
NSSearchField Class Reference

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NSSearchField Class Reference

Inherits from	NSTextField : NSControl : NSView : NSResponder : NSObject
Conforms to	NSUserInterfaceValidations (NSTextField) NSAnimatablePropertyContainer (NSView) NSCoding (NSResponder) NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.
Companion guide	Search Fields
Declared in	NSSearchField.h
Related sample code	IdentitySample iSpend PDFKitLinker2 SearchField SpotlightAPI

Overview

An `NSSearchField` object implements a text field control that is optimized for performing text-based searches. The control provides a customized text field for entering search data, a search button, a cancel button, and a pop-up icon menu for listing recent search strings and custom search categories.

An `NSSearchField` object wraps an `NSSearchFieldCell` object. Access to most search field attributes occurs through the cell, which provides a more comprehensive programmatic interface for manipulating the search field. You can use an `NSSearchField` object though to manipulate some aspects of the search field. For additional information about search fields and how to manipulate them, see the `NSSearchFieldCell` class.

Tasks

Managing Recent Searches

- [setRecentSearches:](#) (page 7)

Sets the list of recent search strings to list in the pop-up icon menu of the receiver.

- [recentSearches](#) (page 6)
Returns the list of recent search strings for the control.

Managing Autosave Name

- [setRecentsAutosaveName:](#) (page 7)
Sets the autosave name under which the receiver automatically archives the list of recent search strings.
- [recentsAutosaveName](#) (page 6)
Returns the key under which the prior list of recent search strings has been archived.

Instance Methods

recentsAutosaveName

Returns the key under which the prior list of recent search strings has been archived.

```
- (NSString *)recentsAutosaveName
```

Return Value

The autosave name, which is used as a key in the standard user defaults to save the recent searches. The default value is `nil`, which causes searches not to be autosaved.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [setRecentsAutosaveName:](#) (page 7)

Declared In

NSSearchField.h

recentSearches

Returns the list of recent search strings for the control.

```
- (NSArray *)recentSearches
```

Return Value

An array of `NSString` objects, each of which contains a search string either displayed in the search menu or from a recent autosave archive. If there have been no recent searches and no prior searches saved under an autosave name, this array may be empty.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [setRecentSearches:](#) (page 7)

Declared In

NSSearchField.h

setRecentsAutosaveName:

Sets the autosave name under which the receiver automatically archives the list of recent search strings.

- (void)setRecentsAutosaveName:(NSString *)*name*

Parameters

name

The autosave name, which is used as a key in the standard user defaults to save the recent searches. If you specify *nil* or an empty string for this parameter, no autosave name is set and searches are not autosaved.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [recentsAutosaveName](#) (page 6)

Declared In

NSSearchField.h

setRecentSearches:

Sets the list of recent search strings to list in the pop-up icon menu of the receiver.

- (void)setRecentSearches:(NSArray *)*searches*

Parameters

searches

An array of *NSString* objects containing the search strings.

Discussion

You might use this method to set the recent list of searches from an archived copy.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [recentSearches](#) (page 6)

Declared In

NSSearchField.h

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSSearchField Class Reference*.

Date	Notes
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

REVISION HISTORY

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