EPUB features hampering unification with OWP

2017-06-13
MURATA Makoto

1. EPUBCFI

Although I see some values in EPUBCFI, I do not think that EPUBCFI interworks with OWP well.

First, EPUBCFI does not allow fragment identifiers of HTML, SVG, the Media Fragments URI 1.0, etc.

Second, EPUBCFI does not allow content documents to be addressed as first-class citizens. Content documents are second-class citizens. Liberate HTML and SVG content documents from EPUB publications and treat them as first-class citizens!

I think that we need a better way for referencing resources in web publications. Every resource (including content documents) should be addressable by a URI without using a fragment identifier (see Req 9). Together with such a URI, every fragment identifier allowed by the media type of the resource should be usable.

Note: EPUBCFI will probably continue to be useful for downloaded EPUB publications. But we need something different for OWP.

2. Fallback chains

EPUB publications provide fallback chains of resources.   But EPUB fallback chains are very different from what OWP uses for fallback. Consider CSS media queries, HTML5 object elements, content negotiation, and so forth.