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Empirical Findings on Effective Documentation of Object Oriented Frameworks

Object-Oriented Frameworks provide an excellent way for proven, debugged solutions to be reused for a particular domain. However, programmers new to a framework often face a steep learning curve. Therefore, good documentation is essential for framework reuse. We conducted a series of experiments in which we gave different documentation styles for the same problem to different groups of learners. Documentation styles studied include Step-by-step Documentation, Patterns, Minimalist Documentation, and JDoc. These experiments suggest some guidelines for how to document frameworks for new users.

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