## A R T V 330: Interaction Design for Visual Communication I / NKU / Professor Julie Mader-Meersman

Vocuabulary Sheet / HTML + CSS / Web Typography Part I and Links

## WAYS THAT TYPE HAPPENS ON THE WEB

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**TEXT IN IMAGES** Words inside Photoshop images... the old way of doing it — Not advisable unless you use a coding hack because the text isn't searchable/findable otherwise.

**WEB-SAFE FONTS** Fonts that are available to viewers' browsers because the fonts are already on their systems. Only a short list of fonts meets this criteria, but they are easy to specify in CSS.

**NON-WEB-SAFE FONTS** Fonts available through special techniques that enable the specification and display of a much wider range of typefaces on web-based devices. They're relatively easy to learn, depending on the source of the fonts and licenses. First example is:

• Web font embedding services (free) Google web fonts — Enables the specification and use of fonts using a simple head tag element and corresponding css rule(s). Yay!

**SPACING** Remember: typing HTML is not the same as typesetting. White space often collapses. This can be controlled with line height and other types of spacing — padding and margins, in particular.

sizing The sizes of type (and images and spaces) can be precisely controlled with these CSS options:

*pixels* (font-size: 16px;) — allows for one, precise size; independent of type sizing methods; inflexible *percentages* (font-size: 200%) — where the type is a percentage of what it's default HTML size would be *ems* (font-size: 2em) — a scalable unit inherited from its parent element. "1em is equal to the current

font size; so if the parent's font size is 16px, 1em is 16px and 2em is 32px." (-Andy Carter)

*vw units* (font-size: 5vw) — where 1 unit is equal to 1% of the viewport width; flexible/ responsive. When used, the item scales proportionally within any browser window.

## LINKS

THE LINK TAG <a> Links are hypertext *anchors*; therefore, their tag is defined with <a> </a>. Links are an example of HTML elements where the attribute of the tag needs a value identified in quotation marks, such as: <a href="http://www.google.com">Google</a>, where *href* defines the destination of the link (href = *hypertext reference*). Anything can become a link with this tag, including images. LINK DESTINATIONS Links can point to many things. Common scenarios:

• Another, separate web site (href vaue contains full URL):

- Visit <a href="http://www.google.com">Google </a> for more information...
- Another page in the current site (href value contains only the file name for that page): <nav> <a href="about.html">About Us </a> </nav>
- •An anchor a specific part of a page (href value contains # and the name of the anchor ID):
- <a href="#content"> Link to a page anchor </a> [note: there is a # before the anchor name]
  •An email address (href value contains mailto + email address):

<a href="mailto:mader@nku.edu"> Email me </a> if you have questions.

- A file on the web, such as a downloadable PDF (href value contains # with full file name):
- <a href="#PDFdownload\_example.pdf"> Link to a downloadable PDF </a>
- Opening a link in a new browser window: add a target value of \_blank to the </a> tag:
- Visit <a href="http://www.google.com" target="\_blank">Google </a> for more information.

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**SPECIFYING LINKS WITHIN DREAMWEAVER** Highlight the content in the html that you want to be a link, then use the property inspector to type/paste in the link accordingly. Set the Target to \_blank if it needs to open in a new window.

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LINK STATES There is a cluster of 5 states for links to define with CSS rules:

1) the *link* itself — a:link

Samples from Teegan Lincoln's Link Style Compilation

- 2) when it has been *visited* a:visited
- 3) when you *hover* over it a:hover
- 4) when it is *active*ly being clicked upon a:active

5) and, *focus* (when the tab key or an assistive tool is used to cycle through/select links) -a: focus

## CSS STYLING OF LINKS To style all links the same way across a page or site, use :

a {...insert properties and values...}
a:link {...insert properties and values...}
a:visited {...insert properties and values...}
a:hover {...insert properties and values...}

a:active {...insert properties and values...}

You can also target link styles for different areas with specificity, depending on the parent html that they exist within, as in:

р	a:link {}		h2	a:link		#footer	a:link	
р	a:visited	or	h2	a:visited	or	#footer	a:visited	etc.
р	a:hover		h2	a:hover		#footer	a:hover	
р	a:active		h2	a:active		#footer	a:active	
р	a:focus		h2	a:focus		#footer	a:focus	