`biblatex-sbl`

SBL Style Using `biblatex`

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Contents

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[⟨*prenote*⟩][⟨*altpostnote*⟩|⟨*postnote*⟩]{⟨*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).

To use only `altpostnote` you must still include the pipe character. e.g.,

\autocite[III. 1-164|]{PGM:betz}

    1. *PGM* III. 1–164 (Betz).

`\parencite[`⟨*prenote*⟩`][`⟨*altpostnote*⟩`|`⟨*postnote*⟩`]{`⟨*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.

`\printbiblioraphy`

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," *JECS* 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," *JECS* 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," *JECS* 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.[1]

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

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

> Stendahl, Krister. "Biblical Theology, Contemporary." Pages 418–32 in vol. 1 of *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.* 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." *IDB* 1:418–32.

`sblfootnotes`=true, false   default: `true`

This option controls the style of footnotes.

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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/SBLHSsupp2015-02.pdf, 4–5.

true	Footnotes are printed with a with a normal number followed by a period and the first line indented:

> 1. Charles H. Talbert, *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles* (New York: Crossroad, 1992).

false	Footnotes are printed with a superscript (or whatever other default has been set up by your style):

> [1]Charles H. Talbert, *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles* (New York: Crossroad, 1992).

4 Database Guide

4.1 Entry Types

This section gives an overview of the entry types supported by `biblatex-sbl`. Many work in the same way as `biblatex`. Some standard entry types have custom usage, and some are unique to `biblatex-sbl`. These are documented more fully.

article
: An article in a journal or magazine. Also use this type for review articles (*SBLHS* §6.3.4) and electronic journal articles (*SBLHS* §6.3.10).

book
: A single volume book with one or more authors.

mvbook
: A multivolume `@book`.

inbook
: A part of a book which forms a self-contained unit with its own title.

bookinbook
: This type is similar to `@inbook` but intended for works originally published as a stand-alone book. The main difference is that the title is printed in italics instead of in quotation marks. See §6.4.4 in `biblatex-sbl-test.pdf` for an example.

suppbook
: Supplemental material in a `@book`. Use this for an introduction, preface or foreword written by someone other than the author (*SBLHS* §6.2.14).

classictext
: This type is a custom type for `biblatex-sbl`. It is used for a number of the special examples in *SBLHS* §§6.4.2–6.

  Unless `options = {skipbib=false}` is set explicitly, a `@classictext` entry will not appear in the bibliography. The `sblxref` field is used to refer to the entry which should appear in the bibliography instead of the `@classictext` entry.

  If present, the `translator` and `series` are printed in parentheses following the `postnote`. e.g.,

```
\autocite[15.18-19]{tacitus:ann:jackson}
```

    1. Tacitus, *Ann.* 15.18–19 (Jackson, LCL).

```
\printbibliography
```

Tacitus. *The Histories and The Annals.* Translated by Clifford H. Moore and John Jackson. 4 vols. LCL. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1937.

The `@classictext` supports the `entrysubtype = {churchfather}` entry sub type. Entries using this sub type print the entry pointed to by `sblxref` within parentheses following the `altpostnote`. The `postnote` field applies the entry in `sblxref`. `altpostnote` is always separated from the title by a space.

If the entry contains `options = {skipbib=false}`, then the bibliography entry will be like `@incollection` except that the `title` is set in italics instead of within quotation marks.

```
\autocite[28.3.5|252]{augustine:letters}
```

    1. Augustine, *Letters of St. Augustin* 28.3.5 (*NPNF*[1] 1:252).

```
\printbibliography
```

Augustine. *The Letters of St. Augustin.* In vol. 1 of *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers,* Series 1. Edited by Philip Schaff. 14 vols. 1886–1889. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Abbreviations

ANF   *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*

IDB   *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.* Edited by George A. Buttrick. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962

JECS   *Journal of Early Christian Studies*

LCL   Loeb Classical Library

NPNF[1]   *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers,* Series 1

PGM   *Papyri Graecae Magicae: Die griechischen Zauberpapyri.* Edited by Karl Preisendaz. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Teubner, 1973–1974

SBL   Society of Biblical Literature

SBLHS   *Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style.* 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.

Augustine. *The Letters of St. Augustin.* In vol. 1 of *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers,* Series 1. Edited by Philip Schaff. 14 vols. 1886–1889. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Betz, Hans Dieter. *The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation, Including the Demotic Spells.* 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Buttrick, George A., ed. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.* 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.

Josephus. Translated by Henry St. J. Thackery et al. 10 vols. LCL. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1926–1965.

Leyerle, Blake. "John Chrysostom on the Gaze." *JECS* 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/SBLHSsupp2015-02.pdf.

Tacitus. *The Histories and The Annals.* Translated by Clifford H. Moore and John Jackson. 4 vols. LCL. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1937.

Talbert, Charles H. *Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles.* New York: Crossroad, 1992.