

Loading JSON From Rails with jQuery, Avoiding 406 Error

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First of all I should point out that I'm quite new to Rails (and jQuery) and the interactions between it and JQuery, which may be the reason that some of you may consider this a rather basic hint.

However whilst working on membermeister.com I've recently had some trouble loading JSON data from our Rails backend. It seemed like a very trivial task at first, all we needed was a GET request that was answered by a format.json response from the Rails controller.

Simplified the request looked something like this:

```
$.ajax({  
  url: "/invoices/" + invoiceid + "/pay",  
  type: "GET"  
})
```

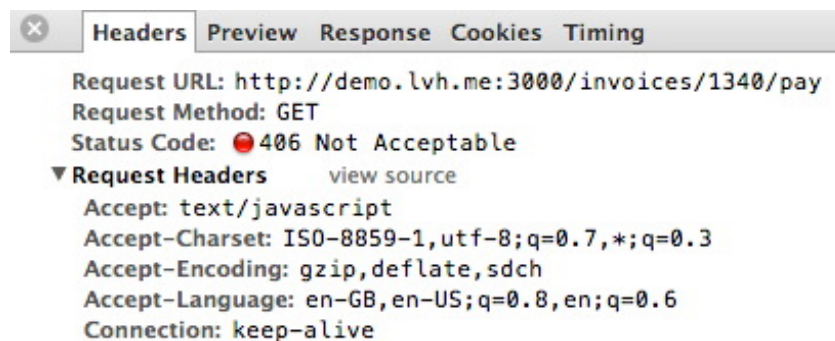
However Rails was returning a '406 Not Acceptable' error, suggesting the request I was sending was not something it was instructed to handle.

In my noobness I tried passing

```
dataType: "json",
```

I also tried

```
contentType: "json"
```



The screenshot shows the 'Headers' tab of a browser's developer tools. The request URL is `http://demo.lvh.me:3000/invoices/1340/pay` and the method is `GET`. The status code is `406 Not Acceptable`. The 'Request Headers' section is expanded, showing the following headers: `Accept: text/javascript`, `Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1, utf-8; q=0.7, *; q=0.3`, `Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch`, `Accept-Language: en-GB, en-US; q=0.8, en; q=0.6`, and `Connection: keep-alive`.

but always got this error:

In the end the fix was quite simple but had evaded me for a while:

```
beforeSend: setHeader
```

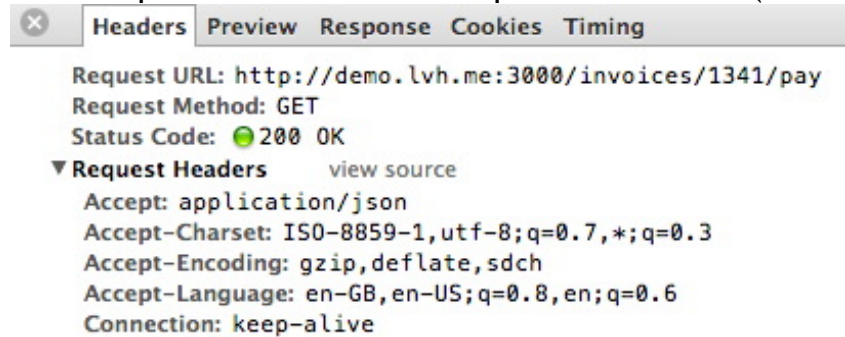
followed by

```
function setHeader(xhr) {  
  xhr.setRequestHeader("Accept", "application/json");  
}
```

The complete function looked (simplified) like this:

```
$.ajax({  
  url: "/invoices/" + invoiceid + "/pay",  
  type: "GET",  
  beforeSend: setHeader  
}).done(function() {  
  ...  
});  
  
function setHeader(xhr) {  
  xhr.setRequestHeader("Accept", "application/json");  
}
```

Once implemented the GET request succeeded (notice the Accept Request Header).



The screenshot shows the 'Headers' tab in a browser's developer tools. The request URL is `http://demo.lvh.me:3000/invoices/1341/pay` and the method is GET. The status code is 200 OK. Under 'Request Headers', the following headers are listed: `Accept: application/json`, `Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7,*;q=0.3`, `Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate,sdch`, `Accept-Language: en-GB,en-US;q=0.8,en;q=0.6`, and `Connection: keep-alive`.

Hopefully this saves someone some grief. Loading JSON from Rails seems well documented, and so are 406 errors, but I had trouble finding the fix in this case because I wasn't 100% sure the issue was on the jQuery side...