

Pergamon

BibLaTeX-inspired bibliography management for Typst

<https://github.com/alexanderkoller/pergamon>

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1 Introduction

Pergamon is a package for typesetting bibliographies in Typst. It is inspired by [BibLaTeX](#), in that the way in which it typesets bibliographies can be easily customized through Typst code. Like Typst's regular bibliography management model, Pergamon can be configured to use

different styles for typesetting references and citations; unlike it, these styles are all defined through Typst code, rather than CSL.

Pergamon has a number of advantages over the builtin Typst bibliographies:

- Pergamon styles are simply pieces of Typst code and can be easily configured or modified.
- The document can be easily split into different refsections, each of which can have its own bibliography (similar to [Alexandria](#)). Unlike in Alexandria, you do not have to manually add bibliography prefixes to your citations.
- Paper titles can be automatically made into hyperlinks – as in [blink](#), but much more flexibly and correctly.
- Bibliographies can be filtered, and bibliography entries programmatically highlighted, which is useful e.g. for CVs.
- References retain nonstandard BibTeX fields ([unlike in Hayagriva](#)), making it e.g. possible to split bibliographies based on keywords.

I have used Pergamon for a number of nontrivial bibliographic scenarios, but I welcome your comments so that I can make it work more generally. BibLaTeX is a very complex library to replicate, and I would like to prioritize features that people actually care about.

[Pergamon](#) was an ancient Greek city state in Asia Minor. Its library was second only to the Library of Alexandria around 200 BC.

2 Example

The following piece of code typesets a bibliography using Pergamon. (You can try out a more complex example yourself: download [example.typ](#) from [Github](#); see also [the generated PDF](#).)

```
1 #import "@preview/pergamon:0.5.0": *
2
3 #let style = format-citation-numeric()
4 #add-bib-resource(read("bibliography.bib"))
5
6 #refsection(format-citation: style.format-citation)[
7   ... some text here ...
8   #cite("bender20:_climb_nlu")
9
10  #print-bibliography(
11    format-reference:
12      format-reference(reference-label: style.reference-label),
13    label-generator: style.label-generator,
14    sorting: "nyt")
15 ]
```

This will generate the output shown in [Figure 1](#). Let's go through the different parts of this code one by one.

The first relevant function that is called here is `add-bib-resource`. It parses a BibTeX file and adds all the BibTeX entries to Pergamon's internal list of references. Notice that you have to

... some text here ... [1]

References

- [1] Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller. “[Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.

Figure 1: Example bibliography typeset with Pergamon (numeric citation style).

read the BibTeX file yourself and pass its contents to `add-bib-resource` as a string. This is because Typst packages can’t access files in your working directory for security reasons.

We then create a `refsection`. A `refsection` is a section of Typst content that shares a bibliography. Pergamon tracks the citations within each `refsection` separately and prints only those references that were cited within the current `refsection` when you call `print-bibliography`.

The actual citation is generated by the call `cite("bender20:_climb_nlu")`. Pergamon currently does not use the regular Typst citation syntax `@bender20:_climb_nlu` for a number of reasons (see [issue #40](#)). Instead you call Pergamon’s `cite` function, with the key of the BibTeX entry as a string (not a Typst label). Note that this is not the same as Typst’s builtin `cite` function, which is overwritten by Pergamon.

Notice that `refsection` has a parameter `format-citation` to which we passed `style.format-citation` in the example. This tells the `refsection` how to typeset citations – in the example, that `#cite("bender20:_climb_nlu")` should be rendered as “[1]”.

The `format-citation` function is typically defined in a *Pergamon style*, along with a companion function `format-reference` that specifies how the individual references in the bibliography are rendered. In the example, the style is obtained through a call to `format-citation-numeric()` in line 4. Observe that it has an opening and closing bracket after the function name. This is because citation and reference formatters can be configured by passing arguments to this function. In the example, we just use the default configuration for the numeric style.

Finally, the example calls `print-bibliography` to typeset the bibliography itself. This is where you pass the `format-reference` function that renders the individual references. You can furthermore specify how the references should be ordered in the bibliography through the `sorting` parameter. In the example, the references are ordered by ascending author name; then ascending publication year; then ascending title. Note also that `style.label-generator` is passed as an argument to `print-bibliography`. This function generates internal style-specific information that is used to typeset both references and citations.

All of these functions can take additional parameters that you can use to customize the appearance of the bibliography. See [Section 6](#) for details.

... some text here ... [1]

References

- [1] Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller (2020). [Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data](#). In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.

Figure 2: Bibliography with the configuration of [Section 3.1](#).

3 Pergamon styles

Pergamon is highly configurable with respect to the way that references and citations are rendered. Its defining feature is that the *styles* that control the rendering process are defined as ordinary Typst functions, rather than in CSL.

There are two different types of styles in Pergamon:

- *Reference styles* define how the individual references are typeset in the bibliography.
- *Citation styles* define how citations are typeset in the text.

Obviously, the reference and citation style that is used in a refsection should fit together to avoid confusing the reader.

Pergamon comes with one predefined reference style and three predefined citation styles. We will explain these below, and then we will sketch how to define your own custom styles.

3.1 Builtin reference style

The builtin reference style is defined by the `format-reference` function. This reference style aims to replicate the builtin reference style of BibLaTeX, but note that not all features of BibLaTeX are implemented at this point.

The builtin reference style can currently render the following BibLaTeX entry types:

- `@article`
- `@book`
- `@incollection`
- `@inproceedings`
- `@misc`
- `@thesis`

These are explained in more detail in Section 2.1.1 of the [BibLaTeX documentation](#). BibTeX entries of a different type are typeset as a references in a dummy format which displays the entry type and BibTeX key. The aim is to eventually support all BibLaTeX styles; see [issue #1](#) to track the progress, and feel free to submit pull requests implementing them.

The builtin `format-reference` function can be customized by passing arguments to it. These arguments are explained in detail in [Section 6.3](#). As one example, the following arguments will change the output of the example above to look like in [Figure 2](#):

```

1 #print-bibliography(
2   format-reference: format-reference(
3     reference-label: style.reference-label,
4     print-date-after-authors: true,
5     format-quotes: it => it
6   ),
7   label-generator: style.label-generator,
8   sorting: "nyt")

```

We passed `true` for the argument `print-date-after-authors`. This moved the year from the end of the reference to just after the authors and put it in brackets.

We also passed the function `it => it` as the `format-quotes` argument. The builtin reference style surrounds all papers that are contained in bigger collections (in this case, a volume of conference proceedings) in quotes by applying the `format-quotes` function. By replacing the default `format-quotes` function with the identity function, we can make the quotes disappear in the output.

Pergamon exploits Typst's ability to pass functions as arguments quite heavily. This makes it cleaner in some ways than BibLaTeX, which is built on top of LaTeX, whose macros are much less flexible.

3.2 Builtin citation styles

Pergamon comes with three builtin citation styles: *alphabetic*, *numeric*, and *authoryear*. These replicate the BibLaTeX styles of the same names (see e.g. the [examples on Overleaf](#)).

Unlike in Typst's regular bibliography mechanism, you write `#cite("key")` to insert a citation into your document when you use Pergamon. The exact string that is inserted depends on the citation style you use.

The difference between the three builtin citation styles is illustrated in [Figure 1](#) (*numeric*), [Figure 3](#) (*alphabetic*), and [Figure 4](#) (*authoryear*). *Numeric* and *alphabetic* both create a label for each bibliography entry; in the case of *numeric*, the label is the position in the bibliography, and in the case of *alphabetic*, it is a unique string consisting of the first characters of the author names and the year. In both cases, these labels are displayed next to the references and also used as the string to which `#cite(key)` expands. By contrast, *authoryear* does not display any labels next to the references; it expands `#cite(key)` to a string consisting of the last names of the authors and the year.

Some of the citation styles have options that will let you control the appearance of the citations in detail. These are documented in [Section 6.3](#). For instance, to enclose the year in the *authoryear* style in square brackets rather than round ones, you can replace line 4 in the above example with

```

1 #let style = format-citation-authoryear(format-parens: nn(it => [[#it]]))

```

... some text here ... [BK20]

References

[BK20] Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller. “Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.

Figure 3: Bibliography with the alphabetic citation style.

... some text here ... (Bender and Koller 2020)

References

Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller. “Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.

Figure 4: Bibliography with the authoryear citation style.

Citation forms

Each citation style offers you different *citation forms* for presenting your citation. These are documented in [Table 1](#). Citation forms are selected using the optional `form` argument to the `cite` function:

```
1 #cite("bender20:_climb_nlu", form: "t")
```

If you do not specify a citation form, the auto citation forms will be used. For your convenience, BibLaTeX defines the functions `cit`, `cit`, `cit`, and `cit`, which all just call `cite` with the respective citation form.

Citation options

You can pass extra named arguments to the Pergamon citation commands `cite`, `cit`, etc. These arguments will be passed as *options* to the citation formatter. For instance, the following citation will render as “(see Bender et al. 2020, p. 3)”:

```
1 #cite("bender20:_climb_nlu", prefix: "see ", suffix: ", p. 3")
```

Currently, the only builtin citation style that supports such arguments is the *authoryear* style. It accepts the `prefix` and `suffix` options, as in the example, and will print them just inside the opening and closing parentheses in the `p` and `auto` citation styles. You can still pass options to the other citation styles; they will simply ignore them.

3.3 Customizing the reference style

You can deeply customize how the default reference style in Pergamon typesets the individual references. The default style defines a variety of functions in [reference-styles.typ](#) that typeset

... some text here ... ([Bender and Koller 2020](#))

References

Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller. 2020. “[Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.

Figure 5: Bibliography with modified format-functions.

pieces of the reference; for instance, the function `journal-issue-title` displays the title and issue of a journal and connects them correctly with commas and periods. At the extreme end of the spectrum, the function `driver-X` renders a complete BibTeX entry of type `X` (e.g. `driver-article` renders journal article references). You can use the parameter `format-functions` in `format-reference` (see [Section 6.3](#)) to override these formatting functions.

An example is shown in [Figure 5](#); this reference style replicates that of the [ACL conferences](#), which typesets the year after the author, separated by periods. To achieve this format, you can override the formatting function `maybe-with-date` as shown below:

```
1 #import "@preview/pergamon:0.5.0": *
2 #let dev = pergamon-dev
3
4 #print-bibliography(
5   format-reference: format-reference(
6     reference-label: style.reference-label,
7     print-date-after-authors: true,
8     format-functions: (
9       "maybe-with-date": (reference, options) => {
10         name => {
11           periods(
12             name,
13             (dev.date-with-extradate)(reference, options)
14           )}},
15     ),
16   label-generator: style.label-generator
17 )
```

This is actually one of the more complex formatting functions. Like all formatting functions, it takes the reference and the usual options as argument. However, most other formatting functions just return some Typst content. By contrast, the drivers for the entry types call `maybe-with-date` as a function that takes the rendered author name as input and returns content. By default, `maybe-with-date` attaches the year and extradate to the author name, separated by parentheses, if the option `print-date-after-authors` is specified. The code above replaces this default implementation of `maybe-with-date` with a function that takes the author name as argument and attaches the date and extradate with a period. The drivers for the entry types will now call this function instead of the default one.

The formatting functions that can be overridden are exactly those that start with `with-default` in [reference-styles.typ](#). That file will also give you hints on which formatting function you have to override for the effect you want. You can access the other formatting functions through the dictionary `pergamon-dev`, which you can access after importing Pergamon (see the code above).

3.4 Implementing your own styles from scratch

If the customization options of the `format-functions` parameter are not enough for you, you can also define your own Pergamon style – either a reference style or a citation style or both. It is recommended to look at the default styles in [citation-styles.typ](#) and [reference-styles.typ](#) to get a clearer picture.

Implementing a reference style amounts to defining a Typst function that can be passed as the `format-reference` argument to `print-bibliography`. Such a function receives arguments (`index`, `reference`) containing the zero-based position of the reference in the bibliography and a reference dictionary. A call to your function should return some content, which will be displayed in the bibliography.

Reference dictionaries are a central data structure of Pergamon. They represent the information contained in a single bibliography entry and are explained in detail in [Section 6.1](#).

Implementing a citation style is a little more involved, because a citation style consists of three different functions:

- The *label generator* is passed as an argument to `print-bibliography`. It is a function that receives a reference dictionary and the bibliography position as arguments and is expected to return an array of length two. Its first element is the bib entry's *label*; it is stored under the `label` field of the reference dictionary and can contain any information that your style finds useful. The second element is a string summarizing the contents of the label. It is used to recognize when two bib entries have the same label and therefore need an “extradate” to make it unique, e.g. the letter “a” in a citation string like “Smith et al. (2025a)”. It is up to your style to ensure that entries with the same label also have the same string summary.
- The *reference labeler* is passed as an argument to `format-reference`. It receives a reference dictionary and the bibliography position as arguments and returns content. If this content is not none, it will be typeset as the first column in the bibliography, next to the reference itself. Of the builtin citation styles, the reference labeler of `authoryear` always returns none (indicating a one-column bibliography layout), and the other two return their respective labels in square brackets. Pergamon assumes that the reference labeler of a citation style either always returns none or never returns none, making for a consistent number of columns.
- The *citation formatter* is passed as an argument to `refsection`. It is responsible for formatting the actual citations into content that is inserted into the document text. The citation formatter receives three arguments: an array of citation specifications, a citation form (cf. “Citation forms” in [Section 3.2](#)), and an options dictionary (cf. “Citation options” in [Section 3.2](#)). See the `format-citation` argument of the `refsection` function in [Section 6.2](#) for details on the citation specifications.

	authoryear	alphabetic	numeric
auto	(Bender and Koller 2020)	[BK20]	[1]
p	(Bender and Koller 2020)	–	–
t	Bender and Koller (2020)	–	–
g	Bender and Koller’s (2020)	–	–
name	Bender and Koller	–	–
year	2020	–	–
n	Bender and Koller 2020	BK20	1

Table 1: Citation forms.

Note that the label information that the label generator produces will be stored in the `label` field of the reference dictionary. When the reference labeler and the citation formatter are called, the `label` information will still be available, allowing you to precompute any information you find useful.

4 Advanced usage

4.1 Multiple refsections

A Pergamon document consists of one or more refsections. Each refsection is a segment of the document that shares a bibliography: Pergamon collects all citations within each refsection and prints them in the refsection’s bibliography. This allows you to have multiple bibliographies per document, as in the well-known [Alexandria](#) package.

Every refsection in a document has a unique identifier that distinguishes it from the other refsections. These identifiers are prepended to the keys of the bibliography entries in every citation. You still write `#cite("key")` in your document, with the same key that you also use in your BibTeX file; in a refsection with identifier `id`, Pergamon automatically converts this into a reference to `id-key`. The only situation where you will notice that the keys were modified is when a citation is undefined; in this case, Typst will warn you that the reference `id-key` couldn’t be resolved, rather than `key`.

You can specify the refsection identifier yourself by passing it as the `id` argument to the `refsection` function. But typical usage will be to not specify an explicit `id` argument and let Pergamon assign a unique identifier automatically. In this case, the first refsection in the document will have the identifier `none`, and the subsequent ones will be names `"ref1"`, `"ref2"`, and so on. When the identifier is `none`, Pergamon simply uses the key itself as the label, rather than prepending it with an identifier string. For the frequent use case where the document has only one refsection, this will make error messages easier to read.

You may use `print-bibliography` only in the context of a refsection. If your document has only a single refsection, you can configure it through a document show rule, like this:

```

1 #let style = format-citation-numeric()
2 #show: doc => refsection(format-citation: style.format-citation, doc)
3
4 #add-bib-resource(read("bibs/bibliography.bib"))
5 #cite("bender20:_climb_nlu")

```

4.2 Styling the bibliography

A Pergamon bibliography is displayed as a [grid](#), with one row per bibliography entry. The grid has one or two columns, depending on whether a first column is needed to display a label or not.

You can style this grid by passing a dictionary in the `grid-style` argument of `print-bibliography`. The values in this dictionary will be used to overwrite the default values.

In addition, the individual entries in the bibliography are typeset as paragraphs, one per bib entry. You can style these paragraphs through `set par` rules, e.g. to give the entries a hanging indentation.

4.3 Styling individual references

The default reference style of Pergamon gives you fine-grained control over the way the individual fields of a reference are rendered. A *field formatter* is a function with parameters (value, reference, field, options, style), where `field` is the name and `value` is the value of a field in the reference; `reference` is the entire reference dictionary; `options` are the options that were passed to the reference style; and `style` is an optional style specification for the field. The field formatter is expected to return content representing the field's value.

You can override the formatters for specific fields by using the `format-fields` parameter of `format-reference`. The argument should be a dictionary that maps field names to field formatters. One use of this mechanism is to highlight specific authors in a reference. For instance, to highlight my name in a reference, I could use the following call:

```

1 #format-reference(
2   format-fields: (
3     "author": (dffmt, value, reference, field, options, style) => {
4       let formatted-names = value.map(d => {
5         let highlighted = (d.family == "Koller")
6         let name = format-name(d, format: "{given} {family}")
7         if highlighted { strong(name) } else { name }
8       })
9
10      concatenate-names(formatted-names, maxnames: 999)
11    }
12  )
13 )

```

This will produce output as in [Figure 6](#).

Emily M. Bender and **Alexander Koller**. “[Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data](#)”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.

Figure 6: Reference with highlighted author.

Another effect that can be achieved by overriding field formatters is to change the presentation of the volume and number of the journal in which an article appears. Here’s how the default presentation “VOL.NUM” can be replaced with “vol. VOL, no. NUM”:

```
1 #format-reference(  
2   volume-number-separator: ", ",  
3   format-fields: (  
4     "volume": (dffmt, value, reference, field, options, style) => {  
5       if reference.entry_type == "article" {  
6         [vol. #value]  
7       } else {  
8         dffmt(value, reference, field, options, style)  
9       }  
10    },  
11  
12    "number": (dffmt, value, reference, field, options, style) => {  
13      if reference.entry_type == "article" {  
14        [no. #value]  
15      } else {  
16        dffmt(value, reference, field, options, style)  
17      }  
18    },  
19  )  
20 )
```

Note that this implementation makes use of the `dffmt` argument, which receives the default implementation of the field formatters for volume and number, respectively, so that we can delegate the formatting of the field for references that are not journal articles.

One special case that is not covered by field formatters arises in the case of subtitles. In BibLaTeX, the titles of journals, books, special issues, and multi-volume books can have optional subtitles. If both are specified, Pergamon concatenates the title and subtitle with the `subtitlepunct` argument, e.g. to “Title: Subtitle”. It then applies a formatting function to the entire concatenated title and subtitle; for instance, `format-journaltitle` defaults to setting the title and subtitle in italics. You can override the default behavior by passing your own functions in these arguments.

4.4 Sorting the bibliography

You can furthermore control the order in which references are presented in the bibliography. To this end, you can pass a sorting string in the `sorting` argument of `print-bibliography`. See the documentation of this argument in [Section 6](#) for details.

4.5 Styling the citations

Citations in Pergamon are [link](#) elements, and can be styled using show rules. However, it is not entirely trivial to distinguish a link element that represents a Pergamon citation from any other link element (referring e.g. to a website). Pergamon therefore provides a function `if-citation` which will make this distinction for you. The following piece of code typesets all Pergamon citations in blue:

```
1  #show link: it => if-citation(it, value => {
2    set text(fill: blue)
3    it
4  })
```

The `value` argument contains metadata about the citation; `value.reference` is the reference dictionary (see [Section 6.1](#)). You can use this information to style citations conditionally. For instance, in order to typeset all citations to my own papers in green and all other citations in blue, I could write:

```
1  #show link: it => if-citation(it, value => {
2    if "Koller" in family-names(value.reference.fields.parsed-author) {
3      set text(fill: green)
4      it
5    } else {
6      set text(fill: blue)
7      it
8    })
```

4.6 Showing the entire bibliography

It is sometimes convenient to display the entire bibliography, and not just those references that were actually cited in the current refsection. You can instruct `print-bibliography` to do this using the `show-all` argument:

```
1  #print-bibliography(
2    format-reference: format-reference(),
3    show-all: true
4  )
```

To obtain finer control over the bibliography entries that are shown, you can use the `filter` argument. This function receives a [reference dictionary](#) as its argument and returns `true` if this reference should be included in the bibliography and `false` otherwise. For instance, the following call shows all journal articles and nothing else:

```
1  #print-bibliography(
2    format-reference: format-reference(),
3    show-all: true,
4    filter: reference => reference.entry_type == "article"
5  )
```

★ Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller. “Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding in the Age of Data”. In: *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. 2020.

Figure 7: Highlighting a reference.

4.7 Continuous numbering

When you typeset a CV, it is sometimes useful to have separate bibliographies for journal articles, papers in conference proceedings, and so on. In this case, you might want to use the *numeric* citation style to number all your references, and you might want to continue counting the papers across the different bibliographies; if you have seven journal papers, you want the first conference paper to be “[8]”.

You can achieve this using the `resume-after` parameter of `print-bibliography`. If you pass the number 7 for this parameter, the first entry in the bibliography will be labeled “[8]”.

It would be desirable to automatically keep a running count of the bibliography entries, so the arguments for `resume-after` can be calculated automatically. This should be doable using counters or states, but I have not managed to figure out how to do it in a stable way. The function `count-bib-entries` is intended for this use. If you find out how to do it, please let me know!

4.8 Highlighting references

The builtin `format-reference` function accepts a parameter `highlight`, which you can use to highlight individual references in the bibliography. The `highlight` function takes a `rendered-reference` as argument; this is a piece of content representing the entire rendered bibliography entry, just before it is printed. It also receives the corresponding reference dictionary and the position in the bibliography.

Let’s say that you use the `keywords` field in your BibTeX entries to contain the keyword `highlight` if you want to highlight the paper. You can then selectively highlight references like this:

```
1 #let f-r = format-reference(  
2   highlight: (rendered, reference, index) => {  
3     if "highlight" in reference.fields.at("keywords", default: ()) {  
4       [#text(size: 8pt)[#emoji.star.box] #rendered]  
5     } else {  
6       rendered  
7     }  
8   })
```

This will place a marker before each reference with the “highlight” keyword, and will leave all other references unchanged.

5 Data model

Pergamon makes a number of assumptions on the contents of the BibTeX entries. These are typically consistent with those that BibLaTeX makes (see Chapter 2 “Database Guide” in the BibLaTeX documentation), but some of them are worth discussing.

5.1 Dates

Dates can occur in a number of places in the BibTeX entry. The most important one is the publication date of the reference. It can be specified in one of two ways:

- In the date field, using the ISO 8601-2 format: “YYYY-MM-DD” or “YYYY-MM” or “YYYY”. In this format, years, months, and days must all be positive integers.
- In the year and month fields. In this format, the value of year should be a positive integer. The month field should contain a positive integer (1–12), full English month names like `january`, or three-letter abbreviations of English month names like `feb`. Dates specified in this way will be potentially localized using `bibstring` (see [Section 6.5](#)). As a fallback option, you can also specify some other string for the month, which will be printed in the reference verbatim.

All other BibTeX fields whose name ends in `date` (e.g. `urldate`) will also be parsed as in the date option described above.

The parsed dates will be stored in the [reference dictionary](#) reference under `reference.fields.parsed-X`, where `X` is the name of the date field. (If the publication date is specified with a year field, its value will still be stored in `reference.fields.parsed-date`.) This makes them available for other functions and styles. A parsed date is represented as a dictionary with keys `year`, `month`, and `day`, all of which may be missing. The values under these fields are all positive integers. If a date specification in the BibTeX entry cannot be parsed, it will be represented as an empty dictionary.

In addition to these basic date specifications, BibLaTeX allows for date ranges ([issue #55](#), approximate dates ([issue #56](#)), and years before the Common Era ([issue #57](#)). These features are not yet supported in Pergamon.

6 Detailed documentation

Let’s now go through the detailed documentation of all the functions and data structures that Pergamon exposes to you.

6.1 Reference dictionaries

The central data structure that Pergamon manages is the *reference dictionary*. This is a dictionary as shown in [Figure 8](#); its purpose is to represent all information about a single bib entry. It is obtained by parsing a BibTeX file using [citegeist](#) and then enriching it with some extra information from within Pergamon.

```

1 (
2   entry_type: "inproceedings",
3   entry_key: "bender20:_climb_nlu",
4   fields: (
5     author: "Emily M. Bender and Alexander Koller",
6     award: "Best theme paper",
7     booktitle: "Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association
8                 for Computational Linguistics (ACL)",
9     doi: "10.18653/v1/2020.acl-main.463",
10    keywords: "highlight",
11    title: "Climbing towards NLU: On Meaning, Form, and Understanding
12            in the Age of Data",
13    year: "2020",
14    parsed-author: (
15      (given: "Emily M.", family: "Bender"),
16      (given: "Alexander", family: "Koller"),
17    ),
18    sortstr-author: "Bender,Emily M. Koller,Alexander",
19    parsed-editor: none,
20    parsed-translator: none,
21    parsed-date: (year: 2020)
22  ),
23  label: ("Bender and Koller", "2020"),
24  label-repr: "Bender and Koller 2020",
25 )

```

Figure 8: Example of a reference dictionary.

From the perspective of a style developer, the most important part of the reference dictionary is the `fields` part, which contains the fields of the BibTeX entry. In the example, the BibTeX entry defined a number of standard BibTeX fields, such as `author` and `title`; it also defines some lesser-known fields that are standard in BibTeX, such as `keywords`; and it also has extra fields, such as `award`. The reference dictionary makes all of these BibTeX fields available to you.

The keys `entry_type` and `entry_key` at the top of [Figure 8](#) also come from the BibTeX file; they represent the key and entry type of the BibTeX entry. In addition, Pergamon preprocesses the reference dictionary and adds some fields of its own.

- The `label` and `label-repr` fields store the output of the `label-generator` call.
- The `parsed-X` fields contain parsed name information. For instance, `parsed-author` represents the outcome of parsing the names in the `author` field. It consists of an array of *name-part dictionaries*, which map the keys `given` and `family` (aka “first” and “last” names) to the parts of that author’s name.
- The `sortstr-author` field concatenates the author names, family-name first. It is used when sorting references in a bibliography using the `n` identifier.

The preprocessing happens relatively early, so the code in a reference or citation style can rely on the presence of these fields in the reference dictionary.

6.2 Main functions

These are functions implementing the base functionality of Pergamon, such as `cite` and `print-bibliography`.

>> `add-bib-resource`

Parses BibTeX references and makes them available to Pergamon. Due to architectural limitations in Typst, Pergamon cannot read BibTeX from a file. You will therefore typically call `read` yourself, like this:

```
1 #add-bib-resource(read("bibliography.bib"))
```

You can call `add-bib-resource` multiple times, and this will add the contents of multiple bib files. However, all bibliography entries must have different keys, even if they are in different source files.

Parameters

```
add-bib-resource(  
  bibtex-string: str,  
  source-id: str none  
) -> none
```

bibtex-string `str`

A BibTeX string to be parsed.

source-id `str` or `none`

If `source-id` is not `none`, it is added to all references loaded from this BibTeX source under the `source-id` field. This can e.g. be used to filter bibliographies by source id.

For instance, this value of `filter` for `print-bibliography()` will only show the references that were assigned the source id `other.bib`:

```
filter: reference => reference.fields.at("source-id", default: none) ==  
"other.bib"
```

Default: `none`

>> `cite`

Typesets a citation to the bibliography entry with the given keys. The `cite` function keeps track of what refsection we are in and uses that refsection's citation formatter to typeset the citation.

You can pass a single key, `cite(key)`, to typeset a citation of a single reference. Alternatively, you can pass multiple keys, `cite(key1, key2, key3)`, to generate a sequence of citations. Depending on the citation style, this may give you a compact and neat citation, such as “[1, 5]” or “(Author 2020; Other 2021)”.

Note that bib keys are always given as strings in Pergamon, e.g. `cite("paper1")`.

You can pass a form for finer control over the citation string, depending on what your citation style supports (see [Section 3.2](#)). If you do not specify the form, its default value of `auto` will generate a default form that depends on the citation style.

Parameters

```
cite(
  ..keys: arguments ,
  form: str auto
) -> content
```

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

form str or auto

The citation form.

Default: auto

>> citeg

Typesets a citation with the form "g", e.g. “Smith et al.’s (2020)”. See `cite()` for details.

Parameters

```
citeg(..keys: arguments )
```

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> citen

Typesets a citation with the form "n", e.g. “Smith et al. 2020”. See `cite()` for details.

Parameters

```
citen(..keys: arguments )
```

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> **citename**

Typesets a citation with the form "name", e.g. "Smith et al.". See [cite\(\)](#) for details.

Parameters

citename(**..keys**: arguments)

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> **citep**

Typesets a citation with the form "p", e.g. "(Smith et al. 2020)". See [cite\(\)](#) for details.

Parameters

citep(**..keys**: arguments)

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> **citet**

Typesets a citation with the form "t", e.g. "Smith et al. (2020)". See [cite\(\)](#) for details.

Parameters

citet(**..keys**: arguments)

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> citeyear

Typesets a citation with the form "year", e.g. "2020a". See [cite\(\)](#) for details.

Parameters

```
citeyear(..keys: arguments)
```

..keys arguments

The keys of the BibTeX entries you want to cite.

>> count-bib-entries

Counts the entries that would be rendered by `print-bibliography`. This may (eventually?) be useful to implement automatic continuous counting using `print-bibliography`'s `resume-after` parameter; see [Section 4.7](#).

This function uses [context](#), but does not acquire it internally. This is so you can access the `int` value returned by `count-bib-entries` in your own code, rather than getting it back wrapped in `content`. Calls to the function must therefore be enclosed in the `context` keyword, e.g.

```
1 #context { count-bib-entries() }
```

See [print-bibliography\(\)](#) for an explanation of the parameters.

Parameters

```
count-bib-entries(  
  show-all,  
  filter  
) -> int
```

>> if-citation

Helper function for rendering the links to a bibliography entry. The first argument is assumed to be a Typst [link](#) element, obtained e.g. as the argument of a `show` rule. If this `link` is a citation pointing to a bibliography entry managed by Pergamon, e.g. generated by Pergamon's `cite` function, the function passes the metadata of this bib entry to the `citation-content` function and returns the content this function generated. Otherwise, the `link` is passed to `other-content` for further processing.

The primary purpose of `if-citation` is to facilitate the definition of `show` rules. A typical example is the following `show` rule, which colors references to my own publications green and all others blue.

```
1 #show link: it => if-citation(it, value => {
```

```

2   if "Koller" in family-names(value.reference.fields.parsed-author) {
3       set text(fill: green)
4       it
5   } else {
6       set text(fill: blue)
7       it
8   })

```

Parameters

```

if-citation(
  it: link,
  citation-content: function,
  other-content: function
) -> content

```

it `link`

A Typst link element.

citation-content `function`

A function that maps the metadata associated with a Pergamon reference to a piece of content. The metadata is a dictionary with keys `reference`, `index`, and `key`. `reference` is a reference dictionary (see [Section 6.1](#)), `key` is the key of the bib entry, and `index` is the position in the bibliography.

other-content `function`

A function that maps the link to a piece of content. The default argument simply leaves the link untouched, permitting other show rules to trigger and render it appropriately.

Default: `x => x`

>> `print-bibliography`

Prints the bibliography for the `refsection()` in which it is contained. This function cannot be used outside of a `refsection`.

Parameters

```

print-bibliography(
  format-reference: function,
  label-generator: function,
  sorting: function str none,
  show-all: bool,
  filter: function,

```

```

grid-style: dictionary,
title: str none,
outlined: bool,
name-fields: array,
labelname-fields: array,
resume-after: int
) -> none

```

format-reference function

A function that renders the reference into Typst content, which will then be included in the printed bibliography. This function will typically be defined in a Pergamon style, to be compatible with the `format-citation` function that is passed to `refsection()`.

`format-reference` is passed the position of the reference in the bibliography as a zero-based `int` in the first argument. It is passed the `reference dictionary` for the reference in the second argument.

It returns an array of contents. The elements of this array will be laid out as the columns of a grid, in the same row, permitting e.g. bibliography layouts with one column for the reference label and one with the reference itself. If only one column is needed (e.g. in the `authoryear` citation style), `format-reference` should return an array of length one. All calls to `format-reference` should return arrays of the same length.

Default: `(index, reference) => ([REFERENCE],)`

label-generator function

Generates label information for the given reference. The function takes the reference dictionary and the reference's index in the sorted bibliography as input and returns an array `(label, label-repr)`, where `label` can be anything the style finds useful for generating the citations and `label-repr` is a string representation of the label. These string representations are used to detect label collisions, which cause the generation of `extradates`.

The default implementation simply returns a number that is guaranteed to be unique to each reference. Styles that want to work with `extradate` will almost certainly want to pass a different function here.

The function passed as `label-generator` does not control whether labels are printed in the bibliography in their own separate column; it only computes information for internal use. A style can decide whether it wants to print labels through its `format-reference` function.

Note that `label-repr` *must* be a `str`.

Default: `(index, reference) => (index + 1, str(index + 1))`

sorting `function` or `str` or `none`

A function that defines the order in which references are shown in the bibliography. This function takes a [reference dictionary](#) as input and returns a value that can be [sorted](#), e.g. a number, a string, or an array of sortable values.

Alternatively, you can specify a BibLaTeX-style sorting string. The following strings are supported:

- `n`: author name (lastname firstname)
- `t`: paper title
- `y`: the year in which the paper was published; write `yd` for descending order
- `d`: the date on which the paper was published; write `dd` for descending order
- `v`: volume, if defined
- `a`: the contents of the `label` field (if defined); for the alphabetic style, this amounts to the alphabetic paper key

For instance, `"nydt"` sorts the references first by author name, then by descending year, then by title.

See [Section 5.1](#) for details on how dates are parsed in the BibTeX entries. If a field of the date (year, month, day) is missing, it is treated as zero for the purposes of sorting. Months that are specified as strings (e.g. `"July"` rather than `7` or `jul`) are also treated as zero.

If `none` or the string `"none"` is passed as the `sorting` argument, the references are sorted in an arbitrary order. There is currently no reliable support for sorting the references in the order in which they were cited in the document.

Default: `none`

show-all `bool`

Determines whether the printed bibliography should contain all references from the loaded bibliographies (`true`) or only those that were cited in the current refsection (`false`).

Default: `false`

filter `function`

Filters which references should be included in the printed bibliography. This makes sense only if `show-all` is `true`, otherwise not all your citations will be resolved to bibliography entries. The parameter should be a function that takes a [reference dictionary](#) as argument and returns a boolean value. The printed bibliography will contain exactly those references for which the function returned `true`.

Default: `reference => true`

grid-style `dictionary`

A dictionary for styling the [grid](#) in which the bibliography is laid out. By default, the grid is laid out with `row-gutter: 1.2em` and `column-gutter: 0.5em`. You can overwrite these values and specify new ones with this argument; the revised style specification will be passed to the `grid` function.

Default: `(:)`

title `str` or `none`

The title that will be typeset above the bibliography in the document. The string given here will be rendered as a first-level heading without numbering. Pass `none` to suppress the bibliography title.

Default: `"References"`

outlined `bool`

Whether the title of the bibliography should appear in the document's [outline](#).

Default: `true`

name-fields `array`

BibTeX fields that contain names and should be parsed as such. For each `X` in this array, Pergamon will enrich the reference dictionary with a field `parsed-X` that contains an array of name-part dictionaries, such as `("family": "Smith", "given": "John")`. See [Section 6.1](#) for an example.

If the field `X` is not defined in the BibTeX entry, Pergamon will still insert a field `parsed-X`; in this case, it will have the value `none`.

Note that to fully replicate the options `useauthor` / `useeditor` / `usetranslator` in BibLaTeX, you will need to both (a) specify the corresponding option in [format-reference\(\)](#) and (b) remove the field from the `name-fields` parameter here. This is because `name-fields` is used to determine the reference's `labelname`, long before `format-reference` gets to typeset the reference itself.

Default: `("afterword",
 "annotator",
 "author",
 "bookauthor",
 "commentator",
 "editor",
 "editora",
 "editorb",
 "editorc",
 "foreword",`

```
"holder",
"introduction",
"shortauthor",
"shorteditor",
"sortname",
"translator")
```

labelname-fields `array`

BibTeX fields that will be considered when determining the entry's labelname. The labelname is the field that will be used when generating the labels for the *authoryear* and *alphabetic* citation styles. Labelnames are computed as follows:

- If the BibTeX entry specified a field with the name `labelnamefield`, then the BibTeX field specified under `labelnamefield` is used.
- Otherwise, the first field name in `labelname-fields` that is defined in the BibTeX entry is used.
- If none of these fields is defined, Pergamon will throw an error.

In either of these cases, the name of the BibTeX field from which the labelname is taken is stored in the BibTeX field `labelnamesource`.

Pergamon assumes that the labelname field contains a list of names.

Default: (

```
"shortauthor",
"author",
"shorteditor",
"editor",
"translator"
)
```

resume-after `int`

Starts the numbering of entries in this bibliography after the number specified in this argument. Let's say you typeset two bibliographies in your document, and the first one has 15 entries. You can pass 15 in the `resume-after` argument to make the numbering of entries in the second bibliography start at 16.

The `index` parameters of functions like `format-reference` and `format-citation` will receive the sum of `resume-after` and the actual position in this particular bibliography as an argument. In the example above, the first reference in the second bibliography will be called with `index=15` (because the count in the second bibliography is zero-based). The only default citation style that cares about indices is *numeric*.

Default: 0

>> refsection

Defines a section of the document with its own bibliography. You need to load a bibliography with the `add-bib-resource()` function in a place that is earlier than the refsection in rendering order.

Parameters

```
refsection(  
  format-citation: function auto,  
  id: str auto,  
  doc: content  
) -> none
```

format-citation function or auto

A function that generates the citation string for a list of references. The function receives an array of *citation specifications* as its first argument, a form string as its second argument, and an options dictionary as its third argument. It returns the content that is displayed in place of a `cite()` call.

A citation specification is an array (`lbl`, `reference`), where `lbl` is a citation label and `reference` is a reference dictionary. The citation formatter is expected to use the information in the reference dictionary to generate the citation and then embed it in a `link` to the given label (which is anchored by the reference in the bibliography). This might look like this:

```
#link(label(lbl), format(reference))
```

In addition to (`lbl`, `reference`) pairs, the citation specification array can also contain elements that are strings (i.e. Typst objects of type `str`). This happens in cases where the user cites a paper that does not exist in the bibliography. In this case, the string is the key of the cited paper, and the citation formatter is expected to render an appropriate error message. The builtin styles render the key as “`?key?`”.

The form string specifies the exact form in which the citation is rendered; see [Section 3.2](#) for details. This makes the difference e.g. between “Smith et al. (2025)” and “(Smith et al. 2025)”.

The options dictionary specifies options that control the rendering of the citation in detail. For instance, the *authoryear* style accepts `prefix` and `suffix` arguments. Not every citation style is required to interpret the same options; see the documentation of the citation style for details.

The function you pass here will typically be defined in a Pergamon citation style, to be compatible with the `format-reference` function that is passed to `print-bibliography()`.

You can pass `auto` in this argument to indicate that you want to use the same citation formatter as in the previous refsection. If you pass `auto` to the first refsection in the document, Pergamon will use the dummy citation formatter `(references, form) => [CITATION]`.

Default: `auto`

id `str` or `auto`

A unique identifier for this refsection. Each refsection needs its own unique id, which distinguishes it from all the other refsections. You can either specify an explicit identifier here, or you can pass `auto` to indicate that Pergamon should assign an identifier automatically. In this case, the first refsection in the document receives the identifier `none`, and the subsequent refsections will be named `ref1`, `ref2`, and so on.

All references and citations within a refsection with identifier `X` will be prefixed by `X-`; so for instance, the citation `cite("knuth1990")` in the refsection `ref1` will silently introduce and reference a label `ref1-knuth1990`. If the refsection identifier is `none`, the original label `knuth1990` will be used instead.

Default: `auto`

doc `content`

The section of the document that is to be wrapped in this refsection.

6.3 Builtin reference style

Here we explain the builtin reference style.

>> `format-reference`

The standard reference style. It is modeled after the standard bibliography style of BibLaTeX.

A call to `format-reference` takes a number of options as argument and returns a function that will take arguments `index` and `reference` and return a rendered reference. This function is suitable as an argument to the `format-reference` parameter of `print-bibliography`, and will control how the references in this bibliography are rendered. See the documentation of `print-bibliography` for a more detailed specification of the `format-reference` function in general.

Most of the options of `format-reference` have sensible default values. The one exception is the mandatory named argument `reference-label`, which you obtain from your citation style.

Parameters

```
format-reference(  
  reference-label: function,  
  highlight: function,  
  link-titles: bool,  
  print-identifiers: array,  
  print-url: bool,  
  print-doi: bool,
```

```

print-eprint: bool,
use-author: bool,
use-translator: bool,
use-editor: bool,
print-date-after-authors: bool,
eval-mode: str,
eval-scope: dictionary,
list-middle-delim: str,
list-end-delim-two: str,
list-end-delim-many: str,
author-type-delim: str,
subtitlepunct: str,
format-journaltitle: function,
format-issuetitle: function,
format-maintitle: function,
format-booktitle: function,
format-fields: dictionary,
format-functions: dictionary,
format-parens: function,
format-brackets: function,
format-quotes: function,
name-format: str dictionary,
volume-number-separator: str,
bibeidpunct: str,
bibpagespunct: str,
print-isbn: bool,
bibstring-style: str,
bibstring: dictionary,
additional-fields: array none,
suppress-fields: array dictionary none,
period: str array,
comma: str array,
maxnames: int,
minnames: int
)

```

reference-label function

The reference labeler that should be used for this bibliography; see [Section 3.4](#) for a detailed explanation.

The reference labeler typically comes from a citation style (e.g. *authoryear*, *numeric*, *alphabetic*).

Unlike the other parameters of `format-reference`, you *must* pass a meaningful argument for this parameter. If you leave it at the default value of `none`, Typst will not even show you a proper error message; it will just say “warning: layout did not converge within 5 attempts”.

Default: **none**

highlight **function**

Selectively highlights certain bibliography entries. The parameter is a function that is applied at the final stage of the rendering process, where the whole rest of the entry has already been rendered. This is an opportunity to e.g. mark certain entries in the bibliography by boldfacing them or prepending them with a marker symbol. See [Section 4.8](#) for an example.

The highlighting function accepts arguments `rendered-reference` (str or content representing the reference as it is printed), `index` (position of the reference in the bibliography), and `reference` (the reference dictionary). It returns content. The default implementation simply returns the `rendered-reference` unmodified.

Default: `(rendered-reference, index, reference) => rendered-reference`

link-titles **bool**

If `true`, titles are rendered as hyperlinks pointing to the reference's DOI or URL. When both are defined, the DOI takes precedence.

Default: **true**

print-identifiers **array**

Array of reference identifiers that should be printed at the end of the bibliography entry. The array contains a list of strings; possible values are "doi", "url", and "eprint". For each bib entry, these values are considered in the order in which they appear in the array, and the first value that is defined as a key in the bib entry is printed.

`print-identifiers` acts as a flexible version of the `print-url`, `print-doi`, and `print-eprint` parameters. For the first `X` in the array that is defined in the bib entry, it effectively sets `print-X` to `true`. The values of the other `print-X` parameters are left unchanged; thus, you could e.g. still force the rendering of `eprint` by setting `print-eprint` to `true`, even if `print-identifiers` matches on the DOI instead.

Default: `()`

print-url **bool**

If `true`, prints the reference's URL at the end of the bibliography entry.

Default: **false**

print-doi **bool**

If `true`, prints the reference's DOI at the end of the bibliography entry.

Default: `false`

print-eprint `bool`

If `true`, prints the reference's eprint information at the end of the bibliography entry. This could be a reference to arXiv or JSTOR.

Default: `true`

use-author `bool`

If `true`, prints the reference's author if it is defined.

Default: `true`

use-translator `bool`

If `true`, prints the reference's translator if it is defined. See also name-fields in `print-bibliography()`.

Default: `true`

use-editor `bool`

If `true`, prints the reference's editor if it is defined. See also name-fields in `print-bibliography()`.

Default: `true`

print-date-after-authors `bool`

If `true`, Pergamon will print the date right after the authors, e.g. 'Smith (2020). "A cool paper"'. If `false`, Pergamon will follow the normal behavior of BibLaTeX and place the date towards the end of the reference.

Default: `false`

eval-mode `str`

When Pergamon renders a reference, the title is processed by Typst's `eval` function. The `eval-mode` argument you specify here is passed as the `mode` argument to `eval`.

The default value of `"markup"` renders the title as if it were ordinary Typst content, typesetting e.g. mathematical expressions correctly.

Default: `"markup"`

eval-scope `dictionary`

The scope argument that is passed to the `eval` call (see `eval-mode`). This allows you to call Typst functions from within the BibTeX entries.

Default: `(:)`

list-middle-delim `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter to combine list items before the last one.

Default: `" , "`

list-end-delim-two `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter to combine the items of lists of length two.

Default: `" and "`

list-end-delim-many `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter in lists of length three or more to combine the final item in the list with the rest.

Default: `" , and "`

author-type-delim `str`

String that is used to combine the name of an author with the author type, e.g. “Smith, editor”.

Default: `" , "`

subtitlepunct `str`

String that is used to combine a title with a subtitle.

Default: `" . "`

format-journaltitle `function`

Renders the title and subtitle of a journal as content. The default argument typesets it in italics.

Certain titles (`journaltitle`, `issuetitle`, `maintitle`, `booktitle`) can be combined with subtitles (e.g. `journalsubtitle`). The title and subtitle are joined by `subtitlepunct` to obtain e.g. “Journal title: subtitle”. The `subtitlepunct` needs to be formatted the same as the title and subtitle, but its formatting cannot be controlled by `format-fields`. This is why Pergamon offers parameters such as `format-journaltitle` to format the entire concatenated title and subtitle.

Default: `it => emph(it)`

format-issuetitle `function`

Renders the title of a special issue as content. The default argument typesets it in italics.

See `format-journaltitle` for further explanation.

Default: `it => emph(it)`

format-maintitle `function`

Renders the main title of a multi-volume work as content. The default argument typesets it in italics.

See `format-journaltitle` for further explanation.

Default: `it => emph(it)`

format-booktitle `function`

Renders the title of a book as content. The default argument typesets it in italics.

See `format-journaltitle` for further explanation.

Default: `it => emph(it)`

format-fields `dictionary`

Overrides the way individual fields in the reference are rendered. The argument is a dictionary that maps the names of fields in a BibTeX entry to *extended field formatters*, i.e. functions that compute Typst content and take the following positional parameters:

- `dffmt`: the *default* field formatter, which is applied if no more specific field formatter is specified through `format-fields`.
- `value`: the value of the field in the BibTeX entry.
- `reference`: the reference dictionary, cf. [Section 6.1](#).
- `field`: the name of the field.

- `options`: a dictionary containing all the options that were passed to `format-reference` as arguments.
- `style`: an optional style specification for the field.

If you do not override the rendering of a field, Pergamon uses a default field formatter, i.e. a function that computes content from the value, reference, field, options, and style parameters explained above. This default field formatter is passed as the first argument (`dffmt`) to the extended field formatter explained above.

Some examples of how `format-fields` can be used are shown in [Section 4.3](#).

Default: `(:)`

format-functions dictionary

Overrides the way that the complex formatting in the reference style is handled.

The default Pergamon reference style relies on a variety of functions with signature `(reference, options) → content` to render pieces of the reference in the bibliography. For instance, the function `driver-article` typesets a BibTeX entry of type `article`.

By passing a dictionary with an entry `function-name: function` in this parameter, you can override the default implementations of these formatting functions. To find the function names that can be overridden, look for functions that start with `with-default` in [reference-styles.typ](#).

The `format-functions` parameter allows you to deeply customize the way Pergamon displays references, without having to implement your own reference style from scratch. It applies to larger spans of content in the references – in contrast to `format-fields`, which affects the formatting of individual BibTeX fields. See [Section 3.3](#) for examples.

Default: `(:)`

format-parens function

Wraps text in round brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (`str` or `content`) and returns content.

It is essential that if the argument is `none`, the function must also return `none`. This can be achieved conveniently with the `nn` function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => [(#it)])`

format-brackets function

Wraps text in square brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (`str` or `content`) and returns content.

It is essential that if the argument is none, the function must also return none. This can be achieved conveniently with the nn function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => [#it])`

format-quotes `function`

Wraps text in double quotes. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (str or content) and returns content.

It is essential that if the argument is none, the function must also return none. This can be achieved conveniently with the nn function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => ["#it"])`

name-format `str` or dictionary

The format in which names (of authors, editors, etc.) are printed. This is an arbitrary string which may contain the placeholders {given} and {family}; these will be replaced by the person's actual name parts. You can use {g} and {f} for the first letters of the given and family name, respectively.

Instead of a string, you can also pass a dictionary in this argument. The keys are name types ("author", "editor", etc.), and the values are name format strings as explained above. The style will use a default format of "{given} {family}" for name types that you did not specify.

Default: `"{given} {family}"`

volume-number-separator `str`

Separator symbol for "volume" and "number" fields, e.g. in @articles.

Default: `"."`

bibeidpunct `str`

Separator symbol that connects the EID (Scopus Electronic Identifier) from other journal information.

Default: `","`

bibpagespunct `str`

Separator symbol that connects the "pages" field with related information.

Default: `","`

print-isbn `bool`

If true, prints the ISBN or ISSN of the reference if it is defined.

Default: `false`

bibstring-style `str`

Selects whether the long or short versions of the bibstrings should be used by default. Acceptable values are “long” and “short”. See the documentation of [default-long-bibstring](#) for details.

Default: `"long"`

bibstring `dictionary`

Overrides entries in the bibstring table. The bibstring table is a dictionary that maps language-independent IDs of bibliographic constants (e.g. “in”) to their language-dependent surface forms (such as “In: “ or “edited by”). The ID-form pairs you specify in the bibstring argument will overwrite the default entries.

See the documentation for [default-long-bibstring](#) in [Section 6.5](#) for more information on the bibstring table.

Default: `(:)`

additional-fields `array` or `none`

An array of additional fields which will be printed at the end of each bibliography entry. Fields can be specified either as a string, in which case the field with that name is printed using the reference style’s normal rules. Alternatively, they can be specified as a function (reference, options) -> content, in which case the returned content will be printed directly. Instead of an array, you can also pass none to indicate that no additional fields need to be printed.

For example, both of these will work:

```
additional-fields: ("award",)
```

```
additional-fields: ((reference, options) =>
  ifdef(reference, "award", (:), award => [*#award*]),)
```

Default: `none`

suppress-fields `array` or `dictionary` or `none`

A specification of field names that should not be printed. References are treated as if they do not contain values for these fields, even if the BibTeX file defines them.

You can pass an array of strings here. These field names will be suppressed in all references.

Alternatively, you can pass a dictionary that maps entry types to arrays of strings. `("inproceedings": ("editor", "location"))` means that the editor and location fields will not be printed in inproceedings references, but may be printed in other entry types. You can use the special key `"*"` to suppress fields in *all* entry types.

Finally, you can also pass `none` to indicate that no fields should be suppressed.

Default: `none`

period `str` or `array`

Specifies how string or content elements are joined using period symbols. This corresponds roughly (but not precisely) to blocks in BibLaTeX.

If you specify a string here, this string will be used to join the elements. Pergamon will avoid duplicating connector symbols, i.e. it will not print a period if the preceding symbol was already a period.

Alternatively, you can specify an array `(connector, skip-chars)`, where `connector` is the period symbol. The connector is skipped if the preceding character occurs in the string `skip-chars`.

Default: `(".", ". ,?!;: ")`

comma `str` or `array`

Function that joins an arbitrary number of strings or contents with a comma symbol. This corresponds roughly (but not precisely) to units in BibLaTeX.

See the documentation for `period` for details.

Default: `" , "`

maxnames `int`

Maximum number of names that are displayed in name lists (author, editor, etc.). If the actual number of names exceeds `maxnames`, only the first `maxnames` names are shown and `bibstring.andothers` ("et al.") is appended.

This parameter is modeled after the `maxnames/maxbibnames` option in BibLaTeX.

Default: `9999`

minnames `int`

Minimum number of names that are displayed in name lists (author, editor, etc.). This can be used in conjunction with `maxnames` to create name lists like “Jones, Smith et al.” (`minnames` = 2, `maxnames` = 2).

`minnames` trumps `maxnames`: That is, if the name list is at least as long as `minnames`, the reference will show `minnames` names, even if this exceeds `maxnames`. In typical use cases, `minnames` will be less or equal than `maxnames`, so this situation will usually not occur.

This parameter is modeled after the `minnames/minbibnames` option in BibLaTeX.

Default: 9999

6.4 Builtin citation styles

Here we explain the builtin citation styles.

>> `format-citation-alphabetic`

The *alphabetic* citation style renders citations in a form like “[BK20]”. The citation string consists of a sequence of the first letters of the authors’ family names. See [Figure 3](#) for an example.

If there are too many authors, the symbol “+” is appended to the citation string to indicate “et al.”, e.g. “[YDZ+25]”. What constitutes “too many” is controlled by the `maxalphanames` parameter.

If there is only one author, the first few characters of the author name are displayed instead, as in “[Knu90]”. The number of characters is controlled by the `labelalpha` parameter.

If more than one reference would receive the same citation string under this policy, the style appends an “extradate” character. For example, if two papers would receive the label “[BDF+20]”, then the first one (in the sorting order of the bibliography) will be replaced by “[BDF+20a]” and the second one by “[BDF+20b]”.

The function `format-citation-alphabetic` returns a dictionary with keys `format-citation`, `label-generator`, and `reference-label`. You can use the values under these keys as arguments to `refsection`, `print-bibliography`, and `format-reference`, respectively.

Parameters

```
format-citation-alphabetic(  
    maxalphanames: int,  
    labelalpha: int,  
    labelalphaothers: str,  
    citation-separator: str,  
    format-brackets: function  
)
```

maxalphanames int

The maximum number of authors that will be printed in a citation string. If the actual number of authors exceeds this value, the symbol specified under `labelalphaothers` below will be appended to indicate “et al”.

Default: 3

labelalpha int

The maximum number of characters that will be printed for single-authored papers.

Default: 3

labelalphaothers str

The “et al” character that is appended if the number of authors exceeds the value of the `maxalphanames` parameter.

Default: "+"

citation-separator str

The string that separates the author and year in the p citation form.

Default: ", "

format-brackets function

Wraps text in square brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (str or content) and returns content.

It is essential that if the argument is none, the function must also return none. This can be achieved conveniently with the `nn` function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => [[#it]])`

>> **format-citation-authoryear**

The *authoryear* citation style renders citations in a form like “(Bender and Koller 2020)”. The citation string consists of a sequence of the authors’ family names. See [Figure 4](#) for an example.

If a paper has more than two authors, only the first author will be printed, together with the symbol “et al”.

If more than one reference would receive the same citation string under this policy, the style appends an “extradate” character. For example, if two papers would receive the label “(Yao et

al. 2025)”, then the first one (in the sorting order of the bibliography) will be replaced by “(Yao et al. 2025a)” and the second one by “(Yao et al. 2025b)”.

The *authoryear* citation style supports a particularly rich selection of citation forms (see [Table 1](#)).

The function `format-citation-authoryear` returns a dictionary with keys `format-citation`, `label-generator`, and `reference-label`. You can use the values under these keys as arguments to `refsection`, `print-bibliography`, and `format-reference`, respectively.

Parameters

```
format-citation-authoryear(  
  format-parens: function,  
  format-brackets: function,  
  author-year-separator: str,  
  citation-separator: str,  
  list-middle-delim: str,  
  list-end-delim-two: str,  
  list-end-delim-many: str,  
  bibstring: dictionary,  
  bibstring-style: str,  
  maxnames: int,  
  minnames: int  
)
```

format-parens function

Wraps text in round brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (`str` or `content`) and returns `content`.

It is essential that if the argument is `none`, the function must also return `none`. This can be achieved conveniently with the `nn` function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => [(#it)])`

format-brackets function

Wraps text in square brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (`str` or `content`) and returns `content`.

It is essential that if the argument is `none`, the function must also return `none`. This can be achieved conveniently with the `nn` function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: `nn(it => [[#it]])`

author-year-separator str

The string that separates the author and year in the p citation form.

Default: `" "`

citation-separator `str`

Separator symbol to connect the citations for the different keys.

Default: `"; "`

list-middle-delim `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter to combine list items before the last one.

Will typically match the `list-middle-delim` argument of `format-reference()`.

Default: `", "`

list-end-delim-two `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter to combine the items of lists of length two.

Will typically match the `list-end-delim-two` argument of `format-reference()`.

Default: `" and "`

list-end-delim-many `str`

When typesetting lists (e.g. author names), Pergamon will use this delimiter in lists of length three or more to combine the final item in the list with the rest.

Will typically match the `list-end-delim-many` argument of `format-reference()`.

Default: `", and "`

bibstring `dictionary`

Overrides entries in the `bibstring` table. The `bibstring` table is a dictionary that maps language-independent IDs of bibliographic constants (e.g. “in”) to their language-dependent surface forms (such as “In: “ or “edited by”). The ID-form pairs you specify in the `bibstring` argument will overwrite the default entries.

Will typically match the `bibstring` argument of `format-reference()`.

See the documentation for `default-long-bibstring` in [Section 6.5](#) for more information on the `bibstring` table.

Default: `(:)`

bibstring-style `str`

Selects whether the long or short versions of the bibstrings should be used by default. This controls the rendering of “et al.” and “n.d.”. Acceptable values are “long” and “short”. See the documentation of [default-long-bibstring](#) for details.

Default: `"short"`

maxnames `int`

Maximum number of names that are displayed in name lists (author, editor, etc.). If the actual number of names exceeds maxnames, only the first maxnames names are shown and `bibstring.andothers` (“et al.”) is appended.

This parameter is modeled after the `maxnames/maxcitenames` option in BibLaTeX. Just like `maxbibnames` is not necessarily the same as `maxcitenames`, the value of `maxnames` here need not match the value of `maxnames` in [format-reference\(\)](#).

Default: `2`

minnames `int`

Minimum number of names that are displayed in name lists (author, editor, etc.). This can be used in conjunction with `maxnames` to create name lists like “Jones, Smith et al.” (`minnames = 2`, `maxnames = 2`).

`minnames` trumps `maxnames`: That is, if the name list is at least as long as `minnames`, the reference will show `minnames` names, even if this exceeds `maxnames`. In typical use cases, `minnames` will be less or equal than `maxnames`, so this situation will usually not occur.

This parameter is modeled after the `minnames/mincitenames` option in BibLaTeX. Just like `minbibnames` is not necessarily the same as `mincitenames`, the value of `minnames` here need not match the value of `names` in [format-reference\(\)](#).

Default: `1`

>> [format-citation-numeric](#)

The *numeric* citation style renders citations in a form like “[1]”. The citation string is the position of the reference in the bibliography. See [Figure 1](#) for an example.

The function `format-citation-numeric` returns a dictionary with keys `format-citation`, `label-generator`, and `reference-label`. You can use the values under these keys as arguments to `refsection`, `print-bibliography`, and `format-reference`, respectively.

Parameters

```
format-citation-numeric(  
    citation-separator: str,
```

```
format-brackets: function
)
```

citation-separator str

The string that separates the author and year in the p citation form.

Default: ", "

format-brackets function

Wraps text in square brackets. The argument needs to be a function that takes one argument (str or content) and returns content.

It is essential that if the argument is none, the function must also return none. This can be achieved conveniently with the nn function wrapper, see [Section 6.5](#).

Default: nn(it => [[#it]])

6.5 Utility functions

The following functions may be helpful in the advanced usage and customization of Pergamon.

>> concatenate-names

Concatenates an array of names. If there is only one name, it is returned unmodified. If there are two names, they are concatenated with the value options.list-end-delim-two (“and”). If there are three names, they are concatenated with the value options.list-end-delim-two (“, “), except the last name is joined with options.list-end-delim-many (“, and”).

Parameters

```
concatenate-names(
  names: array,
  options: dictionary,
  maxnames: int,
  minnames: int
) -> str content
```

names array

An array of names. Each name can be a string or content. If the names are strings, the function will return a string; if at least one name is content, the function will return content.

options dictionary

Options that control the concatenation. concatenate-names defines reasonable default options for list-end-delim-two, list-end-delim-many, and bibstring. You can override these options by passing them in a dictionary here.

Default: (:)

maxnames int

Maximum number of names that is displayed before the name list is truncated with “et al.” See the maxnames parameter in [format-reference\(\)](#) for details.

Default: 2

minnames int

Minimum number of names that is guaranteed to be displayed. See the minnames parameter in [format-reference\(\)](#) for details.

Default: 1

>> **nn**

Wraps a function in none-handling code. nn(func) is a function that behaves like func on arguments that are not none, but if the argument is none, it simply returns none. Only works for functions func that have a single argument.

Parameters

nn(func) -> function

>> **family-names**

Extracts the list of family names from the list of name-part dictionaries. For instance, the parsed-author entry of the example in [Figure 8](#) will be mapped to the array ("Bender", "Koller").

If parsed-names is none, the function returns none.

Parameters

family-names(parsed-names) -> array none

>> **format-name**

Spells out a name-part dictionary into a string. See the documentation of the `name-format` argument of `format-reference()` for details on the format string.

Parameters

```
format-name(  
    name-parts-dict: dictionary,  
    name-type: str,  
    format: str dictionary  
) -> str
```

name-parts-dict dictionary

A name-part dictionary

name-type str

The type of name as which the name-part dictionary should be formatted. If `format` is a dictionary, `format-name` will look up the format string under this key in `format`.

Default: "author"

format str or dictionary

A format string or dictionary which specifies how the name should be formatted. You can either pass a string, or you can pass a dictionary that maps name types to strings.

Default: "{family}, {given}"

>> **default-long-bibstring**

The default long bibstring table.

A bibstring table maps a number of language-independent identifiers to the strings that will be printed in the bibliography (see the `bibstring` parameter of `format-reference`). Modifying the bibstring table can be useful if you want to localize your bibliography to a language other than English, or if your bibliographic conventions differ from those of the standard BibLaTeX style. For instance, to keep the reference style from printing “In:” with a trailing colon, you could use a bibstring table in which the “in” key maps to “In” rather than “In:”.

This default bibstring table is a verbatim copy of the standard English bibstring table in BibLaTeX. It contains only the “long” versions of these entries; so references will be typeset to print e.g. “Jones, editor”, rather than “Jones, ed.”. You can find this table in the file [bibstrings.typ](#).

>> **default-short-bibstring**

The default short bibstring table.

It is similar to the “long” bibstring table in [default-long-bibstring](#), except that it contains the “short” bibstrings. That is, references will be typeset to print e.g. “Jones, ed.” rather than “Jones, editor”.

7 Differences from BibLaTeX

I call Pergamon “BibLaTeX *inspired*” because BibLaTeX is a huge library, and I will probably never manage to achieve full feature parity with BibLaTeX. Nonetheless, Pergamon covers a large part of the functionality and configurability of BibLaTeX, and the feature gap closes with each release.

To get a sense of where we stand with respect to supporting BibLaTeX features, you can have a look at [biblatex-stresstest.typ](#). It renders the [biblatex-examples.bib](#) from the official BibLaTeX Github repository, augmented with examples for a few additional entry types. You can compare:

- [biblatex-stresstest.pdf](#), the result of compiling `biblatex-stresstest.typ` with Typst (i.e. the bibliography as rendered by Pergamon);
- [stresstest-compiled-with-biblatex.pdf](#), the result of rendering the same bibliography with BibLaTeX (using [this tex file](#)).

Note that a handful of bib entries cause Pergamon to crash; these are in [unsupported-biblatex-examples](#). These all involve the use of `crossref`, `set`, or `label` in bib entries without authors or editors.

7.1 String declarations in BibTeX files

Pergamon supports `@string` declarations in BibTeX files, but it requires that you use a slightly different syntax than in standard BibLaTeX.

In BibLaTeX, you declare strings as follows:

```
1 @string{anch-ie = {Angew.~Chem. Int.~Ed.}}
2 @string{cup      = {Cambridge University Press}}
3 @string{dtv      = {Deutscher Taschenbuch-Verlag}}
```

By contrast, declare them as follows in Pergamon:

```
1 @string{
2   anch-ie = {Angew.~Chem. Int.~Ed.},
3   cup     = {Cambridge University Press},
4   dtv     = {Deutscher Taschenbuch-Verlag},
5 }
```

This is because Pergamon uses the [Typst Biblatex crate](#) to parse BibTeX files, and that crate requires the syntax variant.

7.2 Known limitations

- Pergamon supports year and date declarations. However, it currently does not support approximate dates ([issue #56](#)), negative years ([issue #57](#)), date ranges ([issue #55](#)), or non-numeric years ([issue #111](#)).
- Pergamon supports the author, editor, and translator fields, but there is currently no support for editora and similar fields ([issue #104](#)). Furthermore, when the same person has multiple roles, these are printed separately and not aggregated ([issue #103](#)).
- Pergamon currently requires all BibTeX entries to specify an author, editor, or translator; there is no support for the label or shorthand fields ([issue #115](#)).
- It is a known bug that Pergamon does not automatically uppercase words at the beginning of a sentence ([issue #95](#)).
- The *numeric* citation style in Pergamon does not automatically continue its numbering across multiple bibliographies in the same refsection, as BibLaTeX does with the `defernumbers` option. I am working on this feature under [issue #86](#).
- `set`, `crossref`, `related`, and `pageref` are not yet supported.

8 Changelog

Changes in 0.5.0

- Implemented the complete set of entry types in Biblatex.
- Languages and countries are now rendered correctly through bibstrings.
- Introduced the `format-function` argument, which allows flexible control over how Pergamon formats larger blocks of references. This permits far-reaching modifications of the standard reference style, without having to reimplement the style from scratch.
- Greatly improved support for contributors who are not the author. For instance, books that have only an editor and not an author are now rendered correctly.
- Added an option to choose between long and short bibstrings.
- Fixed a number of bugs.

Changes in 0.4.0 (2025-10-13)

- Introduced the `format-field` argument, which allows flexible control over how Pergamon formats individual BibTeX fields in the reference.
- Added the `minnames` and `maxnames` arguments to `format-reference` and `format-citation-authoryear`, replicating the BibLaTeX options.
- More flexible control over the bibstring table.
- Cleaned up the formatting of titles that permit subtitles.

Changes in v0.3.2 (2025-10-02)

- Fixed a number of bugs.
- Added the `print-identifiers` parameter to `format-reference`.

Changes in v0.3.1 (2025-09-22)

- Fixed a number of bugs.
- Can now specify different name formats for authors, editors, etc.
- Can now specify prefixes and suffixes in authoryear citations.
- Citing a nonexistent reference key now displays a warning.

Changes in v0.3.0

- Author names are now parsed as in BibLaTeX, using the parser of the [biblatex crate](#).
- Added an eval-scope argument to format-reference and dropped the eval-mode parameter from print-bibliography. It is now specified directly on format-reference.
- Added name and year citation forms.
- print-bibliography now has a resume-after parameter.
- More correct date handling: months can now be suppressed in the bibliography, and the d sorting specifier works correctly.

Changes in v0.2.0

- Aggregated citation commands: `#cite("key1", "key2", ...)`.
- Support for date and month fields.
- Added source-id parameter to add-bib-resource.
- The suppress-fields option in format-reference can now be defined per entry type.
- Default style avoids printing two punctuation symbols in a row.
- Defining multiple references with the same key is now an error.