

Bibliographic references in L^AT_EX

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One of the the most versatile package for putting citations in your documents is Patrick W. Daly's *natbib.sty* in combination with the standard BibT_EX system.

1 Loading *natbib.sty*

To load *natbib.sty*, the preamble should contain the following:

```
\usepackage{natbib}
\bibpunct{(}{)}{;}{a}{,}{f}{}
```

In addition, a bibliography style should be set after the `\begin{document}` command. The standard one for this package is `plainnat`:

```
\bibliographystyle{plainnat}
```

2 Creating a bibliographic database

You can include the bibliographic details in the same `.tex` file, but this means that you cannot share references across files. The most efficient way is often to create a separate database of bibliographic entries which you can use as a resource for any files you create. Note also that some sites (e.g. those at Essex or DFKI) give references already in BibT_EX format, so you can just copy them into your own bibliography.

Database entries look, for example, like the following:

```
@Book{GMS94,
  author = {Michel Goossens and Frank Mittelbach and Alexander
            Samarin},
  title = {The {\LaTeX\ } Companion},
  publisher = {Addison-Wesley},
  year = 1994
}
```

If you are creating entries in emacs, there is a special mode for editing BibT_EX entries. There are different entry types for books, journal papers, unpublished theses, etc.

3 Making citations

Once everything is set up as described above then making citations is straightforward.

Using *natbib.sty*, you get very delicate control over how citations appear in your text. Here are some examples:

The standard citation in author-year format is produced with the following:

```
\citet{GMS94} ⇒ Goossens et al. (1994)
```

To include a reference to a particular section, use an optional argument as follows:

```
\citet[Chap. 13]{GMS94} ⇒ Goossens et al. (1994, Chap. 13)
```

To include all the authors in the citation:

```
\citet*{GMS94} ⇒ Goossens, Mittelbach, and Samarin (1994)
```

To create in parenthetical citation:

```
\citep{GMS94} ⇒ (Goossens et al., 1994)
```

There are a whole range of other options, all of which are described in the full documentation (which you can read here, in case you cannot find a copy elsewhere).

4 Getting references into your document

L^AT_EX has a complicated way of writing in references. It does this by writing information to auxiliary files. As with cross-references, therefore, you will have to run L^AT_EX several times to resolve the bibliographic references.

If you have added new bibliographic entries, you will need to complete the following cycle:

- Run L^AT_EX – to write the references in the `.aux` file.
- Run BibT_EX – to create a `.bbl` file from the `.aux` and the `.bib` file.
- Run L^AT_EX (again) – writes the references from the `.bbl` out to the `.aux` file.
- Run L^AT_EX (again) – resolves all the references

Unless you add new entries to the `.bib` file, you can add new citations to your document by simply running the file through L^AT_EX twice (i.e. the last two steps).

5 Other packages

A popular package for bibliographies is `cslibib` — most of the functionality of this package is provided by *natbib.sty*.

6 The package

BibT_EX is a standard component of L^AT_EX. The *natbib.sty* is available in from “the usual places”.

References

Michel Goossens, Frank Mittelbach, and Alexander Samarin. *The L^AT_EX Companion*. Addison-Wesley, 1994.