# **Breadcrumbs**

* **Usage and Function:** Breadcrumbs component helps users to understand where they are within a website’s structure and move through navigational hierarchy.
* **Value of component:** Breadcrumbs allow a user to navigate “up” to any part of the path they came into the current page, instead of using “Back” browser button to just go to previous page. It also helps users to understand the organization of the website.

**{Component in HTML/CSS}**

<nav aria-label="breadcrumb">  
<ol class="breadcrumb">  
<li class="breadcrumb-item"><a href="#">Home</a></li>  
<li class="breadcrumb-item"><a href="#">Library</a></li>  
<li class="breadcrumb-item active" aria-current="page">Data</li>  
</ol>  
</nav>

**(H2) When to use**

* Breadcrumbs make it easier to understand complex websites.
* Use the breadcrumbs component when you need to help users understand and move between the multiple levels of a website.
* Breadcrumbs are most useful when the hierarchy is not immediately apparent from the main navigation.

**(H2) When not to use**

* If the website is not very deep and the context for the current page is clear from the main navigation.
* Omit breadcrumbs on the homepage of a website. Breadcrumbs could also be omitted from section landing pages.
* When side navigation is used in combination with main navigation, it may be redundant to include breadcrumbs.
* You should not use breadcrumbs for linear relationships (step-by-step processes, for example, step-by-step applications), only for hierarchical relationships.

**(Drawer title) Accessibility for Breadcrumbs**

* Use the [<nav>] element. This allows assistive technology to present the breadcrumbs in context as a navigational element on the page.
* Use ordered lists (ol) for breadcrumbs and list items (li) for each item. This allows assistive technology to enumerate the items in the breadcrumbs and allows shortcuts between list items.
* Use ARIA markup for additional context. Use [aria-label="Breadcrumbs"] on the main element and [aria-current="page"] on the current page.
* Be sure that the separators between the links on breadcrumbs are not readable by screen readers as they cause cognitive clutter and are decorative.
* Although breadcrumbs are frequently displayed using smaller text, make sure the text is not too small to select at small widths. Although WCAG has no minimum font size requirement, it is still a valid usability concern. Relative font sizes, like percentages or ems, will give more flexibility to modify the font size in relation to the screen vs pixels which is absolute.

**(Drawer title) Best practices for Breadcrumbs**

* Consider alternatives to wrapping. Sites with very long breadcrumb trails might ultimately need to wrap breadcrumbs. If you have long breadcrumbs, you can configure the component to only show the first and last items on mobile devices. Or, only show a page’s direct parent.
* Use the same wording in breadcrumb text as in the page title.
* Start with the word “Home”. Rather than using a house icon, spell out the word “Home” as the first link in the breadcrumbs.
* Always place breadcrumbs at the top of a page, before the <main> element. Placing them there means that the ‘Skip to main content’ link allows the user to skip all navigation links, including breadcrumbs.
* Make sure all users can see the breadcrumbs - according to WCAG 2.1 the background color must have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 with white.