
Subject: Acknowledging IDL help/code from this group in academic publications
Posted by [Robin Wilson](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2011 16:30:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi all,

Firstly, I want to say thank you to the members of this group for the help they have given me with IDL over the last few years. I'd just like to check what the procedure is for acknowledging this help (particularly if the help comes in the form of code samples, or even fully written routines) in academic publications.

I obviously don't want to 'rip anyone off' or be accused of stealing work from other people, so what do people suggest for attribution? Should I add something to the acknowledgments in the paper saying thanks to the members of the IDL newsgroup for their help, or does there need to be something more than this?

Obviously when I have used code provided from IDL routine libraries on the internet I have kept the code headers complete, so it is obvious who the original author was. However, if people just read my paper they won't be aware that these people contributed code. Is this a problem?

I'm hoping for a little bit of a discussion on this, so that I (and others who use advice and code from these groups) can do the right thing.

Cheers,

Robin

Subject: Re: Acknowledging IDL help/code from this group in academic publications
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Wed, 19 Jan 2011 11:56:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Jan 18, 11:30 am, Robin Wilson <ro...@rtwilson.com> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> Firstly, I want to say thank you to the members of this group for the
> help they have given me with IDL over the last few years. I'd just like
> to check what the procedure is for acknowledging this help (particularly
> if the help comes in the form of code samples, or even fully written
> routines) in academic publications.
>
> I obviously don't want to 'rip anyone off' or be accused of stealing
> work from other people, so what do people suggest for attribution?
> Should I add something to the acknowledgments in the paper saying thanks
> to the members of the IDL newsgroup for their help, or does there need

> to be something more than this?
>
> Obviously when I have used code provided from IDL routine libraries on
> the internet I have kept the code headers complete, so it is obvious who
> the original author was. However, if people just read my paper they
> won't be aware that these people contributed code. Is this a problem?
>
> I'm hoping for a little bit of a discussion on this, so that I (and
> others who use advice and code from these groups) can do the right thing.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Robin

First thought: I think that it is understood that people are entitled to use any code that is posted to the newsgroup without attribution, unless stated otherwise. So there is no obligation.

Second thought: ..but it is certainly nice. I think that something along the lines of what you said is fine.

Third thought: When code comes from specific libraries, there should be specific notes on their webpages about your obligations for using it. People who post code libraries may want to think about this if they don't have anything already.

-Jeremy.
