Forum. CompusServe. Go: HYPERTEXT.

[Special sections for HTML-based help. Ralph Walden visits daily. Run by Denver's Dana Cline.]

*Internet Week*. [Http://www.internetwk.com](http://www.internetwk.com).

[Formerly *Communications Week*. Probably the best single source for monitoring news from all sources. Covering DHTML well: Website contains a tutorial and FAQ on DOM.]

"Java Jitters: Write Once, Run on Windows – until We Change the API". By Doug Shaker. In *Boardwatch Magazine*, Aug. 1997 (XI:8), pp. 106, 108.

[Main point of interest to WinHelp-to-HTML-based help transitioners is claim that Microsoft will do nearly anything to scuttle Java as an O/S. Magazine is excellent, but too eclectic for our narrow interests.]

JavaHelp Mailing List. [listserv@javasoft.com](mailto:listserv@javasoft.com). Body of message: subscribe javahelp-info.

[Latest news and commentary, moderated by Sun.]

KNOWware Website. [Http://www.kware.com](http://www.kware.com).

[Good NetHelp FAQ at [. . . /nscap.htm](#). KNOWware also sells an *HTMLHelp* study guide; details on the site.]

Microsoft's HTMLHelp Website. <http://www.microsoft.com/workshop/author/htmlhelp>.

[Information on HTMLHelp.]

Netscape Website. <http://www.netscape.com/eng/help>.

[Latest NetHelp news; links to "Tools" and "DevKit" pages provide authoring software.]

Quadralay Website. <http://www.quadralay.com/publisher>.

[Information on WebWorks, the premier authoring tool for FrameMaker.]

*Official Microsoft HTMLHelp Authoring Kit*. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Press, forthcoming.

[Authored by WexTech; due out in early 1998; excerpts avail on the WexTech Website ([www.wextech.com/hhbook](http://www.wextech.com/hhbook)) Websites.]

Sageline Publishing Website. <http://www.sageline.com>.

[Bill Meisheid, Sageline owner, is a nationally known WinHelp author and an indexer with a librarian's perspective: lots of resources available. A subsidiary page ([.../bookstore.html](http://www.sageline.com/bookstore.html)) appears to have some sort of agreement with Amazon – but the selection is limited to online materials.]

Scribble & Count. *WinHelp HAT Selection: Define Your Project(s) First*. Distributed by Scribble & Count™, LLC. 303/377-6399, or [hypertext@scribble-count.com](mailto:hypertext@scribble-count.com).

[Two themes; define project; pick major authoring tool. Second theme even more important in current time of change.]

"SGML, HTML, XML: Sorting out the Puzzle". By Stuart Culshaw. In *Inter<sup>com</sup>*, November 1997, pp. 34-36.

[A brief comparison of the three markup standards, from the perspective of the utility of XML for stand-alone hypertext. Conclusion: pro-XML.]

Sun Microsystems Website. <http://www.java.sun.com/products/javahelp/>.

[Java Development Kit includes (but is by no means confined to) JavaHelp; this is good because help is integrated into system-wide development, bad because most of kit does not apply and is heavily programmer-oriented. Their "What's New?" link is also Java-wide.]

WexTech Website. <http://www.wextech.com>.

[Information on Doc-To-Help and Document Suite.]

*WinHelp Journal*. Seattle, WA: WinWriters, 1994--. Qtly. 206/285-2605. No ISSN.

[Seattle-based and until recently Redmond-dominated; very little coverage of NetHelp, JavaHelp, DHTML, etc. Website ([www.eskimo.com/~joewel/pjournal.htm](http://www.eskimo.com/~joewel/pjournal.htm)) selected recent articles online, back issues indexed for purchase.]

WINHLP-L Mailing List. [listerv@admin.humberc.on.ca](mailto:listerv@admin.humberc.on.ca). Body of message: sub winhelp-l firstname lastname.

[Highly technical.]

Wired News. <http://www.wired.com>.

[Push technology, or searchable.]

World Wide Web Consortium Website. <http://www.w3.org>.

[Contains working draft of XML standards and proposed specification for HTML 4.0]

*XML: Principles, Tools, and Techniques*. Ed. by Dan Connolly. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly, 1997. 266pp. ISBN: 1-56592-349-9.

[Fall 97 (2:4) issue of *World Wide Web Journal*, which has its own ISSN, but does not normally treat issues as narrowly as HTML-based help authors would like.]

# Intellectual Property

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