Chapter 2: Doctypes

Doctypes - short for 'document type' - help browsers to understand the version of HTML the document is written in for better interpretability. Doctype declarations are not HTML tags and belong at the very top of a document. This topic explains the structure and declaration of various doctypes in HTML.

Section 2.1: Adding the Doctype

The `<!DOCTYPE>` declaration should always be included at the top of the HTML document, before the `<html>` tag.

Version ≥ 5

See HTML 5 Doctype for details on the HTML 5 Doctype.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Section 2.2: HTML 5 Doctype

HTML5 is not based on SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), and therefore does not require a reference to a DTD (Document Type Definition).

HTML 5 Doctype declaration:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Case Insensitivity

Per the W3.org HTML 5 `DOCTYPE` Spec:

> A DOCTYPE must consist of the following components, in this order:
>
> 1. A string that is an ASCII **case-insensitive** match for the string `"<!DOCTYPE"`.

therefore the following `DOCTYPE`s are also valid:

```
<!doctype html>
<!dOCtyPe html>
<!DocTYpe html>
```

This SO article discusses the topic extensively: Uppercase or lowercase doctype?