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jstl

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#jstl

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About

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Chapter 1: Getting started with jstl

Remarks

JSTL (JSP Standard Tag Library) is a JSP based standard tag library which offers `<c:xxx>` tags to **control the flow** in the JSP page, `<fmt:xxx>` tags for **date/number formatting and internationalization** facilities and several `#{fn:xxx() }` **utility EL functions**.

Note that JSTL also offers **SQL** and **XML** taglibs which enable a declarative manner of executing SQL queries and parsing XML inside a JSP page. This is however discouraged for other purposes than **quick prototyping**. In the real world both tasks need to be done by real Java classes which are (in)directly controlled/delegated by a **Servlet**.

Examples

Installation

JSTL is part of the Java EE API and included in Java EE application servers such as **WildFly**, **TomEE**, **GlassFish**, but not in barebones servletcontainers such as **Tomcat** and **Jetty**. JSTL are the taglibs which you import from `http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/*` namespace. JSTL must not be confused with a "**custom JSP tag library**" (wherein you define a `.tld` file *yourself*). JSTL must also not be confused with taglibs of 3rd party frameworks such as JSF, Spring MVC, Struts, Displaytag, etcetera. JSTL must also not be confused with **Expression Language (EL)** (which are those `#{ }` things).

1. *Only* when your servletcontainer doesn't ship with JSTL builtin (e.g. Tomcat and Jetty), then just drop the **jstl-1.2.jar** straight in webapp's `/WEB-INF/lib` folder (which is covered by the default webapp's classpath, so in a bit smart IDE you don't need to do anything else). For starters, do **not** fiddle around in IDE project's *Build Path* setting. This is Wrong.

In case you're using Maven, **this** is the coordinate:

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>javax.servlet</groupId>
  <artifactId>jstl</artifactId>
  <version>1.2</version>
</dependency>
```

This is by the way the JSTL API bundled with Apache's JSTL implementation in a single JAR flavor. This does **not** require the `standard.jar` (it's for JSTL 1.1 only). Note that there's also a `jstl:jstl` dependency, but it's exactly the same file, only with a wrong group ID. Further there's also a `javax.servlet.jsp.jstl:jstl` dependency, but it is empty.

2. Declare the taglib in JSP file with the right TLD URI. You can find **here** the TLD documentation that applies to both JSTL 1.1 and JSTL 1.2. Click the taglib of interest to get the declaration examples. For example the **JSTL core taglib**

```
<%@ taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" %>
```

If you're using Facelets or JSPX instead of JSP, it should be declared as XML namespace instead

```
<anyxmlelement xmlns:c="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core">
```

You only need to ensure that you have no duplicates of older JSTL versions in the classpath (includes JDK/JRE's `/lib` and server's `/lib`) to avoid collisions. If you have full admin-level control over the server, then you could also place the JAR file in server's `/lib` instead of webapp's `/WEB-INF/lib` so that they get applied to all deployed webapps. At least do NOT extract the JAR file(s) and clutter the classpath with their contents (the loose TLD files) and/or declare the taglibs in *your* webapp's `web.xml` as some poor online tutorials suggest.

Read [Getting started with jstl online](https://riptutorial.com/jstl/topic/2885/getting-started-with-jstl): <https://riptutorial.com/jstl/topic/2885/getting-started-with-jstl>

Credits

S. No	Chapters	Contributors
1	Getting started with jstl	BalusC , Community