

Using the anonymize package

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Abstract

One of the things I find particularly frustrating with blind reviewed papers was finding substitute text that did not detract from the flow of thought. This is the case in both writing and the reviewing the manuscript. Moreover, reverting changes for publication once the paper has been reviewed is not only time consuming, but very susceptible to errors. Furthermore, having to modify references that could identify me or my co-authors and then swapping from review to publish mode was also inconvenient. This document details a new package that facilitates generating manuscripts that require you to mask parts of the document that could identify you as the author.

Using the anonymize package

Introduction

Many conferences and journals require authors to submit their manuscripts so that the author's identity is concealed from the reviewer. One of the things I find particularly frustrating with blind reviewed papers was finding substitute text that did not detract from the flow of thought. This is the case in both writing and the reviewing the manuscript. Moreover, reverting changes for publication once the paper has been reviewed is not only time consuming, but very susceptible to errors. Furthermore, having to modify references that could identify me or my co-authors and then swapping from review to publish mode was also inconvenient.

This example showing how to use the *anonymize* package.

Questions may be directed to a.fraietta@unsw.edu.au. Please put [Blind Latex] in the subject line.

Use of the package

A convenient flag has been provided that will allow you to easily mask any text or reference that could be used to identify you as the author. To enable the feature, comment the line `\usepackageanonymize` and uncomment the `\usepackage[blind]anonymize` lines near the top of the file. When `\usepackage[blind]anonymize` is enabled, anonymized text will be blackened out and masked bibliography names and titles will be anonymised. For example, the following will cause the package to generate a blind review version of the manuscript.

```
% \usepackageanonymize uncomment to publish
\usepackage[blind]anonymize % uncomment to for blind review
```

The following configuration will cause the manuscript to disable masking text and produce the version of the manuscript for publication.

```
\usepackageanonymize uncomment to publish
%\usepackage[blind]anonymize % uncomment to for blind review
```

Masking text

To mask text that may identify you, place the text you want to hide inside the `\anonymize` function. If you have enabled the blind review feature, you will Change back to the non-blind mode when you are ready to publish.

References

LaTeX automatically generates a bibliography in the APA style from your .bib file. The `citep` command generates a formatted citation in parentheses (Lamport, 1986). The `cite` command generates one without parentheses. LaTeX was first discovered by Lamport (1986).

Masking publications. In order to mask your publications, you will need to make a copy of your personal references, using the second version with a key name adding `-hidden`. For example, if your reference key is `myotherpublication`, make a copy called `myotherpublication-hidden` that has text displayed how you would like it displayed in blind review mode. Wrap your reference name with the *anoncite* function. For example, to make `\cite{mypublication}` anonymous in the blind version, use the following instead. `\cite{\anoncite{mypublication}}`. You will note that Author (1993) and Author and Colleague (2018) were written by me, so in blind mode, the identifying parts will be suppressed.

Some examples for the use of references in the text:

Lamport (1986), Author (1993)

(Lamport, 1986), (Author & Colleague, 2018)

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This template was based on the APA6 package obtained through Overleaf and was covered under the Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 Commons CC BY 4.0 *APA6-Style Manuscript* (n.d.). The code for creating the black boxes was originally found at *Efficient ways to anonymize a document* (2012) I hope you find this package useful. Also, please excuse the non-Australian spelling of *anonymize*.

References

Apa6-style manuscript. (n.d.). Retrieved 23 November 2018, from

<https://www.overleaf.com/latex/templates/your-apa6-style-manuscript/kngbbqpypjcg>

Author, I. M. (1993, November). This is one of my publications. *The journal name*, 15(5), 795-825.

Author, I. M., & Colleague, J.-P. (2018, April). Why unsw is leading the world in current research practices. *The other journal name*, 2(4), 111-222.

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