

## Re: COBOL Newbie

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2006-01/msg00505.html>

---

- *From:* John Culleton <[john@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:john@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 31 Jan 2006 12:08:47 -0500
- 

Harbojam wrote:

> Hey  
>  
> Annybody know any good COBOL websites where i can practice writing  
> COBOL, preferably for begginers,  
>  
> Many Thanks  
>  
> J

No. You can find something if you search under "COBOL" and "tutorial" but this will yield academic sites without much applicability in the real world. Unfortunately many tutorials etc.on COBOL are written by academic types whose major qualification is that they read some books on COBOL written by other academics.

learn by doing. First you download and install something like TinyCobol or Open Source COBOL. Then you get some good books on the subject from your library system. What constitutes a good book depends on what your objective is. Most COBOL jobs for beginners involve maintenance of existing programs, and that means programs written in a very old fashioned style. I would buy/borrow the books from Mike Murach and Associates. Modern books tend to assume that all the latest bells and whistles have been employed. But if you are looking for a COBOL job you need to start with the old stuff first.

The best resource you can employ is reading programs written by others, with a manual or textbook at your side. A manual, even one for a variety of COBOL you don't currently use, is very useful.

I learned from the famous "green books" from IBM but that was in 1968.I doubt if they are available now, even on E-Bay. And they are just a tad out of date...

--  
John Culleton  
Able Indexers and Typesetters  
.

---

- *Follow-Ups:*
  - ◆ *Re: COBOL Newbie*
    - ◇ *From:* Howard Brazee
  
- *References:*
  - ◆ *COBOL Newbie*
    - ◇ *From:* Harbojam
  
- Prev by Date: *Re: Maximized Screen with Acucobol-GT*
- Next by Date: *Re: COBOL Newbie*
- Previous by thread: *COBOL Newbie*
- Next by thread: *Re: COBOL Newbie*
- Index(es):
  - ◆ *Date*
  - ◆ *Thread*