

L^AT_EX for Linguists+

MPI-SHH Summer School – Doorway to Human History

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In order for the workshop to run smoothly, please read this document carefully and follow the instructions before the workshop. We won't have time during the workshop to address installation questions. On the plus side – no readings!

Should you run into any issues, please reach out to me between Wednesday and Friday of the first week of the summer school (August 18-20) and I'll do my best to get it sorted. You can find me at sandra_auderset@eva.mpg.de or on Mattermost.

1 Preparation

Installing a Tex-Distribution:

Download and install the appropriate L^AT_EX distribution for your operating system from here: <https://www.latex-project.org/get/>. (This can take a while, especially with a slow connection.) There are several choices for Windows and I recommend installing MiKTeX.

L^AT_EX editors:

There are many editors and interfaces in which you can write L^AT_EX documents. There is no one-size-fits-all, which means you will have to find the one that works best for you. Generally, there are two types of editors to choose from: 1) dedicated L^AT_EX IDEs¹, and 2) general code editors. The advantage of the former are that they come with more buttons, the advantage of the latter are that they are not restricted to LaTeX.

Wikipedia has a nice table overview over the options, including all the links for downloading them: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_TeX_editors. You will have to download and install your editor of choice from its respective repository or website. Find the link on Wikipedia or by simply googling. Based on my own experiences, I would recommend one of the following editors:

- TeXstudio: a dedicated cross-platform L^AT_EX IDE with lots of buttons and a clean interface, good for beginners and everybody who likes buttons
- VisualStudioCode: a general code editor with a L^AT_EX integration, cross-platform and you can use it for just about anything (python, R, markdown, etc.), good for people who like coding and no buttons

However, feel free to pick whatever fits best with you, especially if you're already using an editor that can compile L^AT_EX. It is very important, though, that you run the `testdoc.tex` document in your editor of choice before the workshop to make sure everything is set up correctly and compiles. I would also recommend using an editor that has proper syntax highlighting for L^AT_EX, since it makes typing easier.

¹IDE = integrated development environment, or in other words, a user interface

During the workshop, I will mostly be using TeXstudio, since it is very beginner friendly and will hopefully make it easier for you to follow along.

BibTeX editors:

There are many bibliography editors that are either dedicated to BibTeX or can export to BibTeX. As with \LaTeX editors, it depends on your preferences which one will serve you best. Again, Wikipedia is helpful here and lists a bunch of editors with links: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BibTeX>. You will have to download and install your editor of choice from its respective repository or website. Find the link on Wikipedia or by simply googling. Some recommendations:

- BibDesk: dedicated to BibTeX, but can export to many other formats; only on Mac
- JabRef: the cross-platform, dedicated to BibTeX, very similar to BibDesk
- Zotero: cross-platform general bibliography editor that can export to bibtex

Those are only recommendations and if you're already using a bibliography editor you like that can export to bibtex, keep using that! The only option you don't have it not using a bibliography editor ;-)

2 Setting up and running the test document

Once everything is installed, we need to adjust some settings and give the testdoc.tex document a try. I will go through the steps with TeXstudio, so if you are using a different editor you might have to google a bit to find out how to do the same things there. I'm happy to help with that (especially for VScode, which I use myself), just message me (see info above).

required settings:

- set the default compiler to XeLaTeX (in most cases this will not be the default)
- set the default bibliography compiler to BibTeX (in most cases, this will already be the default)

In TeXstudio, these settings can be adjusted as follows:

Preferences (might be called Options in Windows) > Build > Default Compiler/Default Bibliography Tool

recommended settings and options:

- check that your font encoding is set to UTF-8 (in most cases this should already be set correctly)
- download and install the [Linux Libertine font](#); it's pretty and has great unicode support; it's also open source and free!

In TeXstudio, the font encoding can be checked or adjusted as follows:

Preferences (might be called Options in Windows) > Editor > Default Font Encoding

Make sure the testdoc.tex, the bibliography file testbib.bib, the image testpic.jpg, and style file for glossing cgloss.sty are in the same folder. You can download these files from [GitHub](#) or use the zip-file you got with this e-mail. Open the testdoc.tex in your editor of choice and compile the document. How you compile depends on your editor. This should generate a PDF with the same file name in the folder with the tex document. The compiling will also generate a bunch of other files (aux, log, etc) - this is normal and nothing to worry about.

In TeXstudio, all you have to do is click on the green double arrow button (or select Tools > Build & View).

3 Resources

3.1 Tutorials/Intros/References to LaTeX (for Linguistics)

- [Wikibooks](#): great resource to look up just about anything
- [LSA collection of resources](#): nice collection of links to materials
- [LaTeX for Linguists by U Essex](#): covers many topics specific to linguists
- [LaTeX workshop for Linguists by Adam Liter](#): great and extensive intro document
- [Intro and resources by Emily Gasser](#): a collection of templates and links
- and many, many more...

3.2 How to get help on specific questions

Let the community of nerds help you on [StackExchange](#) and [StackOverflow](#). The online editor Overleaf also has a collection of FAQ with instructions: <https://www.overleaf.com/learn/how-to>.