A layout defines the surroundings of an HTML page. It's the place to define common look and feel of your final output. Layout files reside in app/views/layouts:

The process involves defining a layout template and then letting the controller know that it exists and to use it. First, let's create the template.

Add a new file called standard.rhtml to app/views/layouts. You let the controllers know what template to use by the name of the file, so following a sane naming scheme is advised.

Add the following code to the new standard.rhtml file and save your changes:

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"

"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">

<head>

<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;.

charset=iso-8859-1" />

<meta http-equiv="Content-Language" content="en-us" />

<title>Library Info System</title>

**<%= stylesheet\_link\_tag "style" %>**

</head>

<body id="library">

<div id="container">

<div id="header">

<h1>Library Info System</h1>

<h3>Library powered by Ruby on Rails</h3>

</div>

<div id="content">

**<%= yield -%>**

</div>

<div id="sidebar"></div>

</div>

</body>

</html>

Everything you just added were standard HTML elements except two lines. The **stylesheet\_link\_tag** helper method outputs a stylesheet <link>. In this instance we are linking style.css style sheet. The **yield** command lets Rails know that it should put the RHTML for the method called here.

Now open **book\_controller.rb** and add the following line just below the first line:

|  |
| --- |
| class BookController < ApplicationController  layout 'standard'  def list  @books = Book.find(:all)  end  ................... |

This tells to controller that we want to use a layout available in standard.rhtml file. Now try browsing books it will give following screen.