# Using The USERDocs Folder

The USERDocs folder is a subfolder of the 3D-XplorMath Application folder (the folder in which the 3D-XplorMath application resides) and it provides a mechanism for users of 3D-XplorMath to add their own documentation that will be available from the User Topics submenu of the Documentation menu while the program is running.

The name of any file that you place in the USERDocs folder will appear as an item in the User Topics submenu, and when that item is selected, then the corresponding file will be opened, just as if it had been double-clicked in the Finder, e.g.,

1) If it is a word processor file, then the word processor will open it,
2) If it is an HTML file then the default Web browser will open it.
3) If it is a PDF file then Acrobat, Acrobat Reader, or Preview will open it.
4) If it is a Quicktime movie, then Quicktime Player will open it.
5) If it is a JPEG or GIF file then PictureViewer or your default picture viewing application will open it... and so on.

There are many obvious uses for this mechanism---and some not so obvious ones. On a very basic level, a user can place notes about particular objects in the folder, it's a good place for storing 3D-XplorMath Settings Files, and an instructor who is using 3D-XplorMath as a curriculum aid in a course can store course-related material there, e.g., on Macs located in computer labs associated with the course.

If you put sub-folders in the USERDocs folder, they will appear as submenus of the UserTopics menu. But don't overdo this---folders should not be nested more than a few levels deep.

Instead of putting a file or folder in the USERDocs folder, you may put it elsewhere and place an alias to it in the USERDocs folder. In that case it is the name of the alias that will appear in the User Topics menu, or as the title of the submenu,

The User Topics menu is created when 3D-XplorMath starts up, so if you place more items in the USERDocs folder (or remove any) while the program is running, then you should quit and re-launch 3DFS. If 3D-XplorMath does not find a folder called USERDocs in its Application folder when it starts up, it will create an empty folder there with that name. When the USERDocs folder is empty, the User Topics menu item of the Documentation menu will be dimmed.

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