

# Web Presentation (CSS) for Navigation

# History

- Website navigation didn't exist ("websites" didn't exist)
  - Hyperlinks to other documents
  - Embedded in the text or in a **list** of citations (1991-1995)
- TBL's idea: create an "index" webpage which **listed** all the author's documents in one place
  - Thus, "index.html"
  - Web server software: automatically load **index.html** page (if it existed)

# The First Websites and the First Navigation

- Marketing: groups of webpages
  - Brochures, online
  - Brochures – salesy: multiple pages, logo/branding, company style
- Unified design - “common look and feel”
- "Navigation" a *list* of webpages that belonged together
- Evolution of the Common Look and Feel
  - Headers, Footers, Navigation bars (originally vertical only)
- Evolution of the “C-Clamp”
  - The “side-bar” – home of the navigation bar

# Navigation evolves

- Vertical → Horizontal
- JavaScript (early 2000s) and advanced CSS
  - Pull-down, pop-up, fly-out menus
  - Mega menus
  - Persistent menus
  - Eyebrow menus
  - Hamburger menus

# General Usability Rules for Navigation

- Fundamental for Good Navigation
  - Where can I go?
  - Where am I now?
- Create Affordance
  - The “intuitive button”
  - Click it – something happens
  - Hover is less than a click, but indicates ...*something!*
- Principle of Least Astonishment
  - Menu items that look the same should act the same
  - HTML pages link to HTML pages
    - Warn before linking to something else (e.g. PDFs; other websites)
    - Other resources open in a new window/tab
  - Normal = same look and feel
    - Page elements (especially navigation) don't move from page to page