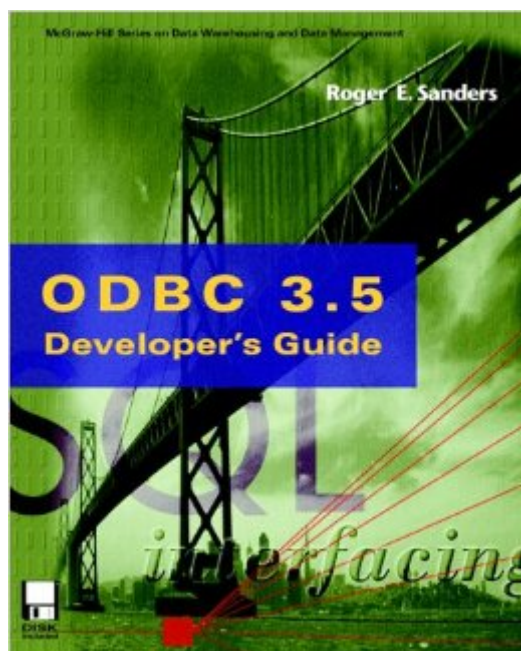


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# ODBC 3.5 Developer's Guide



## Synopsis

While other guides may overload you with everything you could possibly know about ODBC (Open Database Connectivity), this one delivers exactly the information you need - no more, no less. Perfect for intermediate- to advanced-level developers, it's your complete, time-saving, at-a-glance guide to mastering ODBC 3.5, the Call Level Interface standard for communicating between relational and object-relational database systems in the Windows environment.

## Book Information

Series: McGraw-Hill Series on Data Warehousing and Data Management

Paperback: 974 pages

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Companies; Pap/Dsk edition (September 10, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0070580871

ISBN-13: 978-0070580879

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 7.4 x 2.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,016,084 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Networks, Protocols & APIs > ODBC](#) #1766 in [Books > Textbooks > Computer Science > Database Storage & Design](#) #5816 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data](#)

## Customer Reviews

Although the author notes this book doesn't contain any Unicode issue, there are many incorrect descriptions regarding the text data type and missing information about ODBC 3.5 new features. For example, column size of data may represent the length of data in characters in case the data is text, while this book describe explicitly "in bytes". The meanings are totally different especially when you handle non-Latin text data. I should recommend the serious user/developer to get Microsoft official documents and I should say this book is not based on ODBC 3.5, rather, ODBC 3.0.

I bought the book based on the description of it being "complete" and "designed to provide you with everything you need" and was disappointed to find that it does not contain the ODBC SQL grammar. So it is NOT complete. I could not even find any references in it to how to find the SQL Grammar. Without knowing the ODBC SQL grammar it would be hard to write an interoperable

application (the point of ODBC after all) with only this book. The book, however, is excellent (5 stars), especially with the ODBC specification development history, but incomplete, and the blurbs (1 star) misleading.

I bought this book as an ODBC virgin. I had no clue what it did, but I knew I needed to know. This book is good in explaining the fundamentals of ODBC, but when it gets to the part of actually creating code to use ODBC, it falls well short. As a beginner, I need a lot of code to peruse, and I need it to be straightforward. What would have been good is if the author included snippets of C code in the pertaining sections that explained, for example, connecting to data sources, initializing environments, etc. However, no code was ever presented until he started enumerating each of the functions. This was not a smart place to put it. Not only that, but instead of using straightforward C code directly in the example, he all of a sudden wraps ODBC calls in a C++ class, which just serves to muddy the overall picture. It would have been best to leave the ODBC code in straight "C", to make it easier for the beginners to fully understand what was going on.

A software development book has to be pretty good for me to give it a 5 star rating, and this one really is. An associate of mine said he needed to learn more about ODBC, and I explained that this book is great as a reference AND as a tutorial. That's a claim that can be made about a precious few books. Later, I happened to be reading the foreword (not written by the author of the book), and that's exactly what the guy who wrote it said about this book, and it really is true. Things in this book are where I expect them to be. I don't have to look very long to find what I want. If you need to do ODBC programming, I can't imagine that there's a better book out there to use as a guide.

I've spent tons of time wading through ODBC specifications, online help, doc after doc after doc looking for the information that this book provides all in one reference. Oh, the time I would have saved if this had existed when I started developing ODBC drivers! The excellent cross-reference between ODBC Spec levels is SO useful. Having great code examples FOR EACH API is wonderful. From the high-level explanation of ODBC key concepts all the way to the last detailed SQLState, Roger Sanders has provided us with a diamond in the rough of ODBC books... Thanks!

This is a very good reference book for day-to-day ODBC programming. It's easy to look up functions for a particular task and every function has an accompanying example. As noted earlier it may not completely follow some of the standard but for most of my purpose it's good enough. My main complaint

is that a reference book of this volume should really be published as a set of HTML pages with a search engine. (No eBook, please!)

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