
Subject: Re: Help for non-RSI libraries under IDL 4.0

Posted by [twf](#) on Fri, 26 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <3q36dl\$iid@nntp5.u.washington.edu>,
Eric Deutsch <deutsch@astro.washington.edu> writes:

> I've installed version 4.0 of IDL, and the new help system is fairly helpful,
> although just as ugly as the MS Windows help browser.
>
> However, there seems to be one terrible thing lacking: it appears to me that
> the new help system provides no support for linking other help files from
> user-created or downloaded libraries to the new help system. i.e., whereas
> in IDL 3.6 and before, help files for the JHUAPL library, etc. where
> browsable from the '?' facility, this appears to be no longer possible.
>
> Can someone point out how this can be done? I must be wrong in thinking
> that it is no longer possible to browse .HELP files...

The word from RSI is that the help files can only be created by using a
third party proprietary product. They have begun to get complaints about this
problem. The short term workaround is to use the same procedures that were
invoked by the ? before to access user libraries:

```
IDL> man_proc,'*
```

I hope this is not the final answer. One of IDL's nicest features was the
ability to extend its functionality in a way that made the extensions seem
like they were part of the IDL package. Providing one help facility for
RSI's functions and procedures and a separate lower class help facility for
add on's is not very appealing. Perhaps the license for the help compiler is
reasonable enough to make all of this a mute point. I don't know the answer
to that.

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