

PHP for Beginners - Session 7

Associative Arrays

In this session, we learn about associative arrays in PHP.

1. Why Associative Arrays?

- Use key-value pairs instead of numeric indices.
- Useful for complex data like books (name, author, link).

2. Example of Associative Arrays:

```
$books = [  
    [  
        'name' => 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?',  
        'author' => 'Philip K. Dick',  
        'purchaseUrl' => 'https://example.com/androids-dream'  
    ],  
    [  
        'name' => 'Project Hail Mary',  
        'author' => 'Andy Weir',  
        'purchaseUrl' => 'https://example.com/hail-mary'  
    ]  
];
```

3. Displaying Book Information:

```
<ul>  
    <?php foreach ($books as $book): ?>  
        <li>  
            <?= $book['name'] ?> by <?= $book['author'] ?>  
            <a href="<?= $book['purchaseUrl'] ?>">Buy here</a>  
        </li>  
    <?php endforeach; ?>
```

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4. Avoid Errors:

- Don't echo entire arrays directly.
- Access specific keys like `$book['name']`

5. Recommended Syntax and Practice:

- Use camelCase for keys (e.g., `purchaseUrl`)
- Wrap variable interpolation in `{}` if needed: `<?= "{$book['name']}" . " (extra)" ?>`

6. Homework Practice:

- Add a `'releaseYear'` key and show it in the list:

```
<a href="<?= $book['purchaseUrl'] ?>">
```

```
<?= $book['name'] ?> (<?= $book['releaseYear'] ?>)
```

```
</a>
```