Title

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displayas( ) — Set display level

Description

`displayas(`*level*`)` sets whether and how subsequent output is to be displayed.

Syntax

void `displayas(`*string scalar level*`)`

where *level* may be

level	Minimum abbreviation
`"result"`	`"res"`
`"text"`	`"txt"`
`"error"`	`"err"`
`"input"`	`"inp"`

Remarks and examples

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If this function is never invoked, then the output level is `result`. Say that Mata was invoked in such a way that all output except error messages is being suppressed (for example, `quietly` was coded in front of the `mata` command or in front of the ado-file that called your Mata function). If output is being suppressed, then Mata output is being suppressed, including any output created by your program. Say that you reach a point in your program where you wish to output an error message. You coded

```
printf("{err:you made a mistake}\n")
```

Even though you coded the SMCL directive `{err:}`, the error message will still be suppressed. SMCL determines how something is rendered, not whether it is rendered. What you need to code is

```
displayas("err")
printf("{err:you made a mistake}\n")
```

Actually, you could code

```
displayas("err")
printf("you made a mistake\n")
```

because, in addition to setting the output level (telling Stata that all subsequent output is of the specified level), it also sets the current SMCL rendering to what is appropriate for that kind of output. Hence, if you coded

```
displayas("err")
printf("{res:you made a mistake}\n")
```

the text `you made a mistake` would appear in the style of results despite any `quietly`s attempting to suppress output. Coding the above is considered bad style.

Conformability

`displayas(`*level*`)`:

level:	1×1
result:	*void*

Diagnostics

`displayas(`*level*`)` aborts with error if *level* contains an inappropriate string.

Also see

[M-5] **display( )** — Display text interpreting SMCL

[M-5] **printf( )** — Format output

[M-4] **IO** — I/O functions