USING BIBLATEX FOR AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

DAVID LIPPEL

ABSTRACT. In this note, I illustrate one way to produce an annotated bibliography with the biblatex package.

1. INTRODUCTION

The LaTeX template document that is posted on Moodle has general information about biblatex. For completeness, the current document does repeat some of the information from the template, but if you don't yet know how BibTeX/biblatex works in general, then you will need to consult the template file.

2. BIBLATEX ESSENTIALS

Here are the essential features of the current document that allow biblatex to function.

- At the beginning of the source file, we have the lines

  `\usepackage[backend=bibtex]{biblatex}`
  `\addbibresource{sample.bib}`

- In the same directory as the source file, there is a file called `sample.bib` which contains the bibliographic records. The name of this file is referenced in the `\addbibresource` command above. If you use a different name for your `.bib` file, don't forget to update the command.

3. TYPESETTING REFERENCES WITH ANNOTATIONS

In a typical document, we would use the biblatex command `\printbibliography` at the very end of the source file in order to print the whole reference list. However, in an annotated bibliography, we want individual bibliographic entries to be interspersed with text. To typeset an individual bibliographic entry, we can use the `\fullcite{...}` command. Like the `\cite{...}` command, the argument for `\fullcite` is the citation key from the `.bib` file. (Recall: the citation key is how you reference a bibliographic item, and it is the first field in a BibTeX record. If you get your BibTex data from

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an online resource, the default citation key maybe be obscure; you can edit your `.bib` file to make the citation keys memorable.)

Below, I have provided a sample annotated bibliography; look at the source code to see how the `\fullcite` command works.

3.1. **My rather useless annotated bibliography.** [1]

(1) Carl B. Allendoerfer. "The Narrow Mathematician". In: *Amer. Math. Monthly* 69.6 (1962), pp. 461–469. ISSN: 0002-9890. DOI: 10.2307/2311184. URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/2311184

When Carl Allendoerfer wrote this article, he was retiring as the President of the Mathematical Association of American and was a faculty member at the University of Washington; previously, he had been a professor at Haverford College. (You can see Allendoerfer's photo in H215, the computer room off the math lounge.)

(2) M. Trettin. *An essential guide to LATEX 2ε usage: obsolete commands and packages.* Version 1.8.5.7. URL: http://www.ctan.org/pkg/l2tabu-english (visited on 01/16/2019)

This online resource is only for seriously fussy LATEXers.

(3) Persi Diaconis. *Group representations in probability and statistics.* Institute of Mathematical Statistics Lecture Notes—Monograph Series, 11. Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Hayward, CA, 1988, pp. vi+198. ISBN: 0-940600-14-5

This looks interesting, but I haven't read it yet.

4. WORKFLOW

Typesetting a LATEX source file that uses biblatex is slightly more complicated than typesetting a plain vanilla LATEX document. If you are using a LATEX system installed on a PC or Mac, you should consult the template file for the extra steps. A nice alternative is to use the online LATEX service Overleaf. On Overleaf, BibTeX processing is done automatically, without any extra steps. An account on Overleaf is free. (However, synchronization with Dropbox is a premium feature. If you use the free version and thus don't have an automatic backup, I recommend that you export your project periodically to keep a local copy.)

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[1]Yours should be more thoughtful!