> Sigh, a simple search on Google ("idl relative path") would have
> picked up a routine I posted on my website two years ago, and saved
> everybody a lot of work and trouble :-)

yes, if you use the right keywords from the beginning... i tried it
with "idl retrieve relative pathnames" without much succes on google
and in the group. and spent half an hour to click through some pages.
as usuall, it is faster to write it by yourself; but you learn a lot if
you see, how other people would do it!
Maxim