

# Chapter 1.

## Introduction

Topic: Ignore

The *3D ACIS Online Help User's Guide* describes how to use 3D ACIS Online Help. This includes information on how to navigate the system, documentation conventions, type(s) of information documented, etc.

The 3D ACIS Online Help is a set of HTML files that are accessed through a Web browser, either Netscape Communicator 4.x or Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or later.

ACIS manuals may be printed in book form from files provided on the 3D ACIS Online Help CD-ROM. These are Adobe PDF files that can be viewed and printed. Refer to Chapter 4, *Printing Documents*, and the *readme* file on the CD for more information.

## Starting ACIS Online Help

Topic: \*Finding Information

3D ACIS Online Help consists of a set of HTML documents that are accessed through your Internet browser. We recommend the following browsers:

- Netscape Communicator, version 4.x
- Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 4.0 or later

JavaScript must be enabled.

**Note** *Some online help features are not fully supported in earlier versions of Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.*

To start online help, you must load the HTML file ACIS.HTM into your browser. The online help screen is divided into three frames—navigation, selection, and data—as illustrated in Figure 1-1. Refer to Chapter 2, *Navigation*, for information about all the parts of the online help screen and navigating through the system.

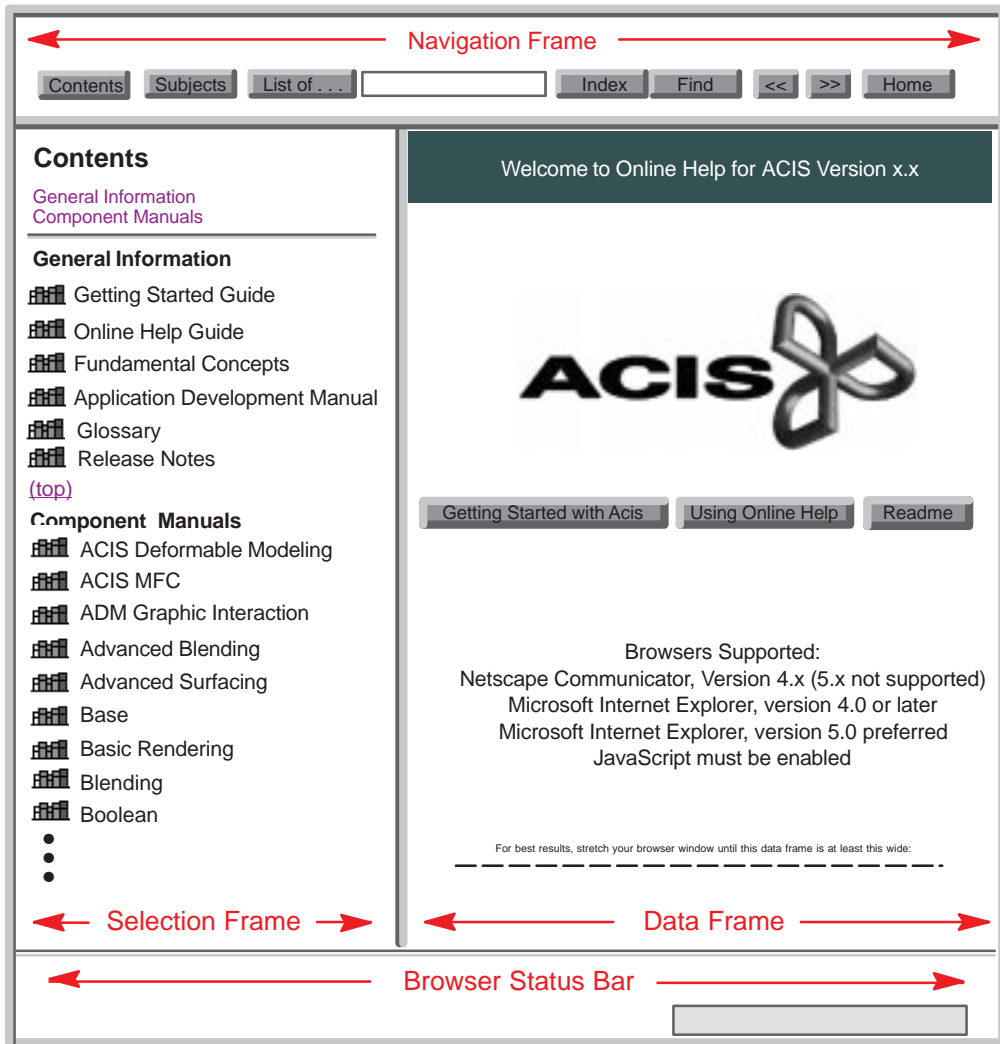


Figure 1-1. Online Help Screen at Startup

# Displaying Hyperlinks

Topic: \*Finding Information

By default, your browser displays hyperlinks underlined and in a color different from regular text. Because function and class names contain underscores, we recommend that you disable the link underline feature of your browser. This can be accomplished in Netscape Communicator 4.x (or higher) through the Edit/Preferences menus. To change the hyperlink underline display settings for Internet Explorer 4.x (or higher), use the tools/internet options menus. These menus and menu options also allow for changing the displayed colors for visited and unvisited links.

# Recommended Window Size

Topic: \*Finding Information

Use the dashed line at the bottom of the splash page data frame as a guide to adjusting the window width. If your browser's data frame is too narrow, some of the data may be truncated or wrapped incorrectly. For this reason, we recommend that you size your window to the maximum width possible with the right-hand frame comprising about two-thirds of the width of the window. If necessary, you can drag the divider between the left-hand selection frame and the right-hand data frame further to the left to enlarge the data frame.

# Setting Fonts

Topic: \*Finding Information

Online help was written using the fonts and typefaces specified in the Documentation Conventions section of the *3D ACIS Getting Started Guide*. The Times font is used as the proportional serif font and Helvetica is used for the proportional sans serif font. Courier is used for the typewriter or fixed font. Your browser will attempt to locate these fonts on your system. If these fonts are not installed, your browser uses the fonts specified in your browser preferences.

The 3D ACIS Online Help system supports only limited customization of the font display through the default settings of your browser. Changes to the size or style of the font applies to all three frames. Font size and style changes can not be made frame-specific. It is possible to:

- Change the size of fonts in all three frames (simultaneously) for easier reading.
- Change the style of font used in the selection frame for subject lists, book table of content lists, and code type lists (e.g., list of functions, list of classes, etc.). However, you cannot:
  - Change the style of font used in the data frame for reference templates. For example, descriptive text is always in Times Roman, references to code items within descriptive text are always in Helvetica, and code fragments are always in Courier.

We recommend browser font sizes for **all three fonts** be set to the same size. That size should be no smaller than 10 points and no larger than 14 points. You may experiment with browser font sizes until you are satisfied with the appearance of online help. The use of different fonts may cause slight differences in the appearance of displayed text, especially for word wraps and tabs.

Customize font settings for Netscape Communicator 4.x (or higher) through the Edit and Preferences menus. Customize the font settings for Internet Explorer 4.x (or higher) through the View and Internet Options menus.

## Online Help Limitations

Topic: [\\*Finding Information](#)

The current version of 3D ACIS Online Help has the following limitations for the specified browsers and platforms:

### Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.x Windows

#### *Find Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Find full text search button writes the names of topics containing the search string into the selection (left) frame, but due to a limitation in the browser, these appear as text rather than hyperlinks.

Workaround . . . None

Fix . . . . . This problem is fixed in MSIE 4.x. Install MSIE4.x on your PC.

### Netscape Communicator 4.04 Windows

#### *Find Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Find full text search button writes the hyperlinks to topics containing the search string to the selection frame, but clicking on those topics sometimes produces an error indicating the URL cannot be found. The specific symptom is a line wrap (spurious return) within the URL in the error message window. This problem occurs only when you have copied online help from the CD to a *long* pathname on your hard disk or network drive, and when the URLs resulting from Find are longer than 64 characters.

Workaround . . . When online help is on your hard disk: If the problem occurs when accessing help from your computer's hard disk, the workaround is to recopy the online help system to your hard disk with a *short* pathname. For example: C:\acis\_help\ACIS.HTM

When help is on a network drive: If the problem occurs when accessing help from a network drive, such as via `nfs`, the workaround is to shorten the total pathname length by mounting the help file system as a drive, and referencing help in the browser via that drive. For example:  
`file:\\D|my_filesystem\ACIS.HTM`

Fix . . . . . Use online help directly from the CD, or install Netscape 4.02 on your PC.

## **Netscape Navigator Gold 3.01**

### *Find Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Find full text search button writes the hyperlinks to topics containing the search string to the selection frame, but does not display them until the window is resized or the frame is reloaded.

Workaround . . . After executing a Find, select the left frame by clicking anywhere in it, then reload the frame using the menu pulldown or right mouse button.

Fix . . . . . Install Netscape 4.02.

### *Index Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Index button does nothing.

Workaround . . . Click the Index button twice.

Fix . . . . . Install Netscape 4.02.

## **Macintosh Platforms**

### *Find Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Find button does nothing. This is a limitation of the browsers on this platform.

Workaround . . . None

Fix . . . . . None

### *Index Button*

Symptom . . . . . The Index button does nothing. This is a limitation of the browsers on this platform.

Workaround . . . None

Fix . . . . . None

