

# PDF Under the Hood A Look at Libraries

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**SAGES**

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# Overview

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- What might you want to do with PDF?
- Review of available libraries
- What if I don't want to program?

# How I do things

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- You should all have copies of the presentation that you received when you walked in.
- There is also an electronic copy of this presentation (PDF format, of course!) on my website at <http://www.pdfsages.com/>
- I've left time at the end for Q&A, but please feel free to ask questions at any time!

# What can you do with PDF?

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- Creation
- Manipulation
- Content Extraction & Conversion
- Imaging and Printing

# Creation

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- Report generation
- Database Publishing
- Dynamic content
  - Greeting Cards, Ads, Coupons
- Content repurposing
  - Printable “take away”
- Document Conversion
  - Word/Office, TeX

# Creation Libraries

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- [PDFlib](#)
- [ClibPDF \(FastIO\)](#)
- [Panda \(StillHQ\)](#)
- [PDF File Creator \(FyTek\)](#)
- [PDF in a Box \(Synactis\)](#)
- [retepPDF \(Peter Mount\)](#)
- [Root River Delta \(Root River Systems\)](#)
- [The Big Faceless PDF Library \(Big Faceless\)](#)
- [iText \(Lowagie\)](#)
- [PDFever \(Perl Script Studio\)](#)
- [SanFace PDFLibrary \(SanFace\)](#)
- [ReportLab](#)



# Manipulation

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- Adding text or images
- Form filling
- Append or removing pages
- Imposition
- Adding structural elements
  - Bookmarks, hyperlinks, etc.
- Securing and signing

# Manipulation Libraries

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- PJ (Etymon)



- Life\*JOVE (Corena)

- PDFLibrary (Glance)



- PDFToolkit (ActivePDF)



- DocuCom PDF Core Library (Zeon)

- Acrobat SDK

- Adobe PDFLibrary

# Content Extraction & Conversion

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- Text
- Images
- HTML, XML, OEB
- RTF, Word
- Flash/SWF
- Postscript
- Other...

# Extraction Libraries

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- [Ghostscript \(Artifex\)](#)
- [Xpdf](#)
- [Acrobat SDK](#)
- [Adobe PDFLibrary](#)

# Imaging

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- Printing
  - On demand printing
  - Automation/Batch
- Rasterization (conversion to bitmap)
  - Web previews
  - Thumbnails
  - Viewing

# Imaging Libraries

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- [Jaws PDFLibrary \(Global Graphics\)](#)
- [Ghostscript \(Artifex\)](#)
- [Xpdf](#)
- [DocuCom PDF Core Library \(Zeon\)](#)
- [Acrobat SDK](#)
- [Adobe PDFLibrary](#)



# What if I don't want to program?

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- You're in the wrong session <grin!>
- There are many companies that produce stand-alone applications (CLI, GUI, COM etc.) that would allow you to perform many of the functions w/o worry about PDF details.
  - Check out PlanetPDF (<http://www.planetpdf.com>) for lists!

# Some parting thoughts

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- Know what you want first
  - Determine what features/services you require, what OS platform(s) you wish to support and what development language you will be using.
  - THEN pick the library or tool that can deliver
- You WANT support!
  - You may think you know everything, or you won't ever have any issues – but you WILL!
- Subscribe to mailing lists for info & help
  - PlanetPDF
  - PDFZone

Q & A

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Q & A

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