

**INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE & NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS—
The Navigational Systems Model**

**AN ONLINE TUTORIAL FOR DIGITAL-MEDIA DESIGNERS
TO LEARN WEB NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS**

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ABSTRACT

Navigational Systems are used within a Web site, a Web page, and/or a subsite to provide a clear path of navigation in which the end user may move about in cyberspace without getting lost. The end user oftentimes finds himself lost or experiences extreme bouts of puzzlement while online.

The reason effective Navigational Systems need to be designed for any Web site, from *only* five-to-fifteen up to thousands of Web pages, is because the end user should be able to navigate through any Web site without experiencing severe problems of *puzzlement* or *getting lost* while surfing.

The methodology that was used to research this study and creative work project included a review of related literature, field activities, and exploration and review of fifteen online Web sites.

The study addressed the problems of navigation in cyberspace that the end user may experience within Web sites, Web pages, and subsites, and the issue of how Web designers should design Navigational Systems that work both effectively and quickly—utilizing the *seven commonly used Navigational Systems*—thus helping the end user in obtaining the information online.

After completion of the literature review, field activities, and online investigation of fifteen Web sites, it was determined that an outline of a model of the seven commonly used Navigational Systems be created, as well as a document entitled *Presentation on CD-ROM* (attached to the document).

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The Model contains nine sections. The Model of Seven Commonly Used Navigational Systems is divided into the following nine sections:

- 1) Section 1: What are Navigational Systems?
- 2) Section 2: What is the Internet?
- 3) Section 3: What is the World Wide Web?
- 4) Section 4: Why do we need Navigational Systems?
- 5) Section 5: What is an Information Designer?
- 6) Section 6: What is an Information Architect?
- 7) Section 7: What are seven commonly used Navigational Systems within Web sites?
- 8) Section 8: What combinations of Navigational Systems work effectively within a Web site?
- 9) Section 9: Conclusion.

We certify that the Abstract is a correct representation of the content contained within the study and creative work project.

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