

# Dot Commands in SQLite

## Programming Practices for Research in Economics

dot Command	What it does
<code>.backup ?DB? FILE</code>	backup DB (default “main”) to FILE
<code>.bail ON or OFF</code>	stop after hitting an error (default OFF)
<code>.databases</code>	list names and files of attached databases
<code>.dump ?TABLE?...</code>	dump the database in an SQL text format
<code>.echo ON or OFF</code>	turn the command echo on or off
<code>.exit</code>	exit the program
<code>.explain ON or OFF</code>	turn the output mode suitable for explain on or off
<code>.genfkey ?OPTIONS?</code>	options are -no-drop - do not drop old fkey triggers -ignore-errors - ignore tables with fkey errors -exec execute generates SQL immediately
<code>.header(s) ON Or OFF</code>	turn display headers on or off
<code>.help</code>	show this message
<code>.import FILE TABLE</code>	import data from FILE to TABLE
<code>.indices TABLE</code>	show names of all indices in TABLE
<code>.ioutil FILE</code>	enable I/O diagnostic of logging to FILE
<code>.load FILE ?ENTRY?</code>	load an extension library
<code>.mode MODE ?TABLE?</code>	set output mode where MODE is one of: csv - comma separated values column - left aligned columns, see .width html - HTML table code insert - SQL insert statements for TABLE line - one value per line list values delimited by .separator strings tabs - tab separated values tcl - TCL list elements
<code>.nullvalue STRING</code>	print STRING in place of null values
<code>.output FILENAME</code>	send output to FILENAME
<code>.output stdout</code>	send output to screen
<code>.prompt MAIN CONTINUE</code>	replace the standard prompts
<code>.quit</code>	exit this program
<code>.read FILENAME</code>	execute SQL in file name
<code>.restore ?DB? FILE</code>	restore content of DB from FILE
<code>.schema ?TABLE?</code>	show the CREATE statements

dot Command	What it does
<code>.separator STRING</code>	change the separator used by output mode and <code>.import</code>
<code>.show</code>	show the current values of the various settings
<code>.tables ?PATTERN?</code>	list names of tables matching a <code>LIKE</code> pattern
<code>.timeout MS</code>	try opening locked tables for MS milliseconds
<code>.time ON or OFF</code>	turn the CPU timer measurement on or off
<code>.width NUM NUM ...</code>	set the column widths for “column” mode

## Reference

Borrowed from Paarsch, HJ and K Golyaev (2016), “A Gentle Introduction to Effective Computing in Quantitative Research: What Every Research Assistant Should Know”, MIT Press.