

# hyperlinks

- A hyperlink is a reference to an external document or portion of a document
- Linking is distinct from embedding because it does not “nest” one document in the other
- Any kind of document can be hyperlinked – but what will happen when the link is followed will be determined by the capabilities of the browser used
- By default, browsers will open a linked HTML document, and display it accordingly – usually in the same tab (or window) as the origin document

# the hyperlink element

- the `a` element is used to define a hyperlink
- the `href` (hypertext reference) attribute is used to provide the location of the linked file – the value must be a valid URL

```
<a href="anotherPage.html">This is a page.</a>
```

or

```
<a href="http://www.wikipedia.org/">Wikipedia</a>
```

- By default, the content of a hyperlinked element appears underlined and blue
- Also, the mouse pointer changes to a “hand”, to indicate that the content is clickable
- All of this can be changed with CSS – however, if the document type is left unspecified, CSS will not work on <a> elements (at least in some browsers)

# the target attribute

- the **target attribute** tells the browser how to open a linked document

```
<a href="anotherPage.html" target="_blank">
```

**This is a page.**

```
</a>
```

- the value "\_self" is the default, it opens the document in the same tab/window as the origin document
- the value "\_blank" tells the browser to open the document in a new tab/window – this can also be forced by the user

# the id attribute

- The **id attribute** is a global attribute – that is, it is available for all elements
- The id attribute will accept any value – so long as it contains at least one character and no spaces
- The value of the id attribute are case insensitive meaning “element”, “Element”, and “ELEMENT” are equal to one another

**<h2 id="chapter-3">Discography</h2>**

- Id values must be unique within a given document – meaning you can't have more than one element using the same id

# linking to anchors

- In HTML5, any identified element – that is, an element with an id attribute – is an “anchor”
- An anchor identifies a specific location within the containing document
- Anchors can be linked to – by specifying the **id value** preceded with a pound sign (#) as the href attribute value

```
<a href="#chapter-3">Discography</a>
```

# linking to external anchors

- By appending a [URL](#) with a **pound sign and id value**, you may link to a specific location in an external file

```
<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperlink#History_of_the_hyperlink">
```

**History of the Hyperlink on Wikipedia**

```
</a>
```

# navigation section

- It is semantically appropriate to place any navigation related hyperlinks inside a `nav` element
- Multiple `nav` elements may exist on the same page – in such cases the navigation relates to the closest content section in the outline