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Express Tutorial Part 4: Routes and controllers

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In this tutorial we'll set up routes (URL handling code) with "dummy" handler functions for all the resource endpoints that we'll eventually need in the LocalLibrary website. On completion we'll have a modular structure for our route handling code, which we can extend with real handler functions in the following articles. We'll also have a really good understanding of how to create modular routes using Express!

Prerequisites:	Read the Express/Node introduction. Complete previous tutorial topics (including Express Tutorial Part 3: Using a Database (with Mongoose)).
Objective:	To understand how to create simple routes. To set up all our URL endpoints.

Overview

In the last tutorial article we defined *Mongoose* models to interact with the database, and used a (standalone) script to create some initial library records. We can now write the code to present that information to users. The first thing we need to do is determine what information we want to be able to display in our pages, and then define appropriate URLs for returning those resources. Then we're going to need to create the routes (URL handlers) and views (templates) to display those pages.

The diagram below is provided as a reminder of the main flow of data and things that need to be implemented when handling an HTTP request/response. In addition to the views and routes the diagram shows "controllers" — functions that separate out the code to route