

## LTM – Cheat-sheet

Ontopia developed Linear Topic Map notation (LTM) as a text format for topic maps. Its brevity eases hand authoring of topic maps. (Line returns, tabs, etc., are used for presentation below. Single spaces have the same meaning.)

### Topics

**Minimal topic** – ID between square [ ] brackets.

### Base/Sort/Display Names

```
[ID = "basename";  
      "sortname";  
      "displayname"]
```

To skip sortname, use ;; to signal it's missing.

Repeat base/sort/display cluster for a topic:

```
= "basename";  
  "sortname";  
  "displayname"]
```

### Scope on Names

Names are scoped with "/" , followed by a topic ID.

```
[ID = "basename" / scope  
... ]
```

A single "/" operator scopes the base/sort/display name group.

### Variant Names

Appear after displayname (if any).

```
("variant" / scope)
```

Variant names always have scope.

### Topic Type

```
[ID : type (one or more topicids), ws separated) =
```

### Subject Indicators (zero or more)

```
@"URL"
```

### Subject Locator (only one)

```
%"URL"
```

### Occurrences

```
{ID of topic with occurrence,
```

```
ID of occurrence role type,
```

```
and
```

```
"locator of occurrence"} / scope [opt]
```

```
or
```

```
[[resource data inline]] / scope [opt]
```

### Associations

```
type(player : role[opt], player : role [opt])
```

Scope associations, following ")" with "/ scope"

If no roles, defaults to topic type. Topic definition, [...], can appear as player.

### Reification

Names

```
[ID = "basename" ~ topicid ....]
```

```
[ID = "basename" / scope ~ topicid ....]
```

Occurrences

```
{topicid, type, locator/resource data} ~ topicid
```

Associations

```
type(player : role, player : role) ~ topicid
```

## Directives

Directives are written #DIRECTIVE

**#TOPICMAP** ~ topicmap

Creates topic with ID of topicmap.

**#MERGEMAP** “URL” “x|y|z”

Specifies external topic map for merging. If not LTM syntax, must specify the syntax.

Topics with same IDs will not merge.

**#INCLUDE** “file.ltm”

Same namespace for IDs, topics with same ID will merge. LTM files only.

**#BASEURI** “URL”

Changes the base URI against which following relative URIs are resolved.

**#PREFIX**

Enables reference to a topic in merged topic map by its subject indicator/locator.

**#MERGEMAP** “file” “type”

**#PREFIX** prefix @ | % “URL#”

then use prefix

prefix:ID

**#VERSION** “1.3” (must appear first among directives if present)

**Encoding** @”encoding”

Declared if not ISO 8859-1. (At beginning of file.)

## Escape Syntax

Double quote, write it twice in string:

[doublequote : character = “The '”' character”]

General Unicode escape syntax: \u0000

Escape Sequence	Character
\u0022	“
\u0027	'
\u005B	[
\u005D	]
\u007B	{
\u007D	}

Syntax summary by [Patrick Durusau](#) of “The Linear Topic Map Notation: Definition and Introduction,” version 1.3 by Lars Marius Garshol. <http://www.ontopia.net/download/ltm.html>

Consult the original description by Lars Marius Garshol for details.

I blog about topic maps at: [Another Word For It](#).

Email: [patrick@durusau.net](mailto:patrick@durusau.net)

Twitter: @patrickdurusau

Skype: pdurusau

In addition to topic maps, I edit standards, such as OpenDocument Format (ODF), supported by MS Word, Apache Open Office, Libre Office, Calligra Office and better word processing software everywhere, and work in markup and digital humanities projects.

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