

# AI-03287 Robohelp 2022 Printed Table of Contents

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In Robohelp 2022, I'm trying to figure out how to create an actual table of contents- an actual pages in the beginning of my RH2022 pdf generated file. What I've got is nothing except pdf bookmarks in the left pane. Create a step by step on how to create pages with >3000 topics in the first portions of my pdf output.

Below is a **clear, practical, step-by-step procedure** to generate a **real, printed Table of Contents (TOC)** as pages at the beginning of a **RoboHelp 2022 PDF**, not just bookmarks in the left pane. This works even for **very large projects (3,000+ topics)**.

I'll also explain **why bookmarks appear by default but pages do not**, because that's the root of the confusion.

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## Key Concept (Important Before You Start)

In **RoboHelp 2022**, there are **two completely different TOCs**:

1. **PDF Bookmarks** → Generated automatically from your RoboHelp TOC
2. **Printed TOC pages** → Generated **only if you explicitly insert a TOC placeholder into the PDF Layout**

You currently have #1. You are missing #2.

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## STEP-BY-STEP: Create Actual TOC Pages in PDF Output (RH 2022)

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## STEP 1 — Verify You Have a Proper RoboHelp TOC

1. Go to **Author > Table of Contents**
2. Open or create a TOC (example: `Main_TOC` )
3. Ensure:
  - Topics are properly nested
  - Titles are meaningful (these become TOC entries)
  - Avoid extremely deep nesting (5–6 levels max is ideal)

| ✓ This TOC will drive BOTH bookmarks and printed TOC pages.

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## STEP 2 — Open Your PDF Output Preset

1. Go to **Output > Presets**
  2. Open your **PDF Output Preset**
  3. Click **Edit**
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## STEP 3 — Switch to the “PDF Layout” Tab (Critical Step)

1. In the preset editor, select **PDF Layout**
2. You will see sections like:
  - Cover Page
  - Front Matter
  - Content
  - Back Matter

| ⚠ By default, Front Matter is empty — this is why you don't get TOC pages.

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## STEP 4 — Insert a Printed TOC Placeholder (THIS CREATES PAGES)

1. In **PDF Layout**, click **Front Matter**
2. Click **+ Add**
3. Choose **Table of Contents**
4. Select:
  - Your TOC (e.g., `Main_TOC`)
  - TOC Style (Default is fine initially)
5. Click **OK**

 This action creates **actual TOC pages** in the PDF.

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## STEP 5 — Configure TOC Pagination (Very Important for Large TOCs)

With **3,000+ topics**, pagination matters.

1. Select the newly added **Table of Contents** in Front Matter
2. Configure:
  - **Start on new page** → ON
  - **Page numbering** → Roman numerals (i, ii, iii...) recommended
3. Ensure **Continue TOC across pages** is enabled

| RoboHelp automatically splits the TOC into multiple pages.

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## STEP 6 — Control TOC Depth (Critical for 3,000+ Topics)

If you don't limit depth, your TOC will be unreadable and slow.

1. Still in the **TOC settings**
2. Set **TOC Levels**:

- Recommended: **2 or 3 levels max**
3. Deep topics remain accessible via bookmarks and hyperlinks.

| Best practice for large manuals:

- Level 1 = Major sections
  - Level 2 = Subsections
  - Everything else → bookmarks/search
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## STEP 7 — Enable Hyperlinked Page Numbers

1. In TOC settings:
  - Enable **Clickable entries**
  - Enable **Show page numbers**

This makes your printed TOC fully functional.

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## STEP 8 — Ensure Bookmarks Are Still Generated

1. Go to **PDF Output > Advanced Settings**
2. Confirm:
  - **Generate Bookmarks** → ON
  - **Bookmarks source** → TOC

| This keeps left-pane navigation intact.

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## STEP 9 — Generate the PDF

1. Save the preset
2. Click **Generate**
3. Open the PDF and verify:
  - TOC appears **as pages at the beginning**

- Entries span multiple pages
  - Page numbers and links work
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## PERFORMANCE & SCALABILITY TIPS (3,000+ Topics)

### ✓ Recommended Setup

Item	Recommendation
TOC Levels	2–3
Front Matter	Roman numerals
Bookmarks	Full depth
Topic Titles	Short, consistent
PDF Engine	Latest RH PDF Engine

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### ✗ What NOT to Do

- Do not use all 3,000 topics in printed TOC
  - Do not exceed 3 TOC levels
  - Do not rely on bookmarks alone for printed manuals
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## Why You Only Saw Bookmarks Before

RoboHelp:

- **Always generates bookmarks automatically**
- **Never generates printed TOC pages unless you explicitly add a TOC component**

This is **by design**, not a bug.

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# Recommended Large-Manual Strategy (Professional Standard)

For manuals this size:

- **Printed TOC** → High-level navigation (2–3 levels)
  - **PDF Bookmarks** → Full hierarchy
  - **Search** → Detailed access
  - **Mini-TOCs** → At chapter starts (optional)
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## If You Want Next

I can:

- Provide **TOC design templates** for massive PDFs
- Show **multi-volume PDF strategies**
- Explain **Mini-TOCs per chapter**
- Help with **pagination rules & styling**

Just tell me how you want to extend this.