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## Overview of the Manual

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The *LOOPS Library Modules Manual* describes the Library Modules for Venue's Lisp Object-Oriented Programming System, LOOPS. These Library Modules, which can be loaded into Medley, provide additional functionality to LOOPS.

This manual describes the current release of the LOOPS Library Modules, which run under Medley.

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## Organization of the Manual and How to Use It

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This manual is divided into chapters, with each chapter focussing on a particular Library Module. A Table of Contents is included to help you find specific material.

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## Conventions

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This manual uses the following conventions:

- Case is significant in LOOPS and Medley. All selectors, methods, arguments, etc., must be typed as shown. Typically, this means that method names are capitalized and variables are not.
- You need to use an Interlisp Exec to enter all exec expressions.
- Arguments appear in italic type.
- Selectors, methods, functions, objects, classes, and instances appear in bold type.

For example, a method appears as follows:

```
(_ self Selector Arg1 Arg2)
```

- Examples are shown in the Interlisp Exec and appear in the following typeface:

```
89← (←LOGIN)
```

- All examples are typed into an Interlisp Exec. This is the recommended Exec for all LOOPS expressions.
- Methods with an exclamation mark (!) suffix usually perform operations deeply into class structure instead of only on a given object.
- Methods with a question mark (?) suffix usually are predicates; that is, truth functions.
- Methods often appear in the form **ClassName.SelectorName**.

- Cautions describe possible dangers to hardware or software.
- Notes describe related text.

This manual describes the LOOPS items (functions, methods, etc.) by using the following template:

- Purpose: Gives a short statement of what the item does.
- Behavior: Provides the details of how the item operates.
- Arguments: Describes each argument in the following format:
- argument*    Description
- Returns: States what the item returns, and does not appear if the item does not return a value. The phrase "Used as a side effect only." means that the purpose of the item is to perform a computation or action that is independent of any returned value, not to return a particular value.
- Categories: A way to group related methods. For example, all the methods related to Masterscope on the class **FileBrowser** have the category Masterscope, not **FileBrowser**. This item appears only for methods.
- Specializes: The next higher class in the class hierarchy that contains a method with the same selector. For example, **RectangularWindow.Open** can specialize **Window.Open**. This appears only for methods.
- Specializations: The next lower class in the class hierarchy that contains a method with the same selector. For example, **Window.Open** is a specialization of **RectangularWindow.Open**. This appears only for methods.
- Example: An example is often included to show how to use the item and what result it produces. Some examples may appear differently on your system, depending on the settings of various print flags. See the *LOOPS Reference Manual* for details.

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## References

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The following books and manuals augment this manual.

*LOOPS Reference Manual*

*LOOPS Release Notes*

*LOOPS Users' Modules Manual*

*Interlisp-D Reference Manual*

*Common Lisp: the Language* by Guy Steele

*Common Lisp Implementation Notes*

*Lisp Release Notes*

*Lisp Library Modules Manual*