

-X

Use an index if it is present – the **-X** option looks for an entry whose basename matches the name given on the command line in the file `$Config{archlib}/pod.idx`. The *pod.idx* file should contain fully qualified filenames, one per line.

PageName|ModuleName|ProgramName

The item you want to look up. Nested modules (such as `File::Basename`) are specified either as `File::Basename` or `File/Basename`. You may also give a descriptive name of a page, such as `perlfunc`.

-n *some-formatter*

Specify replacement for `nroff`

-r

Recursive search.

-i

Ignore case.

-V

Displays the version of `perldoc` you're running.

79.4 SECURITY

Because **perldoc** does not run properly tainted, and is known to have security issues, when run as the superuser it will attempt to drop privileges by setting the effective and real IDs to nobody's or nouser's account, or -2 if unavailable. If it cannot relinquish its privileges, it will not run.

79.5 ENVIRONMENT

Any switches in the `PERLDOC` environment variable will be used before the command line arguments.

Useful values for `PERLDOC` include `-oman`, `-otext`, `-otk`, `-ortf`, `-oxml`, and so on, depending on what modules you have on hand; or exactly specify the formatter class with `-MPod::PerlDoc::ToMan` or the like.

`perldoc` also searches directories specified by the `PERL5LIB` (or `PERLLIB` if `PERL5LIB` is not defined) and `PATH` environment variables. (The latter is so that embedded pods for executables, such as `perldoc` itself, are available.)

`perldoc` will use, in order of preference, the pager defined in `PERLDOC_PAGER`, `MANPAGER`, or `PAGER` before trying to find a pager on its own. (`MANPAGER` is not used if `perldoc` was told to display plain text or unformatted pod.)

One useful value for `PERLDOC_PAGER` is `less -+C -E`.

Having `PERLDOCDEBUG` set to a positive integer will make `perldoc` emit even more descriptive output than the `-v` switch does – the higher the number, the more it emits.

79.6 AUTHOR

Current maintainer: Sean M. Burke, <sburke@cpan.org>

Past contributors are: Kenneth Albanowski <kjahds@kjahds.com>, Andy Dougherty <doughera@lafcol.lafayette.edu>, and many others.