

# Hypertext Documents and Browsers

Griffith Feeney

Getting the Most Out of the  
2000 Round Census Results

*Workshop 2*

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# *Hypertext* documents

- Are digital documents containing *links* (references) to other documents, images, or other computer files
- Are viewed with a *browser* that enables readers to move rapidly to the referenced document and back
- Are widely implemented with *Hypertext Markup Language* (HTML)

# HTML documents

- are *text files* that may be created, viewed, or edited with any text editor
- include *markup* that instructs the browser how to display the document and specifies the location of linked documents
- represent an open, non-proprietary, and platform-independent format

# About HTML *Browsers*

- A browser is computer program used to view HTML documents and to follow links from one document to another
- HTML Browsers are available for virtually every operating system
- HTML Browsers are generally available without cost
- Examples: Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Opera, and Lynx

# HTML

- Has been popularized by the *World Wide Web*
- But may also be used on a ‘stand-alone’ computer or on a local area network for organizing and accessing information
- Example of materials for this workshop

# The Importance of Hypertext

- Rests on computer networking and on having information resources in digital (as distinct from print) form
- The new idea is not referencing (obviously), but instant (more or less) accessibility or related knowledge
- Provides a very powerful tool for *organizing* information and data

# The Importance of HTML

- The universal language of the world wide web
- Illustrates the power of *open* (non-proprietary) *standards* and *decentralization*
- Makes information access easy; school children can master the interface
- Exemplifies a more general tool, *Standard Generalized Markup Language* (SGML)

Questions?  
Comments?  
Discussion?