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Page text variables are string variables created in the wiki text of a page, and can be automatically made available for inclusion in other pages.

Defining Page Text Variables

There are three ways to define automated Page Text Variables:

- use a [definition list](#) - the normal pmwiki markup for a definition list will create a page text variable

```
:Name: Crisses "{$:Name}" Name Crisses "Crisses"
```

This creates a new variable that can be accessed by `{$:Name}` (becomes: "Crisses") in the page.

- use a simple colon delimiter in normal text

```
Address: 1313 Mockingbird Lane           Address: 1313 Mockingbird Lane "{$:Address}"  
"{$:Address}"                           Lane"
```

This creates the `{$:Address}` variable (variable markup becomes: "1313 Mockingbird Lane") in the page.

- hidden [directive](#) form - [Pm Wiki](#) markup that doesn't render on the page, but defines the variable

```
(:Country: Transylvania :) "{$:Country}" "Transylvania "
```

This creates the `{$:Country}` variable (variable markup becomes: "Transylvania ") in the page.

Usage

Usage on the same page

On the same page you can resolve page text variables through the `{$:Var}` format (shown above).

Usage in headers and footers: special references

If you want a [Group Header](#), [Group Footer](#), [Side Bar?](#), etc to call on page text variable in the main page, you need to include special reference information.

To explicitly reference the page text variable from the page being displayed add an asterisk to the page text variable's markup: `{*$:Address}` on the [Group Footer](#) or [Group Header](#) page.

```
{*$:City}
```

To include a page text variable *from* a header or footer see [usage from other pages](#) below.

Special references also apply to [page variables](#) and [page list templates](#).

Usage from other pages

If you want to pull the data from another page, use the `{Group/PageName$:Var}` format.

```
Suburb: Khandallah (:Lake:Taupo:) :Mountain:Mt
Ruapehu -> "{PmWiki/PageTextVariables$:Suburb}"
-> "{ {$FullName}$:Lake}"
-> "{PmWiki/PageTextVariables$:Mountain}"
```

```
Suburb: Khandallah MountainMt
Ruapehu "Khandallah" "Taupo" "Mt
Ruapehu"
```

Usage from included pages Page text variables are never [included](#) from their source page. See [Usage from other pages](#) above to refer to a page text variable on another page.

Usage with pagelists [Page lists](#) can also access the page text variables:

```
(:pagelist group=PmWiki order=$:Summary
count=6 fmt=#singleline:)
```

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And to create pagelist formats (such as those documented at [Site.Page List Templates](#), [Page Lists](#), [Page List Templates](#), [Page Variables](#). Store custom pagelists at [Site.Local Templates?](#)).

[Page lists](#) can also use page text variables to select pages :

```
(:pagelist group=PmWiki $:City=Paris count=8 fmt=#singleline order=-name:)
```

lists pages having '\$:City' set to 'Paris'.

```
(:pagelist group=PmWiki $:City="Addis
Ababa,Paris" order=-$:Version count=8
fmt=#singleline:)
```

'quotes' must surround *all* the selections.

- When using page text variables for selection or ordering, don't put the curly braces around the variable name. The curly forms do a replacement before the pagelist command is evaluated.

Testing if set or not set

<code>=-</code>	PTV is set (is not empty), eg <code>(:pagelist \$:Var=- :)</code>
<code>=-?*</code>	PTV is not set (is empty), ie not one character followed by 0 or more characters, eg. <code>(:pagelist \$:Var=-?* :)</code>
<code>=*</code>	display <i>all</i> pages, regardless of the page text variable (slow)
<code>=-*</code>	display <i>no</i> pages, regardless of the page text variable (slow)

Tip: `(:if ! equal "{$:PTV}" "")` will test if PTV is empty/unset or not.

```
(:pagelist group=PmWiki $:Summary=-?* count=6 fmt=#singleline:)
```

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Use page text variable in a template Display pages by Audience page text variable.

```
>>comment<< [[#byaudience]] (:if ! equal {=${:Audience}: {=${Name}?
' {=${:Audience}' '{<${:Audience}':)
- <' '{=${:Audience}''': (:ifend:)
[[{=${Name}}]] [[#byaudienceend]] >><<
(:pagelist group=PmWiki count=10
fmt=#byaudience order=-${:Audience:})
```

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[AccessKeys authors, admins \(intermediate\) :](#)
[PageLists authors, admins \(advanced\) :](#)
[ConditionalMarkup authors \(intermediate\) :](#)
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Use page text variables in [conditional markup](#) Page text variables will be assigned/evaluated **before** any conditional markup is evaluated. This effectively means that you cannot declare a PTV within an if...else condition; and also that a PTV will have a value even if it is set within a (:if false:)...(:if:) condition.

Usage - from within code (developers only) The standard [Page Var?](#) (\$pagename, \$varname) function can return page text variables, but remember to include the dollar and colon like this:

```
$var=PageVar($pagename, '${:City}')
```

It works by caching all page (text) variables it finds in a page (in \$PCache) and returns the one requested.