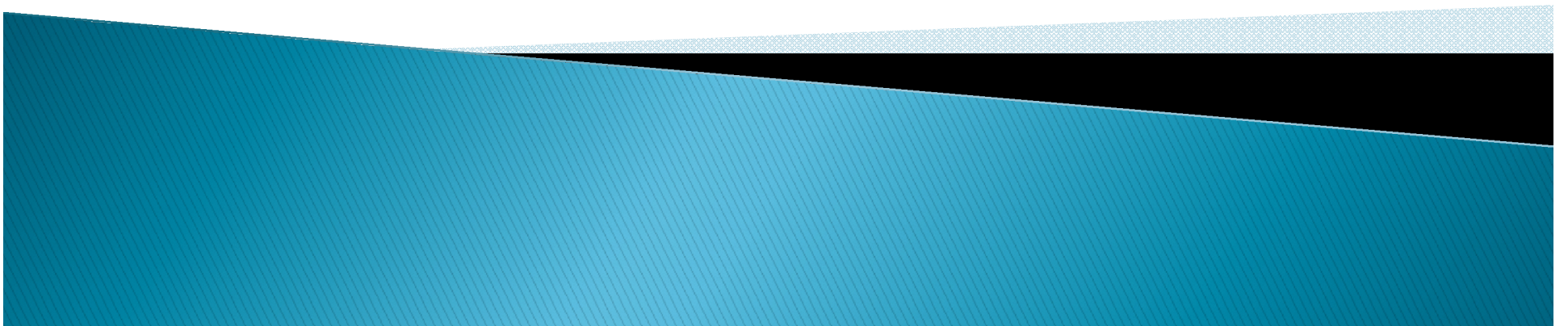


# Lecture III



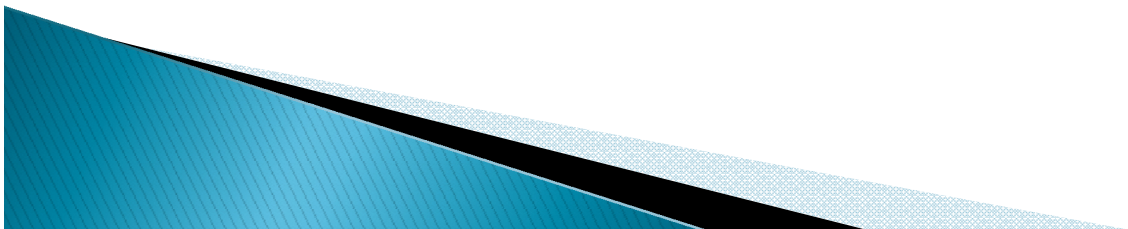
# Designing Navigation Systems

- ▶ Problem of getting lost
- ▶ Navigation Systems are used to chart our course, to determine our position, and to find our way back
- ▶ a well-designed hierarchical organization scheme
- ▶ Navigation systems can be designed to support associative learning by featuring resources that are related to the content currently being displayed. For example, a page that describes a product may include see also links to related products and services



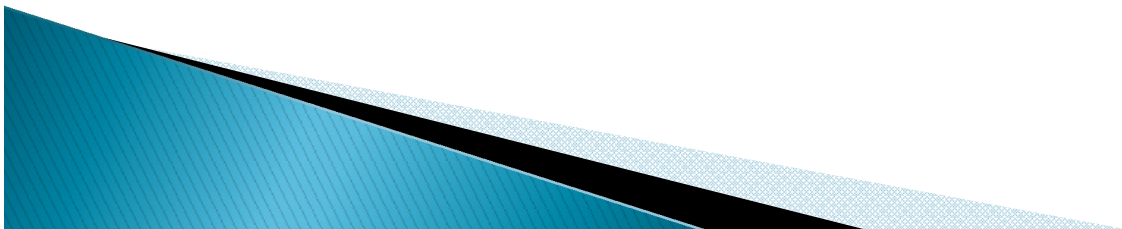
# Browser Navigation Systems

- When designing a navigation system, it is important to consider the environment the system will exist in. People use web browsers such as Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer to move around and view web sites. These browsers sport many built-in navigation features.
- Open URL allows direct access to any page on a web site.
- Back and Forward
- History menu
- Bookmark
- color-coding hypertext links
- Tooltips
- Labeling in hierarchy



# Building Context

- With all navigation systems, before we can plot our course, we must locate our position
- You Are Here mark
- Links from remote web pages and search engine result pages allow users to completely bypass the front door or main page of the web site.
- First, all pages should include the organization's name.
- As a user moves through the levels of a site, it should be clear that they are still within that site. Carrying the graphic identity throughout the site supports such context and consistency.
- if a user bypasses the front door and directly accesses a subsidiary page of the site, it should be clear which site he or she is on.
- Second, the navigation system should present the structure of the information hierarchy in a clear and consistent manner and indicate the location within that hierarchy.

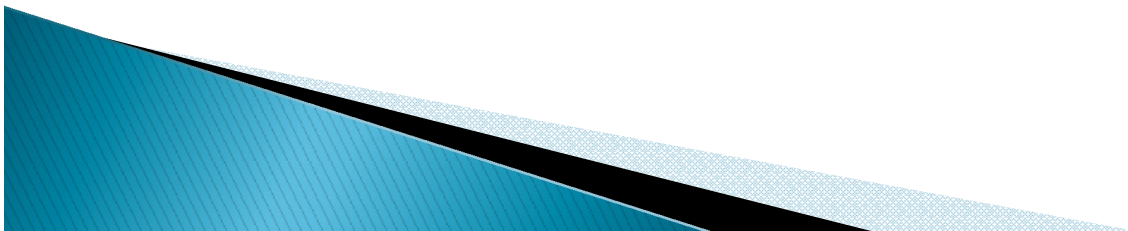


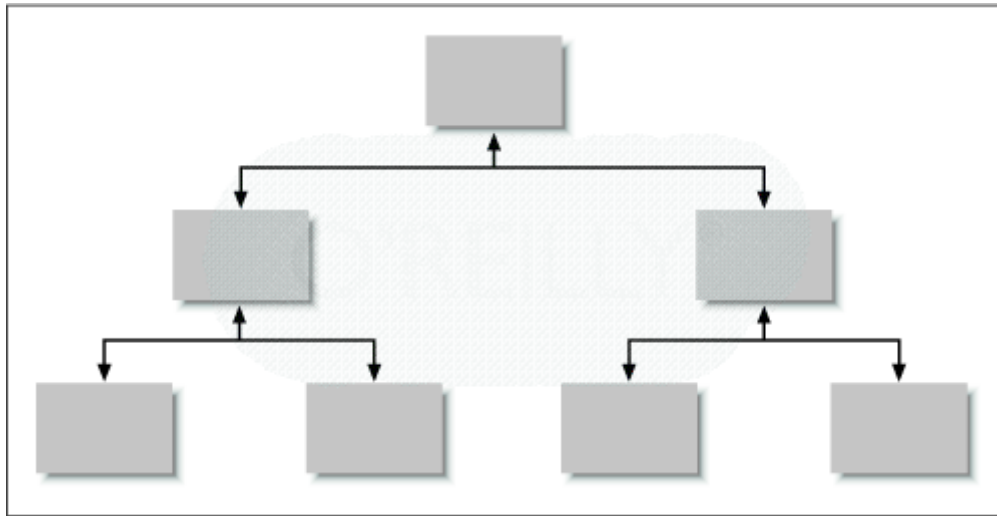
# Improving Flexibility

hierarchy is a familiar and powerful way of organizing information. hierarchy form the foundation for organizing content in a web site.

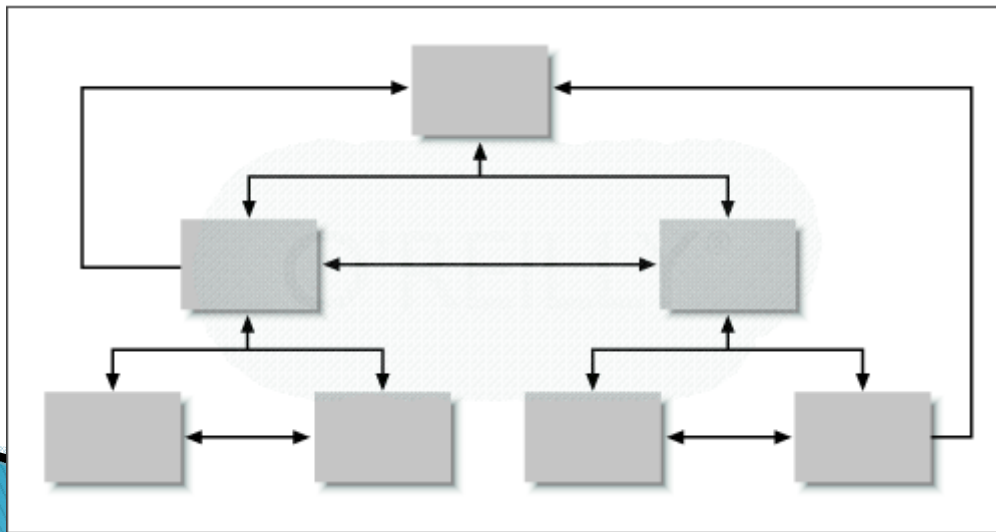
Limitation:

- ▶ In Gopherspace, you were forced to move up and down the tree structures of content hierarchies .It was not practical to encourage or even allow jumps across branches (lateral navigation) or between multiple levels (vertical navigation) of a hierarchy





The Web's hyper textual capabilities removed these limitations, allowing tremendous freedom of navigation. Hypertext supports both lateral and vertical navigation as shown in fig. below



# Integrated Navigation Elements

categories:

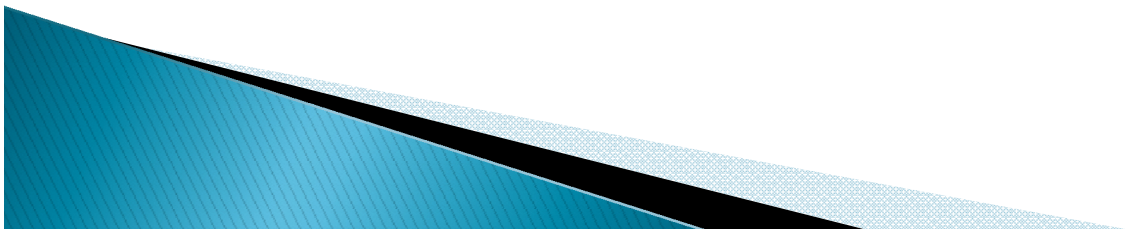
navigation bars and pull-down menus.

- a navigation bar is a collection of hypertext links grouped together on a page
- the navigation bar may be graphical in nature, implemented as an image map or as graphic images within a table structure

text versus graphic navigation

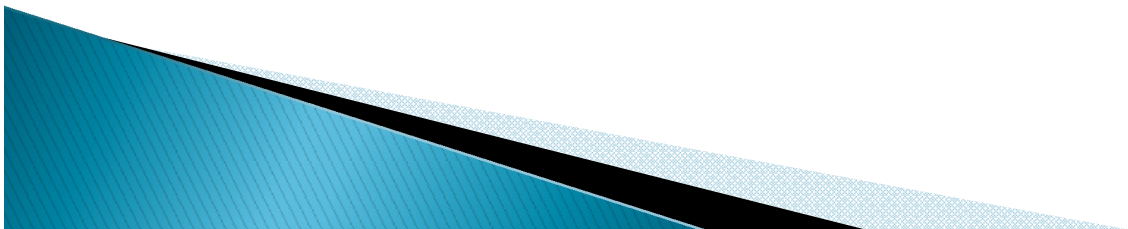
Graphic Navigation:

- Graphic navigation bars tend to look nicer but can significantly slow down the page loading speed
- Not fruitful for text-only browsers
- users with high-end browsers who turn off the graphical capabilities to get around more quickly.




## Text Navigation:

- ▶ it is usually much easier to add options to a text menu than a graphic-based menu
- ▶ Cost is also an issue, since graphic navigation bars require more work to create and change than text-based bars
- ▶ Solution: Can use both
- ▶ In many cases, you might employ a graphic bar for global navigation and a textual menu for local navigation.





# Remote Navigation Elements

- Includes tables of contents, indexes, and site maps
  - provide an alternative bird's-eye view of the site's content
  - the table of contents presents the top few levels of the information hierarchy. It shows the organization structure for the pages and supports random as well as linear access to the content
  - A web-based table of contents can employ hypertext links to provide the user with direct access to pages of the site.
  - You should also consider the web site's size when deciding whether to employ a table of contents. For a small site with only two or three hierarchical levels, a table of contents may be unnecessary
- 

# Designing Elegant Navigation Systems

## MAIN AIM:

- building context, improving flexibility, and helping the user to find the information they need.
- consider the specific goals, audience, and content for the project at hand
- process begins with the hierarchy
- Once you've designed the integrated navigation system, you can consider the addition of one or more remote navigation elements.
- If the site is large and complex, you can employ two or more of these elements. A table of contents and an index can serve different users with varying needs.

