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DocumentingRuby (Ruby)

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(See [CategoryDocumentation](#) for some Wiki pages that contain actual documentation.)

Documenting Ruby Code

You document your Ruby code by simply putting in the usual comments above things like class and method definitions. The docs can be extracted later by the `rdoc` tool which can create html pages, as well as docs readable by the `ri` program (similar to `man`). The comments you put in may be "marked up" using special formatting to make the resulting extracted docs look prettier (i.e. so they can contain lists, headings, links, etc.). This markup and extraction system as a whole is referred to as "RDoc".

To simply use RDoc to give a short script a usage message, see [RDocUsage](#).

The RDoc docs on RDoc are at <http://www.ruby-doc.org/stdlib/libdoc/rdoc/rdoc/index.html> (see also `rdoc --help`). For help using the `ri` command, try `ri --help`. For specific information on using Ruby's built-in documentation system from the command line, please see [RiRDocAndGems](#).

The rest of this page is primarily about the various online sources of documentation about Ruby.

Online docs

Quick links to some of the biggies:

- The core Ruby built-ins -- <http://www.ruby-doc.org/core/>
- The Standard Library -- <http://www.ruby-doc.org/stdlib/>
- The [PickAxeBook](#) -- <http://www.ruby-doc.org/docs/ProgrammingRuby/>
- [RubyGems](#) docs -- <http://docs.rubygems.org/>
- Online commentable docs -- <http://ruby.outertrack.com/>

See [OnlineDocumentation](#) for more about these, and links to others.

For putting your own Ruby software up on the web (and making it available via [RubyGems](#)), you'll probably be using [RubyForge](#). New and prospective maintainers will want to read the docs at http://rubyforge.org/docman/?group_id=5.

Ruby-Doc.org

The central site for online Ruby docs is <http://www.ruby-doc.org/>. Most of the links listed above are available at Ruby-Doc.org.

There is also a ruby-doc mailing list. You can subscribe by following the instructions at the official Ruby website (<http://www.ruby-lang.org>).

Activities of the group are:

- Discuss and create documentation projects and advocacy.

- Maintain the website ([HTTP://www.ruby-doc.org](http://www.ruby-doc.org)) with fresh and archival content.

Miscellaneous (Wiki Pages)

- There's the [RubyBookList](#).
- Here's your opportunity to ask for [ChangesToProgrammingRuby](#).
- We have a [RubyFAQ](#) and [FaqSuggestions](#), and the book *Programming Ruby* is available .
- Kent Beck's Smalltalk Best Practice Patterns sets out guidelines for writing good Smalltalk code. Is there a need for [RubyBestPracticePatterns](#)?
- Perhaps there's a need for a [RubyFileSystemStandard](#).
- A page for [RubyBookDevelopment](#)

Articles in magazines

- "Mixed-Language Development & SWIG - Mixing up Ruby & C++", C/C++ User's Journal, January 2004
[HTTP://www.cuj.com/articles/2004/0401/](http://www.cuj.com/articles/2004/0401/) (the article is not available for free online)
- "Programming in Ruby", Dave Thomas & Andy Hunt, Dr. Dobbs's Journal, January 2001
[HTTP://www.ddj.com/articles/2001/0101/](http://www.ddj.com/articles/2001/0101/)

Translation and Other Requests

There is a body of Ruby documentation that's only in Japanese. If there's a particular document you'd like to see translated, add it to the list in [TranslationsInProgress](#). (And if you can read Japanese, and have the time, use the same list to sign up to translate a document).

If you can't read Japanese, but would like to be able to, there are resources to help. See [LearningJapanese](#).

If there is an aspect of Ruby you'd like to see better documented (or just documented at all), add it to the [DocumentRequest](#) page.

See Also

See also: [WritingAboutRuby](#), [RubyDocuments](#), [RubyPresentations](#), [RubyUsersGuide](#) and [RubyDocumentationProject](#)

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