Topic Notes: More HTML Elements

Before we move on to other topics, we will look at several more HTML elements that you may find useful as you develop documents.

You are likely to use some of these quite often, while for others you will probably not have a reason to use them.

Definition Lists

We have seen ordered (`<ol>`) and unordered (`<ul>`) lists. There is also a list called a *definition list*, which consists of a collection of terms and their definitions. Three elements are used:

- `<dl>` ... `</dl>` defines the list itself.

- `<dt>` ... `</dt>` specifies a term to be defined in the list.

- `<dd>` ... `</dd>` specifies a definition of a term in the list.

Presentation Elements

We have seen a few *presentation elements*: (`<b>`, `<i>`, `<tt>`). There are a few others worth mentioning.

- The `<big>` ... `</big>` and `<small>` ... `</small>` elements request a larger or smaller font, respectively, for the enclosed text.

- The `<sup>` ... `</sup>` and `<sub>` ... `</sub>` elements request that the contents be rendered as a superscript or subscript, respectively.

Phrase Elements

The presentation elements above give guidance to a browser about changing font sizes or typefaces. However, they do not give any meaning for why the changes are being requested, nor do they translate well to alternate user agents (perhaps a screen reader for visually impaired).

The following *phrase elements* do add such meaning:

- `<em>` ... `<em>` – emphasized text, usually drawn in italics

- `<strong> ... </strong>` – strongly emphasized text, usually rendered as bold

- `<dfn> ... </dfn>` – a definition term, usually rendered as italics

- `<code> ... </code>` – computer code, usually rendered as a fixed-width font

- `<samp> ... </samp>` – computer program output, usually rendered as a fixed-width font

- `<kbd> ... </kbd>` – keyboard text to be entered into a computer program, usually rendered as a fixed-width font

- `<var> ... </var>` – a variable name (as in a computer program), usually rendered as a fixed-width font

- `<cite> ... </cite>` – a citation, usually rendered as italics

Two other phrase elements provide more complete information when an abbreviation or acroynm are used: `<abbr> ... </abbr>` and `<acronym> ... </acronym>`. In each case, a `title` attribute is required to define the full form of the abbreviation or acronym.

```
If you work for <acronym title="National Aeronautics and Space
Administration">NASA</acronym>, you should know your abbreviations
like <abbr title="kilometers">km</abbr>
and <abbr title="kilograms">kg</abbr>.
```

Most browsers display the text in the `title` attribute when the mouse pointer hovers over the element.

Other Elements

A few others worth mentioning:

- `<address> ... </address>` – specifies contact information for a page's author, usually rendered as italics

- `<blockquote> ... </blockquote>` – specifies a large segment of quoted material, usually rendered with extra indentation on both left and right

- `<del> ... </del>` and `<ins> ... </ins>` specify deleted and inserted text, respectively. Deleted text is typically shown as crossed out, inserted as underlined.