

# Help and Documentation Utilities

Version 9.2

May 27, 2026

This section describes utilities designed to connect to documentation and to support bug reports. See also [scribble/xref](#).

# 1 Searching in the Documentation

```
(require help)      package: racket-index
```

Added in version 1.4 of package `racket-index`.

```
(send-main-page [#:sub sub
                 #:notify notify
                 #:fragment fragment
                 #:query query
                 #:query-table query-table]) → any
sub : path-string? = "index.html"
notify : (-> (or/c path? string?) void) = void
fragment : (or/c #f string?) = #f
query : (or/c #f string?) = #f
query-table : (hash/c symbol? string? #:immutable #t) = (hash)
```

Visits the documentation file indicated by `sub`. If `sub` is not an absolute path, it is relative to a documentation directory in `(get-doc-search-dirs)`.

When `get-doc-open-url` returns `#f`, `send-main-page` builds a URL that points into the main collection documentation or into the user-specific documentation, depending on the `sub` argument. Once it finds the path, `send-main-page` passes the path to `notify`. The `fragment` and `query` arguments are passed to `send-url/file`, along with the URL. The keys and values in `query-table` are used as additional query parameters.

When `get-doc-open-url` returns a URL string, `send-main-page` appends `sub` to the URL and passes it to `notify`. It then appends `fragment` and `query` to the URL and passes it on to `send-url`.

```
(send-language-family-page [language-family]) → void?
language-family : (or/c #f string?) = #f
```

Calls `send-main-page`. If `language-family` is the name of a language family that is registered by a definition of `language-family` in some collection's "info.rkt", then a starting point and search and navigation configuration for the language family are incorporated into the call. Otherwise, `send-main-page` is called with no arguments.

```
(perform-search str
               [context
                #:language-family language-family]) → void?
str : string?
context : (or/c #f
              string?
              (list/c string? string?))
language-family : (or/c #f string?) = #f
```

Searches for *str* in the documentation. The *context* argument supplies a context for the search or, if it is two strings, a context for the search and a label for that context. The search involves visiting a URL that performs the search.

If *language-family* is the name of a language family that is registered by a definition of *language-family* in some collection's "info.rkt", then search and navigation configuration for the language family are incorporated into the search request.

## 2 Connecting to racket

```
(require help/help-utils)    package: racket-index
```

The `help/help-utils` library is dynamically loaded by the `help` form that is available by default in racket.

```
(search-for strs) → void?  
  strs : (listof string?)
```

Calls `perform-search` after concatenating the elements of `strs` and adding spaces between them.

```
(find-help/lib id lib) → void?  
  id : symbol?  
  lib : module-path?
```

Visits the documentation page for `id` as an export of `lib`.

```
(find-help id) → void?  
  id : identifier?
```

Visits the documentation for `id`.

```
(go-to-main-page) → void?
```

Visits the main entry page for the documentation.

### 3 Compatibility Library

`(require help/search)` package: `scribble-lib`

The `help/search` module reexports the bindings of `help`.

| `send-main-page` : procedure?

See `send-main-page`.

Changed in version 1.2 of package `scribble-lib`: Added `get-doc-open-url` support.

Changed in version 1.60: Added the `query-table` argument.

| `send-language-family-page` : procedure?

See `send-language-family-page`.

Added in version 1.60 of package `scribble-lib`.

| `perform-search` : procedure?

See `main-perform-search`.

Changed in version 1.60 of package `scribble-lib`: Added the `language-family` argument.