

A new system for collaborative documentation for R

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R has an excellent set of reference manual pages for its functions, but part of the process of learning how to program in R is finding out the "tips and tricks". Questions like: What's the best way to remove missing values from a data frame?; Which time series class should I use?; or What's the fastest way to build a matrix column by column? aren't readily answered simply by looking at the help page for a function. This information exists, nebulously, in r-help posting, blog articles, and other such venues, but no simple mechanism exists today to contribute such information to the documentation of R itself.

In this talk we review some existing systems to annotate reference documentation with user-contributed content and discuss relative strengths and weaknesses of those systems. We propose a new on-line collaborative system for annotating R documentation, and demonstrate some of its planned capabilities.