Bibtex Cheat Sheet

For further details, explanations, hints, caveats, examples and alternatives to the backend Biber, see the Bibtex manual. For a list of contributed styles and extensions, see ctab.org/topic/bibtex.

Basic Setup

Compilation sequence: \pdflatex \rightarrow \biber \rightarrow \pdflatex (x2).

\documentclass[<language option>]{<class>}
...\usenamedef{<name>}{<value>}
\usepackage[<options>]{<package>}
\addbibresource{<resource>}
\begin{document}
...\bibliography{<resource>}
\end{document}

Common Package Options

- \texttt{style} = <style>
- \texttt{bibstyle} = <style>
- \texttt{citestyle} = <style>
- \texttt{refsection} = <division>
- \texttt{refsegment} = <division>
- \texttt{autocite} = <boolean>
- \texttt{sortcites} = <boolean>
- \texttt{minnames} = <integer>
- \texttt{maxnames} = <integer>
- \texttt{backref} = <boolean>
- \texttt{mncrsref} = <integer>
- \texttt{sorting} = <order>
- \texttt{indexing} = <boolean>

\section*{Sources of Bibliographical Data}

- \texttt{addbibresource[<options>]{<resource>}} add to default resource list
- \texttt{addglobalbib[<options>]{<resource>}} add to global resource list

\section*{Bibtex Databases}

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

\begin{verbatim}
<entertype><key>, e.g. @book{tolkien-hobbit,
  <field> = <value>, ...}
\end{verbatim}

<entertype> 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.

\section*{Bibtex Database Entry Types}

Material from journals, magazines \& newspapers:
- \texttt{@article} journal, magazine or newspaper article
- \texttt{@periodical} whole issue of a periodical
- \texttt{@supperiodical} supplemental material in periodical

Material from single-authored or co-authored books:
- \texttt{@book} book part with own title
- \texttt{@supbook} supplemental material in book
- \texttt{@bookinbook} originally published as standalone book
- \texttt{@book} single-volume book by author(s) of whole
- \texttt{@mvbook} multi-volume book

Material from edited anthologies:
- \texttt{@collection} contribution to anthology
- \texttt{@supcollection} supplemental material in anthology
- \texttt{@collection} single-volume edited anthology
- \texttt{@mvcollection} multi-volume collection

Material from conference proceedings:
- \texttt{@inproceedings} article in conference proceedings
- \texttt{@proceedings} single-volume conference proceedings
- \texttt{@mvproceedings} multi-volume conference proceedings

Material from works of reference:
- \texttt{@reference} article in a reference work
- \texttt{@mvrreference} multi-volume reference work

Material from technical \& institutional publications:
- \texttt{@manual} technical or other documentation
- \texttt{@report} institutional report or white paper
- \texttt{@patent} patent or patent request
- \texttt{@thesis} work completed to fulfil degree requirement

Material from online, informal \& other sources:
- \texttt{@online} inherently online source
- \texttt{@booklet} informally published book
- \texttt{@unpublished} work not formally published
- \texttt{@misc} last resort (check manual first!)

\section*{Special entries for database management:}
- \texttt{@set} (static) entry ‘set’
- \texttt{@zdata} data-container (cannot be cited)