

# **biblatex-sbl**

SBL Style Using **biblatex**

David Purton

Version 0.3

[dcpurton@marshwiggles.net](mailto:dcpurton@marshwiggles.net)

February 16, 2016

## **Contents**

<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.3 Package Options</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Requirements</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 Database Guide</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3 Usage</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Localization	2	<b>References</b>	<b>6</b>
3.2 Commands	2		

## **1 Introduction**

**biblatex-sbl** provides support to **biblatex** and LaTeX for citations, bibliography, and a list of abbreviations in the style recommended by the Society of Biblical Literature (**SBL**). The style conforms to the second edition of the **SBLHS**.

The style supports all examples given in the handbook (see **biblatex-sbl-test.pdf**). Short form citations and a list of abbreviations containing series, journals, and shorthands are handled automatically. *Ibidem* is supported, but not enabled by default. Only note style citations, not Author-Date citations are supported. Primary sources can be cited in parentheses. **biblatex-sbl** is compatible with **biblatex**'s support for **hyperref**.

For anything not covered in this manual, please see the **biblatex** documentation. Bugs and feature requests can be submitted at <https://github.com/dcpurton/biblatex-sbl/>.

## **2 Requirements**

**biblatex-sbl** requires at least version 3.0 of **biblatex** and the **xparse** package. **biber** must be used. **bibtex** is not supported. For localization **babel** and **csquotes** are recommended.

## **3 Usage**

The following minimal example will set up **biblatex-sbl** to conform to the defaults of the **SBLHS**.

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[style=sbl,backend=biber]{biblatex}
```

```

\addbibresource{<bibfile.bib>}
\begin{document}
\printbiblist{abbreviations}
\printbibliography
\end{document}

```

### 3.1 Localization

By default biblatex-sbl uses American style punctuation and quotation marks. You can choose a different style by including the babel and csquotes packages in your document preamble. e.g.,

```

\usepackage[german]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
\usepackage[style=sbl,backend=biber]{biblatex}

```

Currently english (including variants such as british, australian, etc.), spanish, and german are supported.

### 3.2 Commands

The standard commands for biblatex-sbl generally follow those defined by biblatex. Included below are the most typical commands. For more commands and options, reference the biblatex manual.

```

\autocite{<key>}
\autocite[<postnote>]{<key>}
\autocite[<prenote>][<key>]
\autocite[<prenote>][<postnote>]{<key>}
\autocite[<altpostnote>|<postnote>]{<key>}
\autocite[<altpostnote>][<key>]
\autocite[<prenote>][<altpostnote>|<postnote>]{<key>}
\autocite[<prenote>][<altpostnote>][<key>]

```

\autocite inserts a citation as a footnote. It works as in the standard biblatex styles, except that that postnote argument can be divided into two using the pipe (|) character. This creates an altpostnote field which is used in some of the examples from §6.4 of the [SBLHS](#). e.g.,

```
\autocite[See][1.3|8:223]{clementinehomilies}
```

1. See *The Clementine Homilies* 1.3 ([ANF](#) 8:223).

```
\parencite{<key>}
\parencite[<postnote>]{<key>}
\parencite[<prenote>][<key>}
\parencite[<prenote>][<postnote>]{<key>}
\parencite[<altpostnote>|<postnote>]{<key>}
\parencite[<altpostnote>|]{<key>}
\parencite[<prenote>][<altpostnote>|<postnote>]{<key>}
\parencite[<prenote>][<altpostnote>|]{<key>}
```

`\parencite` works in the same way as `\autocite` except that the citation is placed inside parentheses instead of in a footnote. This is most useful for citing primary sources. e.g.,

```
\parencite[2.233-235]{josephus:ant}
```

(Josephus, *Ant.* 2.233–235)

```
\seriescite{<key>}
\journalcite{<key>}
\shorthandcite{<key>}
```

`\seriescite`, `\journalcite`, and `\shorthandcite` inserts the respective abbreviation into the text and also adds it to the list of abbreviations. The abbreviation is hyperlinked to the list of abbreviations if the `hyperref` package is loaded.

These commands ignore the `prenote` and `postnote` fields, so can safely be used anywhere within a database entry.

`\printbiblist`

This command prints a bibliography list. In `biblatex-sbl` all abbreviations (series, journals, and shorthands) can be printed using the following command:

```
\printbiblist[...]{abbreviations}
```

See the `biblatex` manual for an explanation of available optional arguments.

`\printbibliography`

Inserts the bibliography. See the `biblatex` manual for an explanation of available optional arguments.

### 3.3 Package Options

`biblatex-sbl` defaults to the recommendations of the, but it also supports many of the standard options from `biblatex` as well as a few custom ones outlined below.

`ibidtracker=true, false` default: false

This option controls the *ibidem* tracker. The possible choices are:

- `true`            Enable the tracker: *ibid.* will be used.
- `false`           Disable the tracker: *ibid.* will not be used.

`citepages=sbl, permit, omit, separate` default: sbl

Use this option to fine-tune the formatting of the pages field the first time an entry is cited.

`sbl`            The postnote field is not printed for first citations. e.g.,

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
1. Blake Leyerle, "John Chrysostom on the Gaze," J ECS 1 (1993): 159–74.
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
2. Leyerle, "Chrysostom," 159.
\autocite{leyerle:1993}
3. Leyerle, "Chrysostom," 159–74.
```

If postnote is not a page range, then it is printed in parentheses after pages. e.g.,

```
\autocite[a note]{leyerle:1993}
1. Blake Leyerle, "John Chrysostom on the Gaze," J ECS 1 (1993): 159–74
(a note).
\autocite[a note]{leyerle:1993}
2. Leyerle, "Chrysostom," 159–74 (a note).
```

`permit`        The postnote is printed in parentheses after the pages field. e.g.,

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
1. Blake Leyerle, "John Chrysostom on the Gaze," J ECS 1 (1993): 159–74
(159).
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
2. Leyerle, "Chrysostom," 159.
```

If postnote is not a page range, then pages is printed for subsequent citations, and the postnote is printed in parentheses. e.g.,

```
\autocite[a note]{leyerle:1993}
```

3. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159–74 (a note).

omit

The pages field is not printed unless postnote is empty or not a page range. e.g.,

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
```

1. Blake Leyerle, “John Chrysostom on the Gaze,” *JECS* 1 (1993): 159.

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
```

2. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159.

```
\autocite{leyerle:1993}
```

3. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159–74.

```
\autocite[a note]{leyerle:1993}
```

4. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159–74 (a note).

separate

The postnote is printed in parentheses after the pages field preceeded by the bibliography string thiscite. e.g.,

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
```

1. Blake Leyerle, “John Chrysostom on the Gaze,” *JECS* 1 (1993): 159–74 (esp. 159).

```
\autocite[159]{leyerle:1993}
```

2. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159.

If postnote is not a page range, then firstcite is not used. e.g.,

```
\autocite[a note]{leyerle:1993}
```

3. Leyerle, “Chrysostom,” 159–74 (a note).

fullbibrefs=true, false

default: false

The *Student Supplement for the SBLHS* permits two styles for the bibliography entry for Bible dictionaries and encyclopaedias, and multivolume commentaries for the entire Bible by multiple authors.<sup>1</sup>

This option applies to @inreference and @incommentary entry types.

true

The bibliography entry is printed in long form. e.g.,

---

1. *Student Supplement for the SBL Handbook of Style, Second Edition*, compiled by Melanie Greer Nogalski et al., ed. Joel M. LeMon and Brennan W. Breed (Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, February 2015), <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/SBLHSupp2015-02.pdf>, 4–5.

	Stendahl, Krister. "Biblical Theology, Contemporary." Pages 418–32 in vol. 1 of <i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by George A. Buttrick. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.
false	The bibliography entry is printed in a short form. e.g., Stendahl, Krister. "Biblical Theology, Contemporary." <i>IDB</i> 1:418–32.
sblfootnotes=true, false	default: true
	This option controls the style of footnotes.
false	Footnotes are printed with a superscript and hanging indent (or whatever other default has been set up by your style):  <sup>1</sup> Charles H. Talbert, <i>Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles</i> (New York: Crossroad, 1992).
true	Footnotes are printed with a with a normal number followed by a period and the first line indented:  1. Charles H. Talbert, <i>Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles</i> (New York: Crossroad, 1992).

## 4 Database Guide

### Abbreviations

ANF	<i>The Ante-Nicene Fathers</i>
IDB	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by George A. Buttrick. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962
J ECS	<i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLHS	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style</i> . 2nd ed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014

### References

*The Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. 10 vols. 1885–1887. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

- Buttrick, George A., ed. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.
- Josephus*. Translated by Henry St. J. Thackeray et al. 10 vols. *LCL*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1926–1965.
- Leyerle, Blake. “John Chrysostom on the Gaze.” *J ECS* 1 (1993): 159–74.
- Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style*. 2nd ed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014.
- Stendahl, Krister. “Biblical Theology, Contemporary.” *IDB* 1:418–32.
- Student Supplement for the SBL Handbook of Style, Second Edition*. Compiled by Melanie Greer Nogalski, James D. Nogalski, Sophia G. Steibel, and Danny M. West. Edited by Joel M. LeMon and Brennan W. Breed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, February 2015. <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/SBLHSupp2015-02.pdf>.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.