Making disks visible from the GUI and putting them in the dock.

Under the Finder drop down menu select Preferences



Under the General tab of Preferences make sure hard disks is checked. This will put the icon of a disk named “Macintosh HD” on your desktop. This is like “root”, it is as high in the directory tree as you can go



Under the Sidebar tab of preferences make sure your home directory is checked

Now open any folder, your home directory should be visible in the Favorites section.



Right click on your home directory and select “Add to Dock” and a new icon should show up in the dock with an alas to your home directory.

There are a number of ways to turn on showing hidden folders. To do it “permanently” (until you turn it off) execute the following from a Terminal window

defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles TRUE;killall Finder

To turn it off, rerun, replacing TRUE with FALSE.

You can also do it with “Command+Shift+period” simultaneously. This toggles, so to cancel do it again.

The invisible files (file names start with a dot) will be in grey. You can open them be double-clcking or draging and droping them on a GUI program (word, text edit, etc.).

Or you can edit them using vi.