Abbreviations

Abbreviations and their expansions can be marked-up using either the `<abbr>` or the `<expan>` element. One may choose either to give the unexpanded abbreviation, tagged `<abbr>`, as in the following example, showing a common Old Icelandic abbreviation for the word *hann* ('he'), using the `&bar;` (`̅`) entity to represent the nasal stroke:

`h<abbr>&bar;</abbr>`

or use the expanded form, tagged `<expan>`:

`h<expan>ann</expan>`

Note that here 'the abbreviation' is taken as being the mark or sign used to indicate the suppression of one or more letters, and 'the expansion' as being the letters supplied; instead, one may prefer to treat abbrevations and their expansions on a whole-word basis: `<abbr>h&bar;</abbr>` or `<expan>hann</expan>`.

One may also provide both the abbreviated and expanded forms, grouped within a `<choice>` element:

`h<choice><abbr>&bar;</abbr><expan>ann</expan></choice>`

or:

`<choice><abbr>h&bar;</abbr><expan>hann</expan></choice>`