

---

Subject: Catalyst Library

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 03 Feb 2005 00:55:30 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Folks,

A number of people have written me asking about the Catalyst Library that I keep going on about on this newsgroup. It's been damn embarrassing not having anything to show you. :-)

So this afternoon I put together a short blurb about the Library and have made available an IDL save file of a Catalyst Library Sample Application. This is actually the test program I wrote to test Library features, but it will give you some idea of what you can do with the Library itself.

The Library will require IDL 6.1 to run, or you can download the freely available IDL Virtual Machine from the RSI web page and run it on that. The program is about 1 MB in size, so those of you on government computers, go get some coffee while it downloads. You will need a little caffeine to believe what you are seeing, especially with the annotation tab functionality. :-)

Everything you see in the application window is an object. In fact, *everything* in the Catalyst Library is an object. The application program itself is an object. On the left is an assortment of widget objects. These should look familiar to you. They work (more or less) like IDL widgets (or maybe how IDL widgets would work if we were to write them now). Notice the special StatusBar widget object at the bottom of the application.

In the middle of the application are six tab windows. Each shows a different aspect of the library. Some are not very interesting (Histogram) because they were written early in Library development. Others are more interesting (Medical Image and Annotation) because they have been written more recently and take advantage of new features of the Library.

On the right of the application are control panels, buttons, etc. that allow user interaction of various kinds. Most of the graphics windows also allow some kind of user interaction. I prefer not to tell you about that and see if you can figure it out for yourself. It is suppose to be (cross my fingers) intuitive, after all.

The library has been tested on Windows XP systems, for the

most part. I'm \*very\* curious to know if it will run elsewhere.  
It's suppose to, but... well, you pay attention to the newsgroup,  
don't you. :-)

We are working on a User's Guide and when that is finished,  
we will have to make our minds up what we are going to do  
with this software. In the meantime, you can look at it, make  
suggestions, etc. But unless you make some special arrangements  
with me, you can't get your hands on it. :-)

As you know, I always appreciate you folks serving as guinea  
pigs for my experiments. :-)

Catalyst Library Blurb:  
<http://www.dfanning.com/tips/catlib.html>

Sample Application:  
<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/catalyst.sav>

IDL VM:  
<http://www.rsinc.com/download/chooseplatform.asp?urlProductCode=13>

Cheers,

David  
--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---