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Subject: JHU/APL library update  
Posted by [sterner](#) on Mon, 19 Jul 1993 22:34:44 GMT  
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## JHU/APL IDL anonymous ftp site update notice

fermi.jhuapl.edu IDL library ftp site description

### Purpose of this ftp site

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This ftp site contains several JHU/APL IDL libraries. The previous single library has been divided into 3 (the two new libraries are still small). Some new routines have been added and some old ones have been dropped. The latest update was made on 19 July, 1993.

The library routines fall into the following broad categories:

Text Files, Text strings, Date & time routines, Information, Plotting/Graphics, Imaging, Array processing, Math, Programming, Library maintenance and documentation, and Miscellaneous.

### Accessing the ftp site (Make sure you use ftp, not telnet)

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ftp 128.244.147.18 (fermi.jhuapl.edu)

For Name type: anonymous

For Password enter: your email address (ex: sterner@tesla.jhuapl.edu).

Change directory by typing: cd pub/idl

To get a file type: get filename

When finished type: bye.

Get the ascii file README (~5.6k byte) for a guide to this ftp site.

You may also want to get the one line description file cat.one (~26kb).

### What's New

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The ftp site computer has been moved to nansen. Fermi is an older Sun and is no longer under maintenance contract. Nansen is an HP 7/35.

The new site is expected to be stable for a number of years.

Fermi is an alias for nansen and may be used as before.

The directory structure of the ftp site has been slightly modified to bring it more in line with traditional anonymous ftp sites.

There are a number of bug fixes and enhancements to old routines. New routines have been added. A few obsolete routines have been dropped, some due to additions to the language itself.

The previous library (idlusr) has been divided. Less general routines (such as routines to do mortgage calculations, redshift to distance conversions, room layout sheets with paper doll furniture, ...) have been moved to a second library (idlusr2).

One of the new libraries (idldoc) provides tools to help you maintain

your own local libraries. This library includes a librarian that I wrote to maintain the ftp site libraries and other local libraries. It needs a fast unix machine to work well and also requires a strict adherence to a specified format of builtin help. I suspect it will not be widely used, mostly because software documentation usually has a low priority.

A shell script is provided (liner) to search one line description files given several keywords. This lets you find a routine if you know pretty much what it does but don't know its name. You can set up your own one line description files and include them in the search (the librarian will automatically keep these up to date if you use it).

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