

# The State of Rexx 2024



||| René Vincent Jansen, 35th International Rexx Language Symposium  
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
March 4, 2024

No 1

Implementations

# Rexx is going strong

- ▣ Implementations are up-to-date
  - ▣ ooRexx 5.1 in Beta (to be released GA in 2024; 5.0 GA since 2022)
  - ▣ NetRexx 4.06 GA released today
  - ▣ BREXX for MVS V2R5M3 released last month, will be on MVSTK5 release 3
  - ▣ BREXX for VM/370CE saw fixes
  - ▣ cRexx nearing a first MVP release
  - ▣ Regina REXX is at 3.9.5 and THE at 4.0
  - ▣ REXX/JSON released in december 2023
  - ▣ Bsf4ooRexx 850 released
  - ▣ New Rexx/SQL version is planned - see this year's presentation

# 35th International Rexx Language Symposium

- 35 yearly symposia in a row
- Interesting presentations
- For the first time in Australia
  - After USA, UK, Europe, Aruba (Caribbean)
-

No 2 Publications

# Printed documentation is coming back

- This year will see the release of a lot of Rexx related printed books
  - This will start with the NetRexx 4.06 book
- A number (15) of Symposium Proceedings books are currently in print
- We are looking to resurrect still-current out-of-print books of which copyright has been reverted to the author
  
- All printing work is on-demand
  - quality is very high
  - no undue investment in inventory

# RexxLA Symposium proceedings Years 2023-2008 now available





## 2013 INTERNATIONAL REXX LANGUAGE SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

These are the proceedings of the 2013 International Rexx Language Symposium, organized by the Rexx Language Association.

€27,69 PAPERBACK

 **BUY NOW**

ISBN: 9789403733227

130 pages

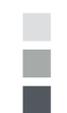
### About Rexx Language Association

The Rexx Language Association (RexxLA) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use and understanding of the Rexx programming language. RexxLA manages several open source implementations of the Rexx language, and organizes a yearly International Rexx Language Symposium.

When ordered from the [rexsla.org](http://rexsla.org) website link, the books will benefit RexxLA optimally.



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www.mijnbestseller.nl/site/?r=userwebsite/index&id=rexxla/allb

← Rexx Language Association

 <p><b>2013</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2014</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2010</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2008</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>
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 <p><b>2009</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2011</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2012</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>	 <p><b>2015</b> International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</p> <p>Rexx Language Association</p>
<p>2009 International Rexx Language Symposium...</p> <p> PAPERBACK €33,91</p>	<p>2011 International Rexx Language Symposium...</p> <p> PAPERBACK €32,36</p>	<p>2012 International Rexx Language Symposium...</p> <p> PAPERBACK €53,48</p>	<p>2015 International Rexx Language Symposium...</p> <p> PAPERBACK €53,48</p>



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 Platon

**Book Language**  
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**Condition**  
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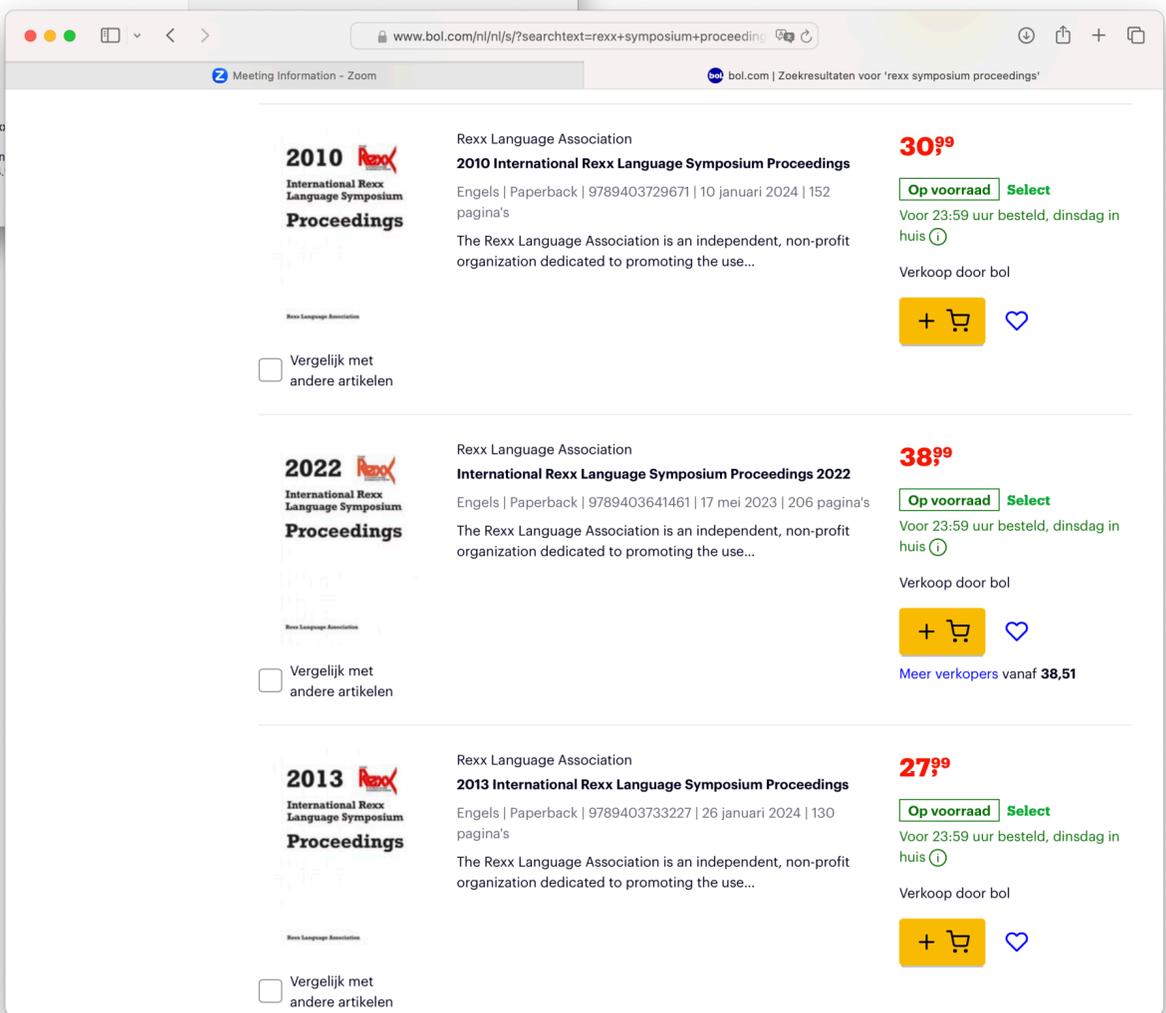
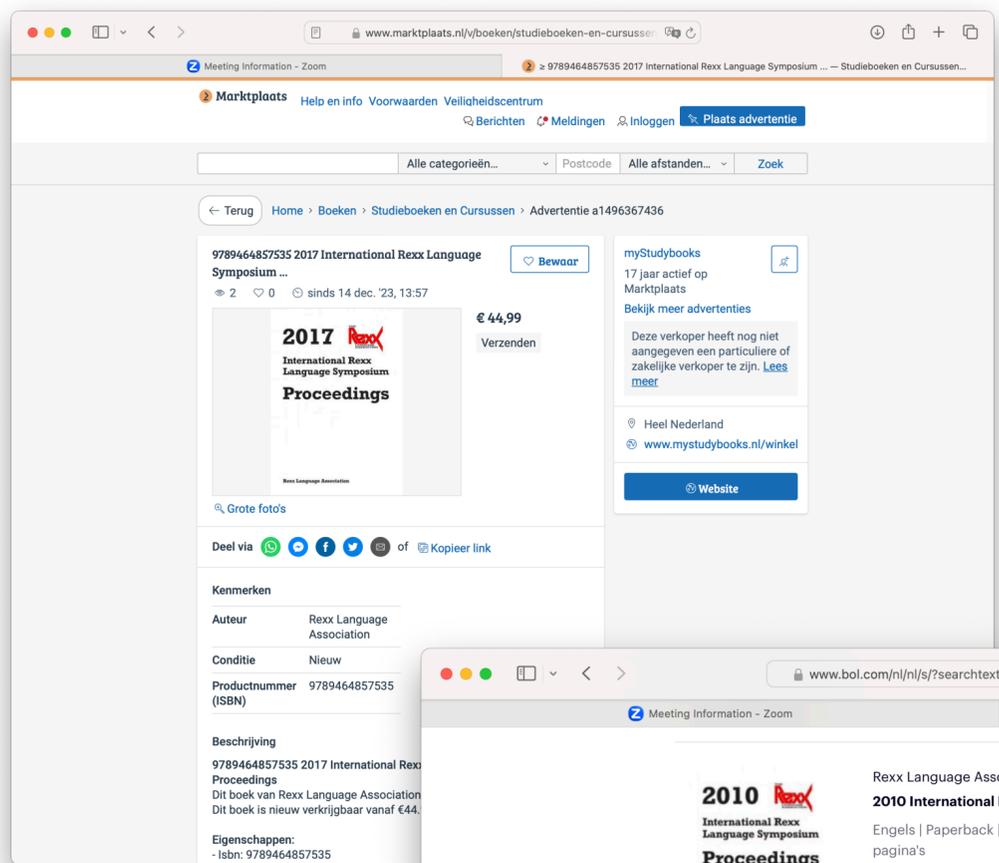
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<p><b>2013</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p> <p><small>Rexx Language Association</small></p> <p>2013 International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings        English edition        by Rexx Language Association</p> <p><b>Paperback</b>        €27<sup>69</sup></p> <p>✓prime FREE One-Day Delivery. Get it tomorrow, 4 Mar        Only 4 left in stock (more on the way).</p>	<p><b>2009</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p> <p><small>Rexx Language Association</small></p> <p>2009 International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings        English edition        by Rexx Language Association</p> <p><b>Paperback</b>        €33<sup>91</sup></p> <p>✓prime FREE One-Day Delivery. Get it tomorrow, 4 Mar        Only 4 left in stock (more on the way).</p>	<p><b>2015</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p> <p><small>Rexx Language Association</small></p> <p>2015 International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings        English edition        by Rexx Language Association</p> <p><b>Paperback</b>        €53<sup>48</sup></p> <p>✓prime FREE One-Day Delivery. Get it tomorrow, 4 Mar</p>
<p><b>2010</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p>	<p><b>2011</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p>	<p><b>2016</b> </p> <p><b>International Rexx Language Symposium Proceedings</b></p>

Books can also be ordered from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) (or its national variants)

In this case the books will be printed locally but RexxLA does not receive any royalties.



The Proceedings also turn up on other websites like [bol.com](http://bol.com) and [marktplaats.nl](http://marktplaats.nl)

# The books are produced using Rexx (of course)

```

emacs writeyear.rexx
FILE EDIT OPTIONS BUFFERS TOOLS INDEX OOREXX HELP
/* REXX FOR WRITING ALL PRESENTATIONS FOR A YEAR TO A .TEX FILE */
YEAR=DIRECTORY().SUBSTR(DIRECTORY().LASTPOS('/')+1)
SAY DATE() TIME() 'STARTING WRITEYEAR FOR' YEAR
LINEOUT('PRESENTATIONS.TEX','% PRESENTATIONS FOR 'YEAR,1)

-- GET THE LOCATION
I6STEM=''; I6STEM=I6STEM
I6STEM[0]=2
O6UTSTEM=''
I6STEM[1]='CONNECT REXXLA;'
I6STEM[2]='SELECT LOCATION, STARTDATE, ENDDATE, ISBN FROM EVENT WHERE YEAR ='YEAR';'
ADDRESS SYSTEM 'MYSQL' WITH -
  INPUT STEM I6STEM -
  OUTPUT STEM O6UTSTEM

PARSE O6UTSTEM[2] LOCATION'\T'FROMDATE'\T'TODATE'\T'ISBN
IF LOCATION.POS('ONLINE') > 0 THEN COUPLING = ''
ELSE COUPLING = 'IN'
IF LOCATION.WORD(1)='ARUBA' THEN COUPLING = 'ON'

IF ISBN='NULL' THEN ISBN='978-94-036-0000-0'

PARSE ISBN EEN +3 TWEE +2 DRIE +3 VIER +4 VIJF
ISBN = EEN-'TWEE'-'DRIE'-'VIER'-'VIJF

FROMDATE=FROMDATE.TRANSLATE(' ','-')
FROMDATE=FROMDATE.SPACE(0)
FROMDATE=DATE('N',FROMDATE,'S')
TODATE=TODATE.TRANSLATE(' ','-')
TODATE=TODATE.SPACE(0)
TODATE=DATE('N',TODATE,'S')

LOCATIONSTRING= COUPLING LOCATION 'FROM' FROMDATE 'TO' TODATE'.'

-- LIST THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
I5STEM=''; I5STEM=I5STEM
I5STEM[0]=2
-UUU:--- F1 WRITEYEAR.REXX Top (1,0) GIT-MASTER (OOREXX) -----

```

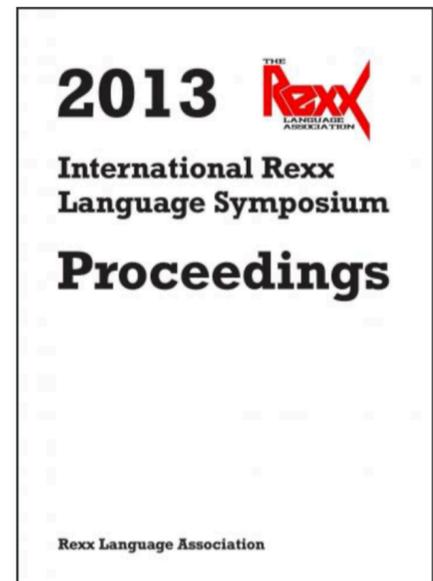
Which produces Latex files from Mark Hessling's [rexxla.org](http://rexxla.org) database

```

emacs writeyear.rexx
FILE EDIT OPTIONS BUFFERS TOOLS TeX TEXT HELP
E IN OOREXX 3.2)
\SECTION*(DATE AND TIME) 29 APR 2008, 15:00:00 CET
\SECTION*(PRESENTER) RICK MCGUIRE
\SECTION*(PRESENTER DETAILS)\FUSSY As AT 2008:
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F}
\CHAPTER(\DETOKENIZE{THE OOREXX 4.X APIs AND CREATING EXTENSION CLASSES IN C++} -- \DETOKENIZE{ DAVID ASHLEY })\LABEL{THE O
OREXX 4.X APIs AND CREATING EXTENSION CLASSES IN C++}
\SECTION*(DATE AND TIME) 29 APR 2008, 18:30:00 CET
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\SECTION*(PRESENTER DETAILS)\FUSSY As OF 2010:
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\SECTION*(DATE AND TIME) 29 APR 2008, 20:00:00 CET
\SECTION*(PRESENTER) RICK MCGUIRE
\SECTION*(PRESENTER DETAILS)\FUSSY As AT 2008:
\SECTION*(SESSION ABSTRACT)\FUSSY AN INFORMAL TOUR OF HOW THE OOREXX CODE IS STRUCTURED AND ORGANIZED.
\INCLUDEPDF[PAGECOMMAND={\THISPAGESTYLE{PLAIN}},PAGES=-,NUP=1x2]{/VOLUMES/DATA/REXXLA/PRESENTATIONS/2008/REXX OBJECTS.PDF}
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\SECTION*(PRESENTER DETAILS)\FUSSY As AT 2008:
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\INCLUDEPDF[PAGECOMMAND={\THISPAGESTYLE{PLAIN}},PAGES=-,NUP=1x2]{/VOLUMES/DATA/REXXLA/PRESENTATIONS/2008/OOREXXINTERNETCLASSES
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\CHAPTER(\DETOKENIZE{DUMPVARS - A WRAPPER FOR SysDUMPVARIABLES} -- \DETOKENIZE{ LES KOEHLER })\LABEL{DUMPVARS - A WRAPPER
FOR SysDUMPVARIABLES}
\SECTION*(DATE AND TIME) 1 MAY 2008, 12:30:00 CET
\SECTION*(PRESENTER) LES KOEHLER
\SECTION*(PRESENTER DETAILS)\FUSSY ABOUT THE SPEAKER: LES HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH \REXX{} SINCE HE RECEIVED THE INITIAL DI
STRIBUTION OF MIKE COWLISHAW'S FIRST SPECIFICATION ON 1 MAY 1979 AT THE IBM RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK LAB JUST OUTSIDE RALEIGH NC\
-UUU:--- F1 PRESENTATIONS.TEX 63% (43,126) GIT-MASTER (LATEX FILL) -----

```

Which is compiled to PDF



No 3

The Future of Rexx(LA)

# Our population of Rexx users is ageing

- Alan Malsher: we need an action plan to attract younger people
  - For continuity
  - Find out what is cool
    - Performance is an eternal attraction
      - Need good benchmarks
    - GUI, AI, browser, data
  - We'll have a comittee

No 4 ARB Activities

# Architecture Review Board

- We restarted ARB activity last year
  - Proposals worked on
    - ISO8601 Date function
    - Unicode Implementation Standard
      - Document and several implementation prototypes
    - Executable search order investigation
    - Regular Expressions
- Re-format of restarted Dallas Draft document (Standard Extended Rexx)
- But everything "in flight"; results expected later in 2024

No 5

New Repositories

# RexxLA repository

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for RexxLA/rexx-repository. The repository is public and has 11 stars, 1 fork, and 4 issues. The main content area displays a list of files and folders, including .vscode, ARB, Classic\_Rexx, NetRexx, Object\_Rexx, .gitignore, ARB.bib, README.md, Unicode.Implimentation.pdf, Unicode.Implimentation.tex, and Unicode.bib. The repository description is "Source and Library repository for all things Rexx". The languages section shows the following distribution: REXX 71.8%, TeX 9.2%, C 7.0%, Visual Basic 6.0 3.0%, Apex 2.8%, Makefile 2.7%, and Other 3.5%.

File/Folder	Commit Message	Time Ago
.vscode	add to unicode	last year
ARB	Add regina version of gc, prepare tests for Symp...	last week
Classic_Rexx	upd	2 weeks ago
NetRexx	remove class files	5 years ago
Object_Rexx	add oorexx and netrexx samples	5 years ago
.gitignore	add .gitignore	4 years ago
ARB.bib	Add files via upload	5 months ago
README.md	Update README.md	last year
Unicode.Implimentation.pdf	Add files via upload	4 months ago
Unicode.Implimentation.tex	Add files via upload	4 months ago
Unicode.bib	Add files via upload	4 months ago

A growing collection of Rexx examples and ARB work-in-progress

Also: historic material

# The Rexx Knowledge Repository

wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/rexx/rexxref/searchref.html 1340 /1340

Search...

Author	Title	Year	Where
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">A Reformed EXecutor - REX: Initial specification</a>	1979	
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">FIRSTREX, the first REX test program</a>	1979	<a href="#">More</a>
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">QT, an early REXX program</a>	1979	<a href="#">More</a>
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">REX 1.04 announcement for VMNews</a>	1979	
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">Rex 2.08: Rex Reference Summary</a>	1980	IBM UK Laboratories: Hursley Park, Winchester, England
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">Rex 2.08: Rex Reference Summary - Text Macro Processor source</a>	1980	IBM UK Laboratories: Hursley Park, Winchester, England
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">CASE, an early 'bilingual' XEDIT Macro</a>	1981	<a href="#">More</a>
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">REX 2.50 News memo</a>	1981	
Cowlshaw, Mike	<a href="#">REX -- A Command Programming Language</a>	1981	SHARE. Retrieved <a href="#">More</a>
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">REXX for VM/SP3 announcement</a>	1983	
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">REX 3.20 news - final internal release</a>	1983	
David Beech	A reference model for command and response languages	1984	Proc. of the IFIP WG 6.5 working conference on Computer-based message services
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">JUSTONE, a unique word sorter</a>	1984	<a href="#">More</a>
Mike Cowlshaw	<a href="#">Histogram of REX module sizes</a>	1984	<a href="#">More</a>
Mark R Laff, Brent Hailpern	<a href="#">SW 2-An object-based programming environment</a>	1985	ACM New York, NY, USA <a href="#">More</a>
Robert P O'Hara, David R	Modern Programming Using REXX	1985	Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Generated on 2023-12-19 Source available on [Gitlab](#)

<https://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/rexx/rexxref/searchref.html>  
(but will be available from [rexxla.org](https://rexxla.org) soon)

Till Winkler will explain in his talk during this symposium how it all works.

I wish you a very enjoyable 35th  
International Rexx Symposium.