Documentation and Other Resources

Any git installation brings with it a lot of documentation on your local machine.

Just typing:

```
$ git help
```

gives you the basic commands. Detailed help about any one of them is obtained with:

```
$ git help command
```

In older versions of git, any command can be invoked in either of two ways.

For example, the two lines:

```
$ git commit ......
$ git-commit ......
```

are entirely equivalent. However, the hyphenated form has long been deprecated and has disappeared in later versions, so avoid using it.

You can get help on particular commands in either of the two ways:

```
$ git help commit
$ man git-commit
```

the result being a conventional man page.

Two great sources of documentation are:

- The official Git User's Manual. There are many other useful documents, either residing at the same website, or linked to from there. This document is terse but authoritative, and extremely useful.

- Leoliger, J. (2009). ***Version Control with Git***. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media, Inc. and its second edition Leoliger, J. and McCullough, M. (2012). ***Version Control with Git: Powerful Tools and Techniques for Collaborative Software Development***. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media, Inc. Out of several books using git, they are the most up-to-date, and the most thorough. There are many topics in this course that receive only cursory treatment; these books go into great detail, with many examples, bringing to the fore real life problems and experiences.

The best overall source of documentation can be found at the git home page, which contains a wealth of documentation and examples.

In addition, you can download the *Git Started with Community Software* presentation, presented at the Chicago Embedded Systems Conference in 2010, by Jerry Cooperstein or watch a a free on-line webinar by James Bottomley, *Introduction to Git*.