
Subject: Re: library and online help

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 07 Apr 2004 14:58:11 GMT

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Steve wrote:

> Hi all,

>

> how can I add and IDL library (taken somewhere from the web) to the

> standard path of my IDL distribution, so that each time I call a

> procedure/function that is in the library, IDL automatically find it?

> Do I have to put such library in some directory? where? (I use linux).

Assuming you're on a unix/linux box, you need to add some definition to your IDL_PATH environment var:

```
export IDL_PATH=${IDL_PATH}:+\${HOME}/idl
```

is what I do. Under my \${HOME}/idl directory I have a user_contrib directory containing all manner of third party libraries. (the "+" above means to search all the subdirectories too)

> Just a drop. I have got the new IDL version, but the "old" online help

> doesn't work anymore :-(Is it right???

> Only that nasty and NON user-friendly acrobat manual ...

If you're on a linux box, you're SOL I'm afraid. There is no Search plugin available for acroread on linux (that I have been able to find - if I'm wrong, please let me know). Thus the online help is next to useless unless you know in advance where everything is. My solution has been to keep a session from an older version (5.5) of IDL (on a machine across the country) on my desktop so I have access to the old but efficacious on-line help. It does mean I have zero access to information about all the new stuff in IDL.

To be fair to the RSI folks, a reply I got from RSI (in response to either my rant about it here or my support request) stated that the old online help system (from an outside vendor) was effectively unmaintainable so something needed to be done. I just wish the "something" was something else. :o)

paulv
