

biblatex-sbl

SBL Style Using biblatex

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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* and includes updates from the *SBL Handbook of Style Blog*.¹

The style supports all examples given in the handbook and any relevant updates given on the Blog (see `biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf`). Shorthand citations and a list of abbreviations containing journals, series, and shorthands are handled automatically. Repeated authors in the bibliography are replaced by a horizontal line. *Ibidem*, *idem* and indexing of names are 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/>.

Note: This package should be considered as beta software and its output carefully checked when you use it.

1. "SBL Handbook of Style: Explanations, Clarifications, and Expansions," 2016–, <https://sblhs2.com/>.

2 Requirements

biblatex-sbl requires at least version 3.11 of biblatex and the xparse package. biber must be used. bibtex is not supported. For localization babel (not polyglossia) 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]{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. polyglossia is not well supported by biblatex and its use is discouraged.

```
\usepackage[ngerman]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
\usepackage[style=sbl]{biblatex}
```

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

For Greek and especially Hebrew, the set up is more complicated and you should use xelatex or lualatex. See sbl-paper.pdf for example Greek and Hebrew usage with babel.

```
\usepackage[nil,bidi=default]{babel}% consider bidi=basic for lualatex
\usepackage{csquotes}
\babelprovide[import=en-US,main]{american}
\babelprovide[import=he]{hebrew}
\babelprovide[import=el]{polutonikogreek}
```

```

\babelfont[american]{rm}[Ligatures=TeX]{Linux Libertine 0}
\babelfont[hebrew]{rm}%
[Ligatures=TeX,Contextuals=Alternate]{SBL BibLit}
\babelfont[polutonikogreek]{rm}%
[Ligatures=TeX,Contextuals=Alternate]{SBL BibLit}

```

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*[⟨prenote⟩][⟨(⟨altpostnote⟩)⟨postnote⟩⟩]{⟨key⟩}

```

`\autocite` inserts a citation as a footnote. If used in a footnote, the citation is placed in parentheses. The starred variant suppresses the author, editor, or translator (provided the entry options are set to use them). It works as in the standard biblatex styles, except that that postnote argument can be divided into two using parentheses. 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` surround the whole argument in parentheses. e.g.,

```

\autocite[⟨(III. 1-164)⟩]{PGM:betz}
1. PGM III. 1–164 (Betz).

```

```

\cite[⟨prenote⟩][⟨(⟨altpostnote⟩)⟨postnote⟩⟩]{⟨key⟩}
\cite*[⟨prenote⟩][⟨(⟨altpostnote⟩)⟨postnote⟩⟩]{⟨key⟩}

```

`\cite` works in the same way as `\autocite` except that the citation is placed directly into the text instead of in a footnote. The starred variant suppresses the author, editor, or translator (provided the entry options are set to use them).

```

\parencite[⟨prenote⟩][⟨(⟨altpostnote⟩)⟨postnote⟩⟩]{⟨key⟩}
\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. The starred variant suppresses the author, editor, or translator (provided the entry options are set to use them). This is most useful for citing primary sources. e.g.,

```
\parencite[2.233-235]{josephus:ant}
(Josephus, Ant. 2.233–235)
```

```
\citefullauthor[⟨prenote⟩][⟨postnote⟩]{⟨key⟩}
\citefullauthor*[⟨prenote⟩][⟨postnote⟩]{⟨key⟩}
\Citefullauthor[⟨prenote⟩][⟨postnote⟩]{⟨key⟩}
\Citefullauthor*[⟨prenote⟩][⟨postnote⟩]{⟨key⟩}
```

These commands print the full names of the authors. Strictly speaking, it prints the `labelname` list in the format of a first citation, which may be the author, the editor, or the translator. `\Citefullauthor` is similar to `\citefullauthor` but capitalizes the name prefix of the first name in the citation if the `useprefix` option is enabled, provided that there is a name prefix. The starred variants effectively force `maxcitenames` to 1 for just this command on so only print the first name in the `labelname` list (potentially followed by the “et al” string if there are more names). This allows more natural textual flow when referring to a paper in the singular when otherwise `\citefullauthor` would generate a (naturally plural) list of names.

```
\citejournal{⟨key⟩}
\citeseries{⟨key⟩}
\citeshorthand{⟨key⟩}
```

`\citejournal`, `\citeseries`, and `\citeshorthand` 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 (journals, series, and shorthands) can be printed using the following command:

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

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

```
\printbibliography
```

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

3.3 Package Options

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

`accessdate=true, false` default: false

The [SBLHS](#) discourages the use of access dates.² If they are required this option can be passed to `biblatex`.

`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.

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

```
\autocite[a note]{irvine:2014}
```

1. Stuart A. Irvine, “Idols [*ktbwnm*]: A note on Hosea 13:2a,” [JBL](#) 133 (2014): 509–17 (a note).

The one exception to this is the `@incommentary` entry type which always sets `citepages` to `omit` (see below) when volume is defined.³

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

```
\autocite[245]{wildberger:1965}
```

1. Hans Wildberger, “Das Abbild Gottes: Gen 1:26–30,” [TZ](#) 21 (1965): 245–59, 481–501 (245).

omit The pages field is not printed unless postnote is empty or not a page range (in which case behaviour matches `citepages=sbl`). e.g.,

```
\autocite[5]{freedman:1977}
```

1. David Noel Freedman, “Pottery, Poetry, and Prophecy: An Essay on Biblical Poetry,” [JBL](#) 96 (1977): 5.

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

2. See [SBLHS](#) §6.1.6, 84.

3. See *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), §1.3.3.2, <https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/SBLHSupp2015-02.pdf>.

```
\autocite[1]{petersen:1988}
```

1. David L. Petersen, “Hebrew Bible Textbooks: A Review Article,” *CRBR* 1 (1988): 1–18 (esp. 1).

If postnote is not a page range, then `firstcite` is not used and the behaviour matches `citepages=sbl`.

`dashed=true, false`

default: `true`

By default, this style replaces recurrent authors/editors in the bibliography by a dash so that items by the same author or editor are visually grouped. This feature is controlled by the package option `dashed`. Setting `dashed=false` in the preamble will disable this feature.

`eprintdate=year, short, long, terse, comp, iso8601`

default: `comp`

Similar to the `date` option (for details see the `biblatex` manual) but controls the format of the `eprintdate`.

`fullbibrefs=true, false`

default: `false`

The *Student Supplement for the SBLHS* permits two styles for the bibliography entry for Bible dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and multivolume commentaries for the entire Bible by multiple authors.⁴

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.

`ibidtracker=true, false, context, strict, constrict`

default: `false`

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

`true`

Enable the tracker in global mode. not tracked separately between text body and footnotes.

`false`

Disable the tracker: *ibid.* will not be used.

`context`

Enable the tracker in context-sensitive mode. In this mode, citations in footnotes and in the body text are tracked separately.

4. *Student Supplement for the SBLHS*, 4–5.

- strict** Enable the tracker in strict mode. In this mode, potentially ambiguous references are suppressed. A reference is considered ambiguous if either the current citation (the one including the *ibidem*) or the previous citation (the one the *ibidem* refers to) consists of a list of references.
- constrict** This mode combines the features of context and strict. It also keeps track of footnote numbers and detects potentially ambiguous references in footnotes in a stricter way than the strict option. In addition to the conditions imposed by the strict option, a reference in a footnote will only be considered as unambiguous if the current citation and the previous citation are given in the same footnote or in immediately consecutive footnotes.

ibidpage=true, false default: true

The scholarly abbreviation *ibidem* is sometimes taken to mean both ‘same author + same title’ and ‘same author + same title + same page’ in traditional citation schemes. In line with SBL recommendations, this style uses the latter.⁵ If you prefer the narrower interpretation of *ibidem*, set the package option `ibidpage=false` in the preamble. The default setting is `ibidpage=true`.

idemtracker=true, false, context, strict, constrict, citation, sbl default: sbl

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

- true** Enable the tracker in global mode.
- false** Disable the tracker: *idem* will not be used.
- context** Enable the tracker in context-sensitive mode. In this mode, citations in footnotes and in the body text are tracked separately.
- strict** This is an alias for true, provided only for consistency with the other trackers. Since *idem* replacements do not get ambiguous in the same way as *ibidem*, the strict tracking mode does not apply to them.
- constrict** This mode is similar to context with one additional condition: a reference in a footnote will only be considered as unambiguous if the current citation and the previous citation are given in the same footnote or in immediately consecutive footnotes.
- citation** This option only allows *idem* within a citation or footnote. This is the preferred option if you intend to use *idem*.
- sbl** This option is similar to citation, but does not actually use *idem*. Rather, it uses the author family name in subsequent citations. This is the default option to comply with SBL style.

5. See <https://sblhs2.com/2017/01/05/subsequent-bibliographic-references/>.

`pagetracker=true, false`

default: true

This option controls whether *ibidem* and *idem* are used across page breaks or not.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <code>true</code> | Enable the tracker in automatic mode. This is like <code>spread</code> if LaTeX is in twoside mode, and like <code>page</code> otherwise. |
| <code>false</code> | Disable the tracker. |
| <code>page</code> | Enable the tracker in page mode. In this mode, tracking works on a per-page basis. |
| <code>spread</code> | Enable the tracker in spread mode. In this mode, tracking works on a per-spread (double page) basis. |

`sblfootnotes=true, false`

default: true

This option controls the style of footnotes. This option is compatible with the `footmisc` package provided `footmisc` is loaded before `biblatex`.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| <code>true</code> | Footnotes are printed with a normal number followed by a period and the first line indented: <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-top: 5px;">1. Charles H. Talbert, <i>Reading John: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Fourth Gospel and the Johannine Epistles</i> (New York: Crossroad, 1992).</div> |
| <code>false</code> | Footnotes are printed with a superscript (or whatever other default has been set up by your style): <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-top: 5px;">¹James M. Robinson and Helmut Koester, <i>Trajectories through Early Christianity</i> (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1971).</div> |

`shorthand=true, false, short, intro`

default: true

This option controls when and whether the shorthand field is used as a citation. This can also be used as a type option or entry option. `@ancienttext` and `@classictext` entry types ignore this option.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| <code>true</code> | Always use the shorthand when citing the entry. |
| <code>false</code> | Never use the shorthand when citing the entry. |
| <code>short</code> | Print the full citation the first time the entry is cited. Use the shorthand on subsequent citations. |
| <code>intro</code> | Print the full citation the first time the entry is cited followed by (henceforth cited as shorthand). Use the shorthand on subsequent citations. |

4 Database Guide

4.1 Entry Types

All standard entry types of biblatex are supported by biblatex-sbl. This section gives an overview of entry types that are most relevant, unique to, or treated in a custom way by biblatex-sbl.

ancienttext This is a custom type for biblatex-sbl. It is used for the special examples in [SBLHS](#) §6.4.1, §6.4.3 and §6.4.8.

Unless options = {skipbib=false} is set explicitly, an @ancienttext entry will not appear in the bibliography. (Although, see ANRW entrysubtype below for an exception.) The related field is used to refer to the entry which should appear in the bibliography instead of the @ancienttext entry. Options can be set on the related entry using the relatedoptions field.

The entry pointed to by related along with the postnote is printed in parentheses after the altpostnote, editor, and translator fields if they are present. translator and editor fields are omitted for subsequent citations. e.g.,

```
\autocite[319]{suppiluliumas}
1. "Suppiluliumas and the Egyptian Queen," trans. Albrecht Goetz (ANET, 319).
2. "Suppiluliumas and the Egyptian Queen" (ANET, 319).
\printbibliography
Pritchard, James B., ed. Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament. 3rd ed.
Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
```

If the entry contains options = {skipbib=false}, then the bibliography entry will be like @book. Any shorthand is also printed in the same way as a @book shorthand.

The following values for the entrysubtype field are supported:

ANRW The ANRW entrysubtype is particularly for citing [ANRW](#) as outlined in §6.4.8 of the [SBLHS](#). In this case, the entry *will* appear in the bibliography. See biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf for full details of the required database entry.

chronicle Formats the title using an upright shape font without quotation marks. e.g.,

```
\autocite[(lines 3--4)125]{esarhaddonchronicle}
1. Esarhaddon Chronicle, lines 3–4 (Albert Kirk Grayson, Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles, TCS 5 [Locust Valley, NY: Augustin, 1975], 125).
```

- COS** Suppresses parentheses around *COS* and the postnote for subsequent citations. e.g.,
- ```
\autocite[44]{greathymnaten}
```

  1. “The Great Hymn to the Aten,” trans. Miriam Lichtheim (*COS* 1.26:44–46).
  2. “Great Hymn to the Aten,” *COS* 1.26:44.
- inscription** Similarly to `entrysubtype = {chronicle}`, this formats the title using an upright shape font without quotation marks.
- 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 where the authors share credit for the work as a whole.
- 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.
- mvbook** A multivolume `@book`.
- There is one `entrysubtype` supported:
- RIMA** The citation for *RIMA* (*SBLHS*, 97) is treated like a series with a number when cited in full, but as a shorthand with a volume when cited in short form. See `biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf` for full details.
- 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). The `type` field is used to specify the type of supplementary material. See §6.2.14 of `biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf`. If no `type` is given, then this behaves like an `@inbook`.
- booklet** A book-like work without a formal publisher or sponsoring institution.
- classictext** This type is a custom type for `biblatex-sbl`. It is used for the special examples in *SBLHS* §6.4.2 and §§6.4.4–6.
- Unless `options = {skipbib=false}` is set explicitly, a `@classictext` entry will not appear in the bibliography. The `xref` 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 series can be suppressed by setting `options = {useseries=false}`.

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.

The following values for the `entrysubtype` field are supported:

**churchfather** Entries using the `churchfather` `entrysubtype` print the entry pointed to by `related` within parentheses following the `altpostnote`. The `postnote` field applies to the entry in `related`. `relatedoptions` can be used to control some aspects of the formatting for the related entry. `altpostnote` is always separated from the title by a space.

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

1. Augustine, *Letters of St. Augustin* 28.3.5 ([NPNF'](#) 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.

**collection** A single-volume collection with multiple, self-contained contributions by distinct authors which have their own title. The work as a whole has no overall author but it will usually have an editor.

**mvcollection** A multi-volume `@collection`.

**incollection** A contribution to a collection which forms a self-contained unit with a distinct author and title.

**commentary** A single-volume commentary on a book (or part of a book) of the Bible by one or more authors. This entry type is similar to `@book`, except that any volume and maintitle is only printed in the bibliography, not the citation.

**mvcommentary** A multi-volume commentary on a single book of the Bible by one or more authors or a multi-volume commentary on the whole Bible by multiple authors. Unlike `@commentary`, this behaves exactly the same as a `@mvbook`.

- incommentary** A contribution to a commentary which forms a self-contained unit with a distinct author and title. This is typically a commentary on a book of the Bible appearing in a single or multi-volume commentary on the entire Bible.
- If an entry contains an `xref` field, then the bibliography entry is printed in either short or long form as described above under `fullbibrefs`.
- conferencepaper** An unpublished paper presented at a professional society. Use the `eventtitle`, `venue`, and `date` fields to specify detail for the conference. See §6.3.8 of `biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf` for an example.
- lexicon** A single-volume lexicon or theological dictionary. This is similar to a `@book`.
- mvlexicon** A multi-volume lexicon or theological dictionary. This is similar to a `@mvbook`.
- inlexicon** An article in a lexicon or theological dictionary. This is a custom type for `biblatex-sbl`. The required `xref` field must contain the entry name of a `@lexicon` or `@mvlexicon`. The `@inlexicon` entry does not appear in the bibliography. Instead the lexicon pointed to by `xref` appears in the bibliography.
- Subsequent citations do not include the title, only the name of the lexicon (specified by the `xref` entry). e.g.,
- ```
\autocite[511]{dahn+liefeld:see+vision+eye}
1. Karl Dahn and Walter L. Liefeld, "See, Vision, Eye," NIDNTT 3:511–21.
\autocite[511]{dahn+liefeld:see+vision+eye}
2. Dahn and Liefeld, NIDNTT 3:511.
\printbibliography
```

Brown, Colin, ed. *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975–1985.
- misc** A fallback type for entries which do not fit into any other category. Use the `howpublished` field to supply publishing information in free format, if applicable.
- online** An online resource without a print counterpart. This is similar to an `@article`.
- periodical** A complete issue of a periodical, such as a special issue of a journal. The title of the periodical is given in the `title` field. If the issue has its own title in addition to the main title of the periodical, it goes in the `issuetitle` field.
- This type could also be used to insert a journal into the list of abbreviations. In this case, just use `title`, `shorttitle`, and set `options = {skipbib}`.
- reference** A single-volume encyclopaedia or dictionary. This is similar to a `@book`.

- mvreference** A multi-volume @reference. This is similar to a @mvbook.
- inreference** An article in an encyclopaedia or dictionary. The required xref field must contain the entry name of a @reference or @mvreference.
- The bibliography entry is printed in either short or long form as described above under fullbibrefs.
- review** A book review in a journal. This is similar to an @article. Use the revdauthor/revdeditor and revdttitle fields to specify the author/editor and title of the book being reviewed.
- Note that review articles are treated like articles and should use the @article entry type.
- seminarpaper** An SBL seminar paper. This is similar to an @incollection except that *in* is suppressed before the booktitle/maintitle. See §6.4.11 of biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf for an example.
- series** A multi-volume series. This is similar to a @mvbook except that an upright shaped font is used for the title field and the option field is set to {useauthor=false, useditor=false} by default.
- This type could also be used to place a series in the list of abbreviations. In this case, just use series, shortseries, and set options = {skipbib}.

4.2 Entry Fields

biblatex-sbl supports all entry fields from the biblatex manual except for pagetotal. There are also a number of custom entry fields and specially handled fields supported by biblatex-sbl. These are documented below.

- bookeditor** list (name)
- The editor(s) of the booktitle.
- The behaviour of editor, bookeditor, and maineditor is as follows (when editor is not used as the overall editor): editor applies to maintitle (if set) unless maineditor is set. In this case, editor applies to booktitle (if set) unless bookeditor is set. In this case, editor applies to title.
- booktranslator** list (name)
- The translator(s) of the booktitle.
- The behaviour of translator, booktranslator, and maintranslator is the same as for editor, bookeditor, and maineditor.
- eprintdate** field (date)
- The date a text edition published online with no print counterpart or an article in an online database is released. See §6.4.1 and §6.4.13 of biblatex-sbl-examples.pdf.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| <code>eprintday</code> | field (datepart) | This field holds the day component of the <code>eprintdate</code> field. |
| <code>eprintmonth</code> | field (datepart) | This field holds the month component of the <code>eprintdate</code> field. |
| <code>eprintyear</code> | field (datepart) | This field holds the year component of the <code>eprintdate</code> field. |
| <code>mainauthor</code> | list (name) | The author(s) of the <code>maintitle</code> . |
| <code>maineditor</code> | list (name) | The editor(s) of the <code>maintitle</code> . |
| <code>maintranslator</code> | list (name) | The translator(s) of the <code>maintitle</code> . |
| <code>revdauthor</code> | list (name) | The author(s) of the <code>revdtitle</code> . |
| <code>revdeditor</code> | list (name) | The editor(s) of the <code>revdtitle</code> . |
| <code>revdshorttitle</code> | field (literal) | The title of a book being review in an abridged form. This field is used in subsequent citations of <code>@review</code> entry types. |
| <code>revdsubtitle</code> | field (literal) | The subtitle of a book being reviewed. |
| <code>revdtitle</code> | field (literal) | The title of a book being reviewed. |
| <code>revdtitleaddon</code> | field (literal) | An annex to the <code>revdtitle</code> , to be printed in a different font. |

`series` field (literal)

This field is used when a series is begun anew to distinguish between the old and new series. See [SBLHS §6.2.24](#).

`shortbooktitle` field (literal)

The `booktitle` in abridged form.

`shorthand` field (literal)

A special short form printed instead of the usual citation. Sometimes the shorthand is short for the authors and should be printed in an upright font shape. Other times it is short for the title and should be printed in italics. This behaviour is controlled using the `shorttitle` field. If the `shorttitle` is the same as the shorthand then the shorthand is assumed to be short for the title and printed in italics, otherwise it is printed in an upright font. The shorthand is automatically inserted into the list of abbreviations.

The separator between the shorthand and postnote depends on the content of the postnote. If the postnote contains a ‘:’, ‘;’, or ‘\$’, then the separator is a space, otherwise it is a comma.

`shortjournal` field (literal)

The `journaltitle` in abridged form. This is always printed instead of the `journaltitle`. The `shortjournal` and `journaltitle` is then automatically inserted into the list of abbreviations.

`shortmaintitle` field (literal)

The `maintitle` in abridged form.

`shortseries` field (literal)

The series in abridged form. This is always printed instead of the `series`. The `shortseries` and `series` is then automatically inserted into the list of abbreviations.

`shorttitle` field (literal)

The title in abridged form. This is printed instead of the full title on subsequent citations.

`sorttitle` field (literal)

A field used to modify the sorting order of the bibliography. If present, this field is used instead of the title field when sorting the bibliography. This field is automatically populated if it doesn’t exist and the `title` field begins with ‘A’, ‘An’, or ‘The’ so that these articles do not affect sorting.

`withauthor` list (name)

The author(s) who assist the author. See `witheditortype`, below, for an example.

`withauthortype` field (literal)

The type of `withauthor`. This field will affect the string used to introduce the author(s) who assist the author. If unspecified, the bibliography string `with` is used.

`witheditor` list (name)

The editor(s) who assist the editor.

`witheditortype` field (literal)

The type of `witheditor`. This field will affect the string used to introduce the editor(s) who assist the editor. If unspecified, the bibliography string `with` is used.

```
\autocite[1:24]{TLOT}
```

```
1. TLOT 1:24.
```

```
\printbibliography
```

Jenni, Ernst, ed., with assistance from Claus Westermann. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.

```
\printbiblist{abbreviations}
```

TLOT *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Edited by Ernst Jenni, with assistance from Claus Westermann. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997

`withtranslator` list (name)

The translator(s) who assist the translator.

`withtranslortype` field (literal)

The type of `withtranslator`. This field will affect the string used to introduce the translator(s) who assist the translator. If unspecified, the bibliography string `with` is used.

`withbookauthor` list (name)

The author(s) who assist the bookauthor.

`withbookauthortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `withauthortype`, but for the bookauthor.

`withbookeditor` list (name)

The editor(s) who assist the bookeditor.

`withbookeditortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `witheditortype`, but for the `bookeditor`.

`withbooktranslator` list (name)

The translator(s) who assist the `booktranslator`.

`withbooktranslatortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `withtranslatortype`, but for the `booktranslator`.

`withmainauthor` list (name)

The author(s) who assist the `mainauthor`.

`withmainauthortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `withauthortype`, but for the `mainauthor`.

`withmaineditor` list (name)

The editor(s) who assist the `maineditor`.

`withmaineditortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `witheditortype`, but for the `maineditor`.

`withmaintranslator` list (name)

The translator(s) who assist the `maintranslator`.

`withmaintranslatortype` field (literal)

This field is analogous to the `withtranslatortype`, but for the `maintranslator`.

4.3 Type and Entry Options

`biblatex-sbl` supports many of the entry options outlined in the `biblatex` manual. There are also a number of custom entry options supported by `biblatex-sbl`. These are documented below.

`skipbiblistshorthand`=true, false

default: false

This option controls what appears in the list of abbreviations for database entries containing both a `shorthand` and a `shortseries`. For entries not containing a `shortseries` just use the option `skipbiblist`. The possible options are:

`true` Do not include the shorthand in the list of abbreviations.

`false` Include the shorthand in the list of abbreviations.

`skipbiblistshortseries=true, false` default: `false`

This option controls what appears in the list of abbreviations for database entries containing both a shorthand and a `shortseries`. For entries not containing a shorthand just use the option `skipbiblist`. The possible options are:

`true` Do not include the `shortseries` in the list of abbreviations.

`false` Include the `shortseries` in the list of abbreviations.

`usefullcite=true, false` default: `true`

This options controls the format of first citations. The possible choices are:

`true` Use a full citation the first time the entry is cited.

`false` Use the short citation form the first time the entry is cited.

`useseries=true, false` default: `true`

This option controls whether the `series` is printed in parentheses following a `@classictext` citation. This does not affect other entry types.

`true` Print the series.

```
\autocite[2.233-235]{josephus:ant:thackery}
1. Josephus, Ant. 2.233–235 (Thackeray, LCL).

\printbibliography

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

`false` Suppress printing the series.

```
\autocite[10]{heraclitus:epistle1:worley}
2. Heraclitus, Epistle 1, 10 (Worley).

\printbibliography

Heraclitus. Epistle 1. Translated by David Worley. Page 187 in The Cynic
Epistles: A Study Edition. Edited by Abraham J. Malherbe. SBS 12.
Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1977.
```

`useshorttitle=true, false` default: `true`

This option controls the format of subsequent citations. The possible choices are:

`true` Include the `shorttitle` or `title` in subsequent citations.

`false` Suppress the shorttitle or title in subsequent citations, so only the author(s) or editor(s) are printed.

`usevolume=true, false` default: true

This option controls whether the volume is printed as part of the citation text or as part of the postnote.

`true` Print the volume as part of the main citation information. e.g., “Vol. 1.”

`false` Print the volume field as part of the postnote. e.g., “1.”

4.4 Reprints

biblatex-sbl supports three different ways of doing reprints with varying complexity.

If only the original publisher, location, and/or year are required, then use the fields `origpublisher`, `origlocation`, and `origdate`. e.g.,

```
@book{vanseters:1997,
  author = {Van Seters, John},
  title = {In Search of History: Histeriography in the Ancient
           World and the Origins of Biblical History},
  origlocation = {New Haven},
  origpublisher = {Yale University Press},
  origdate = {1983},
  location = {Winona Lake, IN},
  publisher = {Eisenbrauns},
  date = {1997}
}
```

```
\autocite[90]{vanseters:1997}

1. John Van Seters, In Search of History: Histeriography in the Ancient World
and the Origins of Biblical History (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983;
repr., Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1997), 90.

\printbibliography

Van Seters, John. In Search of History: Histeriography in the Ancient World and
the Origins of Biblical History. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.
Repr., Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1997.
```

When extra information is required, use a related entry with `relatedtype = {reprint}`. A custom string can be specified instead of “Repr.” using the optional `relatedstring` field. In this case no punctuation is inserted after the `relatedstring`. You could think of the default being `relatedstring = {\bibstring{reprint}},`. e.g.,

```

@mvbook{sasson:2000,
  editor = {Sasson, Jack M.},
  title = {Civilizations of the Ancient Near East},
  volumes = {4},
  location = {New York},
  publisher = {Scribner's Sons},
  year = {1995},
  related = {sasson:repr},
  relatedtype = {reprint}
}
@mvbook{sasson:repr,
  volumes = {4~vols.\ in 2},
  location = {Peabody, MA},
  publisher = {Hendrickson},
  date = {2000}
}

```

```
\autocite[1:40]{sasson:2000}
```

1. Jack M. Sasson, ed., *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, 4 vols. (New York: Scribner's Sons, 1995; repr., 4 vols. in 2 [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000]), 1:40.

```
\printbibliography
```

Sasson, Jack M., ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. 4 vols. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1995. Repr., 4 vols. in 2. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2000.

A full reprint history also uses the `related` field, but with some other `relatedtype` apart from `relatedtype = {reprint}`. e.g.,

```

@book{wellhausen:1883,
  author = {Wellhausen, Julius},
  title = {Prolegomena zur Geschichte Israels},
  edition = {2},
  location = {Berlin},
  publisher = {Reimer},
  date = {1883}
}
@book{wellhausen:1885,
  author = {Wellhausen, Julius},
  title = {Prolegomena to the History of Israel},

```

```

    translator = {Black, J. Sutherland and Enzies, A.},
    preface = {Smith, W. Robertson},
    location = {Edinburgh},
    publisher = {Black},
    related = {wellhausen:1883},
    relatedtype = {translationof},
    date = {1885}
}
@book{wellhausen:1957,
  author = {Wellhausen, Julius},
  title = {Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel},
  location = {New York},
  publisher = {Meridian Books},
  related = {wellhausen:1885},
  relatedtype = {reprintof},
  date = {1957}
}

```

```
\autocite[20]{wellhausen:1957}
```

1. Julius Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (New York: Meridian Books, 1957), 20; repr. of *Prolegomena to the History of Israel*, trans. J. Sutherland Black and A. Enzies, with preface by W. Robertson Smith (Edinburgh: Black, 1885); trans. of *Prolegomena zur Geschichte Israels*, 2nd ed. (Berlin: Reimer, 1883).

```
\printbibliography
```

Wellhausen, Julius. *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel*. New York: Meridian Books, 1957. Reprint of *Prolegomena to the History of Israel*. Translated by J. Sutherland Black and A. Enzies, with preface by W. Robertson Smith. Edinburgh: Black, 1885. Translation of *Prolegomena zur Geschichte Israels*. 2nd ed. Berlin: Reimer, 1883.

5 Important Changes

0.12 yyyy-mm-dd

- Ibid. and idem are no longer used by default.
- Only the author family name is printed for subsequent citations of a different work by the same author within a footnote or citation.

0.11 2018-12-13

- Add abbreviations from related entries to the list of abbreviations.
- Add starred variants for citation commands.

0.10 2018-05-24

- Add dashed option.
- Fix list of abbreviations regression from v0.9.

0.9 2018-05-20

- Support and require biblatex 3.11.
- Use *ibid.* and *idem* by default.
- *polyglossia* is no longer supported. You should use *babel* instead.

0.8.2 2017-11-16

- Support and require biblatex 3.8a

Abbreviations

| | |
|--------------|---|
| <i>ABC</i> | <i>Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles</i> . Albert Kirk Grayson. TCS 5. Locust Valley, NY: Augustin, 1975 |
| <i>ANET</i> | <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969 |
| <i>ANF</i> | <i>The Ante-Nicene Fathers</i> |
| <i>ANRW</i> | <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> . Part 2, <i>Principat</i> . Edited by Hildegard Temporini and Wolfgang Haase. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1972– |
| <i>COS</i> | <i>The Context of Scripture</i> . Edited by William W. Hallo. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997–2002 |
| <i>CRBR</i> | <i>Critical Review of Books in Religion</i> |
| <i>IDB</i> | <i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by George A. Buttrick. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962 |
| <i>JBL</i> | <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> |
| <i>J ECS</i> | <i>Journal of Early Christian Studies</i> |
| <i>LCL</i> | Loeb Classical Library |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>NIDNTT</i> | <i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i> . Edited by Colin Brown. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975–1985 |
| <i>NPNF</i> ¹ | <i>The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , Series 1 |
| <i>PGM</i> | <i>Papyri Graecae Magicae: Die griechischen Zauberpapyri</i> . Edited by Karl Preisendaz. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Teubner, 1973–1974 |
| <i>RIMA</i> | The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Assyrian Periods |
| <i>SBL</i> | Society of Biblical Literature |
| <i>SBLHS</i> | <i>Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style</i> . 2nd ed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014 |
| <i>SBS</i> | Stuttgarter Bibelstudien |
| <i>TCS</i> | Texts from Cuneiform Sources |
| <i>TLOT</i> | <i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Edited by Ernst Jenni, with assistance from Claus Westermann. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997 |
| <i>TZ</i> | <i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i> |

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