

**index-see**

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## index-see

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An `<index-see>` element within an `<indexterm>` redirects the reader to another index entry that the reader should reference instead of that one.

The `<index-see>` and `<index-see-also>` are redirection elements. They both serve to redirect the user to another index entry. The main difference is in their indexing semantics. The `<index-see>` element refers to an index entry that the reader should use *instead of* the current one, whereas the `<index-see-also>` element refers to an index entry that the reader should use *in addition to* the current one.

It may be desirable to express a hyperlink between the "see" or "see-also" entry and the entry to which it is referring to. On the other hand, if the deliverable does not need this linking, it should be straightforward to generate a "plain" index entry using just the static text in the `indexterm` element. In other words, it should be possible for the implementation to do the hard thing and easy to do the easy thing.

Expressing a redirection to a subentry is possible by mirroring the nesting hierarchy. For example, for the following index entries, the "see also" can be accomplished with `<index-see-also>Goldfish</index-see-also>`.

- Feeding, 348
  - *see also* Goldfish feeding
- Goldfish
  - feeding, 56
  - flushing, 128, 345

In reusing content, there may easily arise situations where the index elements conflict. That is, a map may include a topic where a deprecated term identified by a `index-see` is also a generated index entry in another topic. In such a situation, the `index-see` shall degrade to the semantics of an `index-see-also`. For example, consider the following instances:

```
<indexterm>Carassius auratus<index-see>Goldfish</index-see></indexterm>
...
<indexterm>Carassius auratus</indexterm>
```

The result will be the following index entry, with the page reference coming from the second `indexterm` instance:

- Carassius auratus, 98
  - *see also* Goldfish

You can currently an `indexterm` in a map's metadata outside of any content (`map/topicmeta/keywords/indexterm`). In the absence of content context, an `indexterm` shall never generate page references, even if it contains an `index-see-also` element. An `index-see` element is most appropriate here, where it can declare preferred synonyms for the entire deliverable without conflicting with other contexts of reuse. An `index-see-also` element here can add a "see also" subentry to an index entry without modifying the topic being reused.

The following example illustrates the use of an `<index-see>` redirection element within an `<indexterm>`:

```
<indexterm>Carassius auratus
  <index-see>Goldfish</index-see>
</indexterm>
```

This will typically generate an index entry without a page reference:

- Carassius auratus, *see* Goldfish

**Contained by:**[indexterm](#)**Contains:**( text data or [keyword](#) or [option](#) or [parmname](#) or [apiname](#) or [cmdname](#) or [msgnum](#) or [varname](#) or [wintitle](#) or [term](#) or [data](#) or [data-about](#) or [unknown](#) or [indexterm](#)) (any number)**Attributes**

Name	Description	Data Type	Default Value	Required?
keyref	Currently not implemented in DITA processors. Provides a key that a process can use to look up associated information.	NMTOKEN	#IMPLIED	No
id	An anchor point. This ID is the target for references by href and conref attributes, and for external applications that refer to DITA content.	ID	#IMPLIED	No
conref	<p>This attribute is used to reference an ID on content that can be reused. For example, you could create a &lt;note&gt; in a topic and then reference its ID (using conref) from a &lt;note&gt; in another topic. During output processing, a lookup process will pull the contents of the first note into the note that has the conref attribute.</p> <p>The conref value follows the same conventions as HTML for what HTML calls a "fragment identifier"—a required "#" separator separates an optional filename from the fully qualified id (in the form <code>topicid/elementid</code>). To refer to target content in a different file, put the full URL of that topic before the # character.</p> <p>Same file:  <code>conref="#topicid/elementid"</code>  In different file:  <code>conref="fname.xml#topicid/elementid"</code></p>	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No
platform	Indicates operating system and hardware. This is a property attribute which supports conditional processing for filtering or flagging.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No
product	Contains the name of the product to which the topic applies. This is a property attribute which supports conditional processing for filtering or flagging.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No
audience	Indicates the intended audience for the element. This is a property attribute which supports conditional processing for filtering or flagging.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No
otherprops	This attribute can be used for any other properties that might be needed to describe an audience, or to provide selection criteria for the element.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No

Name	Description	Data Type	Default Value	Required?
importance	A range of values that describe an importance or priority attributed to an element. For example, in steps of a task, the attribute indicates whether a step is optional or required. In other contexts or specializations, other values are possible.	obsolete   deprecated   optional   default   low   normal   high   recommended   required   urgent	#IMPLIED	No
rev	Indicates revision level of an element. It is useful for flagging outputs based on revision.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No
status	The status of the current element.	new   changed   deleted   unchanged	#IMPLIED	No
translate	Indicates whether the content of the element should be translated or not.	yes   no	#IMPLIED	No
class	<i>Not for use by authors. If an editor displays class attribute values, do not edit them.</i> The class attribute supports specialization. Its predefined values help the output transforms work correctly with ranges of related content.	CDATA	#IMPLIED	No

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