Biblatex Cheat Sheet

For further details, explanations, hints, caveats, examples and alternatives to the backend Biber, see the Biblatex manual. For a list of *contributed* styles and extensions, see ctan.org/topic/biblatex.

Basic Setup

Compilation sequence: pdflatex → biber → pdflatex (×2).

```
\documentclass[<language option>]{<class>}
...
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
\usepackage{babel,csquotes,xpatch}% recommended
\usepackage[backend=biber,<options>]{biblatex}
\addbibresource[<options>]{<first resource>}
\addbibresource[<options>]{<second resource>}
...
\begin{document}
  ...
  \printbibliography[<options>]
  ...
  \printbibliography[<options>]
  ...
\end{document}
```

Common Package Options

style	$= \langle style \rangle$	style of bibliography and citations
bibstyle	$= \langle style \rangle$	bibliography style
citestyle	$= \langle style \rangle$	citation style
refsection	$= \langle division \rangle$	new refsection at document division
refsegment	$= \langle division \rangle$	new refsegment at document division
autocite	$= \langle style \rangle$	behaviour of \autocite etc.
sortcites	$= \langle boolean \rangle$	whether to sort multiple citations
maxnames	$= \langle integer \rangle$	truncate longer name lists
minnames	$= \langle integer \rangle$	no. of names in truncated name lists
backref	$= \langle boolean \rangle$	whether to print 'back references'
mincrossrefs	$= \langle integer \rangle$	minimum number of cross references
sorting	$= \langle sort\ order \rangle$	bibliography sort order
indexing	$= \langle boolean \rangle$	whether to enable indexing support

Sources of Bibliographical Data

\addbibresource[⟨options⟩]{⟨resource⟩}   add to default resource list
\addglobalbib[⟨options⟩]{⟨resource⟩}   add to global resource list

Options:

location	= local	local file	(default)
	= remote	HTTP/FTP	
datatype	= bibtex	BibTeX	(default)
	= ris	RIS	
	= zoterordfxml	Zotero RDF/XML	
	= endnotexml	EndNote XML	

⟨*resource*⟩ *must be one of:*

⟨*filename*⟩.bib	local database
http://.../⟨*filename*⟩.bib	remote
ftp://.../⟨*filename*⟩.bib	remote

\bibliography{⟨*filename*⟩,⟨*filename*⟩,...} adds 1+ local BibTeX files.

Citations

Standard commands:

c,m	\cite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	bare
c,m	\parencite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	parenthetical
m	\footcite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	footnote (\footnote)
m	\footcitetext[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	footnote (\footnotetext)

Common commands:

c,m	\textcite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	textual
c,m	\smartcite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	context-dependent
a	\cite*[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	year/title only
a	\parencite*[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	year/title only
m,n	\supercite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	superscript

Style-independent commands:

c,m	\autocite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	style-dependent
c,m	\autocite*[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	style-dependent

Text commands:

c	\citeauthor[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	author list
c	\citeauthor*[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	compressed author list
	\citetitle[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	(short) title
	\citetitle*[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	(full) title
s	\citeyear[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	year
s	\citedate[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	date
	\citeurl[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	URL

Multi-volume commands:

c,m	\volcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	cite by volume + page
c,m	\pvolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	parenthetical
c,m	\fvolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	footnote (\footnote)
	\ftvolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	footnote (\footnotetext)
c,m	\svolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	context-dependent
c,m	\tvolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	textual
c,m	\avolcite[⟨pre⟩]{⟨vol⟩}[⟨page⟩]{⟨key⟩}	style-dependent

Standalone citation commands:

	\fullcite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	full reference
	\footfullcite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	full reference in footnote

Inclusion in bibliography without citation:

	\nocite{⟨key⟩} \nocite{*}	inclusion only
c	\notecite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	with notes
c	\pnotecite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	with parenthetical notes
	\fnotecite[⟨pre⟩][⟨post⟩]{⟨key⟩}	with footnote notes

[a] Author-year and author-title styles only.
[c] Capitalised command(s) also provided. e.g. \Textcite, \Autocites.
[m] 'Multicite' command(s) available.
e.g. \cites(⟨*multipre*⟩)(⟨*multipost*⟩)[⟨*pre*⟩][⟨*post*⟩]{⟨*key*⟩}[⟨*pre*⟩][⟨*post*⟩]{⟨*key*⟩}....
[n] Numerical styles only.
[s] Starred version available to include extra year information.

BibTeX Databases

A BibTeX database file is a plain text file with extension .bib. It consists of entries of the following form:

```
@<entrytype>{<key>,   e.g.    @book{tolkien-hobbit,
   <field> = <value>,            author = {Tolkien, J. R. R.},
   <field> = <value>,            title  = {The Hobbit},
   <field> = <value>,            date   = {YYYY-MM-DD},
   ...}                          ...}
```

⟨*entrytype*⟩ partially determines which fields are required and which optional. ⟨*key*⟩ is a unique identifier used in citation commands to reference the entry. ⟨*field*⟩ is the name of a database field and determines the expected format of ⟨*value*⟩. ⟨*value*⟩ is the value of the relevant ⟨*field*⟩ for the entry.

BibTeX Database Entry Types

Material from journals, magazines & newspapers:

@article	journal, magazine or newspaper article
@periodical	whole issue of a periodical
@suppperiodical	supplemental material in periodical

Material from single-authored or co-authored books:

@inbook	book part with own title
@suppbook	supplemental material in book
@bookinbook	originally published as standalone book
@book	single-volume book by author(s) of whole
@mvbook	multi-volume book

Material from edited anthologies:

@incollection	contribution to anthology
@suppcollection	supplemental material in anthology
@collection	single-volume edited anthology
@mvcollection	multi-volume collection

Material from conference proceedings:

@inproceedings	article in conference proceedings
@proceedings	single-volume conference proceedings
@mvproceedings	multi-volume conference proceedings

Material from works of reference:

@inreference	article in a reference work
@reference	single-volume work of reference
@mvreference	multi-volume reference work

Material from technical & institutional publications:

@manual	technical or other documentation
@report	institutional report or white paper
@patent	patent or patent request
@thesis	work completed to fulfil degree requirement

Material from online, informal & other sources:

@online	*inherently* online source
@booklet	informally published book
@unpublished	work not formally published
@misc	last resort (check manual first!)

Special entries for database management:

@set	(static) entry 'set'
@xdata	data-container (cannot be cited)

BIBTEX Database Fields

INDIVIDUALS

author[s]	author(s) of title, authortype specifies kind
bookauthor	author(s) of booktitle
editor[s]	editor(s), editortype specifies role
editora/b/c	secondary editor(s), editora/b/ctype for roles
afterword	author(s) of afterword
annotator	author(s) of annotations
commentator	author(s) of commentary
forward	author(s) of forward
introduction	author(s) of introduction
translator	translator(s) of (book)title
holder	of patent

ORGS

institution	university or similar
organization	manual/website publisher or event sponsor
publisher[o]	publisher(s)

TITLES

title[a,o,s,u]	title
indextitle	if different from title
booktitle[a,u]	title of book
maintitle[a,u]	title of multi-volume book
journaltitle[u]	or journal[s]
issuetitle[u]	title of journal special issue
eventtitle[a]	title of conference or event
reprinttitle	title of a reprint of the work
series[s]	publication series

VOLUMES & VERSIONS

volume	volume of journal or multi-volume book
number	numbered issue of journal or book in series
part	number of physical part of logical volume
issue	non-number issue of journal
volumes	number of volumes for multi-volume work
edition	as ⟨integer⟩ rather than ordinal
version	revision number for software or manual
pubstate	publication state

PAGES

pages	page list or range
pagetotal	total number of pages
(book)pagination	pagination format of (book)title

PLACES DATES

date[o]	publication date as ⟨YYYY-MM-DD⟩
eventdate	conference or event date as ⟨YYYY-MM-DD⟩
urldate	access date for url as ⟨YYYY-MM-DD⟩
location[o]	or address, where published
venue	of event

DIGITAL

url	URL
doi	Digital Object Identifier
eid	electronic identifier of @article
eprint	archive-specific electronic identifier
eprinttype	type of identifier, eprintclass for further details

TYPES

type	of @manual, @patent, @report or @thesis
entrysubtype	for finer-grained specification of type

MISC.

addendum	miscellaneous data printed at end of entry
note	miscellaneous data printed within entry
howpublished	non-standard publication details
language[o]	language of work

[a] An –addon field is available e.g. nameaddon, eventtitleaddon.
[o] An orig– field is available e.g. origdate, origlanguage.
[s] A short– field is available e.g. shortauthor, shorttitle.
[u] A –subtitle field is available e.g. subtitle, mainsubtitle.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

isan	International Standard Audiovisual Number
isbn	International Standard Book Number
ismn	International Standard Music Number
isrn	International Standard Technical Report Number
issn	International Standard Serial Number
iswc	International Standard Work Code
abstract	record of work's abstract
annotation	for annotated bibliographies
file	local link

LABELS

library	library name, call number or similar
label	fall-back label
shorthand	special designator, overrides label in citations
shorthandintro	override default introduction of shorthand

Special fields for non-printable data:

execute	arbitrary TEX code
keywords	separated list of keywords
options	per-entry options
ids	citation key aliases

RELATED

related	another entry key, relatedoptions for options
relatedtype	relationship identifier for related
relatedstring	override value of relatedtype

INHERIT DATA

entryset	list of entry keys in @set
crossref	another entry key
xref	another entry key
xdata	entry key for @xdata container

LANG.

langid	babel/polyglossia language identifier
langidopts	polyglossia options for langid
gender	gender of author or editor

SORTING

presort	modify sorting
sortkey	sort key, overrides everything except presort
sortname	replaces author or editor when sorting
sortshorthand	sortkey if entry has shorthand
sorttitle	replaces title when sorting
indexsorttitle	replaces title when sorting index
sortyear	replaces year (from date) when sorting

Built-In Styles

citestyle	bibstyle	
numeric[c,v]	numeric	numeric
alphabetic[v]	alphabetic	alphabetic
authoryear[c,ib,ic]	authoryear	author-year
authortitle[c,ib,ic,t,tc,tic]	authortitle	
verbose[ib,in,n]	verbose	full reference on first citation
verbose-trad1/2/3[tr]		'traditional' footnote citations
reading[1]	reading	reading list
draft	draft	show entry keys
debug	debug	for debugging

[c] -comp option (compact). [ib] -ibid option (use *ibidem*). [ic] -icomp option (compact & *ibidem*). [in] -inote option (notes & *ibidem*). [n] -note option (full citations as footnotes). [t] -terse option (omit title if unique). [tc] -tcomp option (compact & terse). [tic] -ticomp option (compact, terse & *ibidem*). [tr] The three use different scholarly abbreviations in different ways. [v] -verb option (verbose). [1] Equivalent to citestyle=authortitle.

Multiple, Divided & Filtered Bibliographies

Bibliography section Document part with its own bibliography.
Bibliography segment Document part corresponding to a sub-division of a global bibliography.

See package options refsection and refsegment for automated creation according to document division. Finer-grained control is also possible:

```
\begin{refsection}
   [<resource>,...]% replace default list
   ...
\end{refsection}
```
```
\begin{refsegment}
...
\end{refsegment}
```

Bibliography category Topic or source type corresponding to a sub-division of a global bibliography.

\DeclareBibliographyCategory{⟨category⟩}	new category
\addtocategory{⟨category⟩}{⟨key⟩}	add entry to category

Printing Bibliographies

\printbibliography[⟨options⟩]	typeset the bibliography
\printbiblist[⟨options⟩]{⟨name⟩}	typeset bibliography list ⟨name⟩ e.g. shorthand

Options:

env	= ⟨name⟩	e.g. bibliography
heading	= ⟨heading⟩	e.g. subbibliography, (sub)bibintoc
title	= ⟨text⟩	
prenote	= ⟨name⟩	define start/end notes with
postnote	= ⟨name⟩	\defbibnote{⟨name⟩}{⟨text⟩}
section	= ⟨integer⟩	for refsection ⟨integer⟩
segment	= ⟨integer⟩	for refsegment ⟨integer⟩
category[n]	= ⟨category⟩	only entries in ⟨category⟩
keyword[n]	= ⟨keyword⟩	only entries with keyword ⟨keyword⟩
type[n]	= ⟨entrytype⟩	only entries of type ⟨entrytype⟩

[n] A negated filter is available as not– e.g. notcategory=⟨category⟩.

\bibbysection[⟨options⟩]	all refsection bibliographies
\bibbysegment[⟨options⟩]	all refsegment bibliographies
\bibbycategory[⟨options⟩]	bibliographies for all categories

Biber

biber [options] file[.bcf]	biber [options] --tool <datasource>

By default, Biber reads a .bcf and produces a .bbl which LaTeX needs to produce a document's citations and bibliography. But Biber also has a powerful 'tool' mode. The manual explains the details but biber --help is a more comprehensible starting point.

To produce a document-specific .bib:

biber --output_format=bibtex --output_resolve <filename>.bcf