Ruby master - Bug #18163
Unclear String documentation of <=> and casecmp methods
09/13/2021 03:32 PM - pvalena (Pavel Valena)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignee:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target version:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backport:</td>
<td>2.6: DONTNEED, 2.7: DONTNEED, 3.0: REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ruby -v:
ruby 3.0.2p107 (2021-07-07 revision 0db68f0233) [x86_64-linux]

Description
I have a new student learning Ruby, and there are apparent inconsistencies in Ruby documentation. The problem appears to be in the order of parameters / variables self and other_string.

<=>
https://docs.ruby-lang.org/en/3.0.0/String.html#method-i-3C-3D-3E

Firstly it says:

```ruby
string <=> other_string → -1, 0, 1, or nil
-1 if other_string is smaller.
```

I'd expect 'B' <=> 'A' to result in -1 since 'B' is smaller. However that's not the case.

```ruby
irb(main):001:0> 'B' <=> 'A'
=> 1
```

casecmp
https://docs.ruby-lang.org/en/3.0.0/String.html#method-i-casecmp

Identical issue, but I think more apparent is with casecmp

casecmp(other_str) → -1, 0, 1, or nil
-1 if other_string is smaller.

From the description, I expect other_str = 'food' in the following example:

```ruby
'foo'.casecmp('food') # => -1
```

food (other_string) is however not smaller than foo, so I'd expect the result to be 1.

History
#1 - 09/13/2021 03:35 PM - pvalena (Pavel Valena)

I'd expect 'B' <=> 'A' to result in -1 since 'B' is smaller.

This should've been: since 'A' is smaller.

#2 - 09/13/2021 03:57 PM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

- Backport changed from 2.6: UNKNOWN, 2.7: UNKNOWN, 3.0: UNKNOWN to 2.6: DONTNEED, 2.7: DONTNEED, 3.0: REQUIRED
- Status changed from Open to Closed

The documentation was fixed in 7f4e86804d426d79807cc038fe444f7c65f5c4a, but it hasn't been backported to 3.0. I'm marking it for backporting.