

Navigator's Library -Third Edition

Introduction by Steve Dashew

Although we live in the age of electronic navigation, most of us still carry a large inventory of navigation-related reference books. Typically these include Light Lists, Coast Pilots, Rules of the Road, chart-reading data, the ever-useful *American Practical Navigator*, various local and international Sailing Directions, and even Sight Reduction Tables. It adds up to a large, heavy, and expensive pile of materials that are rarely used—yet still necessary.

That's where this *Third Edition Navigator's Library* CD-ROM package comes into play. You will find 86 different navigation publications in PDF format. This is the same electronic form we've been using with our book CD-ROMs for years, and it provides a whole series of tools to facilitate access to the more than 25,000 pages of information. What is even better is that this entire inventory of information can be searched at one go, or you can search particular documents. If you want to find all the references for Tahiti, the search function might return hits in *Sailing Directions*, *The CIA World Factbook*, *Light Lists*, and the *World Port Index*.

If you are not familiar with Adobe Acrobat's PDF files, check out their help menu. You will find information on how to navigate through the documents, take advantage of the powerful search functions, pan, zoom, choose how pages are displayed, and use a host of other features, all of which are straightforward and easy to use.

Here are a couple of basic tips about organization. The installation process should give you a choice of either using the files straight from the disk, or copying the contents of both disks to a single folder on your hard drive. If you have room on your hard drive, it's best to let the installer copy the files there, as this will let you access all the documents without having to switch disks.

Each of the 86 documents is linked to a master list, which we call the "Library". This Library contains a link and a short description for each document. Simply double-click on the link and you will be taken to the first page of the document.

If you're operating off of Disk One, the Library only lists links to the documents on Disk One. If you're using Disk Two, the Library has links to the files on that disk. If the installer has copied all the files to your hard drive, the Library will list links to all 86 documents.

Once you are in a particular publication, you have several ways to move from place to place. First, there are Tables of Contents, which are linked to their various sections. As you move the mouse over a Table of Content's entries, you will see that the cursor hand changes to a finger. Left-clicking on your mouse will move you to that part of the publication.

You can also move around with the "Bookmarks" on the left. These do the same job as a Table of Contents, and can be made visible (or not) by left-clicking on the bookmark tab. Some bookmarks have a "+" sign by them. Left-click on these to open up a more detailed set of bookmarks. Click on any bookmark to jump to that part of the document.

If you simply want to move page by page, use the page up/down keys on your keyboard.

Another way to navigate is to use the PDF “Find” and “Search” functions. The “Find” function lets you look for any word or phrase within a specific file. The “Search” function takes you one step further—it lets you search the entire *Navigator’s Library* for any word or phrase. For example, if you want to look for every reference to the Indian Ocean, just click on the Search icon (in Acrobat v.7, this looks like a pair of binoculars, and on older versions, the binoculars have a piece of paper behind them), and then type “Indian Ocean”. You will be given a list of every occurrence of that phrase in every document on the disk; just click on anything in that list to go to the page where it occurs. If you’re searching for a phrase, don’t use the words “a”, “an”, “but”, “for”, “from”, “or”, or “the”. Acrobat can’t find phrases with those words in the *Navigator’s Library*. If you want to find all instances of a phrase like “The Caribbean”, just search for “Caribbean” (without the word “The”).

If you’re operating off of Disk One, then the Search function will only search for items on Disk One; ditto for Disk Two. But if the installer has copied all the files to your hard drive, then the Search function will allow you to search all of the publications at once.

You will probably be moving back and forth among documents quite a bit. To help with this task, at the top of the bookmark list on the left hand side of each page is a red bookmark for the Library. Clicking on this takes you back to the master Library page, from which you can then navigate to any of the other publications. If you want to go to the Table of Contents within a particular publication, click on the red bookmark for Table of Contents.

These pages can be printed. In fact, we think it is a good idea to print out any critical information you may need for close-in navigation.

There is also a red bookmark to take you to the SetSail.com website. Whether you’re looking for hard-core cruising information, or fuel for your sailing dreams, you’ll find it at SetSail (www.SetSail.com). We’ve got weekly reports from cruisers all over the world, technical articles, Q & A forums, advice columns, links, books, DVDs, electronic charts, and many more resources. We invite you to join the SetSail community!

The Sailing Directions, Light Lists and some of the other data does change with time. SetSail has a generous update policy to get the latest information. You should also consult Notices to Mariners for the very latest information regarding any critical landfalls.

That’s about it. Dive in and scan through these publications. You will find them much more accessible in this electronic format.

We’ll see you out there...



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