

The sblfonts Package

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Abstract

The sblfonts package provides a LaTeX style for setting up font and language support for documents conforming to the requirements of the Society of Biblical Literature. Greek and Hebrew languages are supported using the SBL fonts. If these fonts are not available then fonts included with TeXLive are used.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Usage

1.2 Bug Reports and Feature Requests

Bug reports and feature requests can be made at the sbltex GitHub repository. See <https://github.com/dcpurton/sbltex>.

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2 Package Options

3 Commands

4 Implementation

```
1 <*package>
2 <@@=sblfonts>
3 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
4 \ProvidesExplPackage{sblfonts}{2026/01/12}{1.0}
5   {Society of Biblical Literature Font and Language Set Up (DCP)}
6 \keys_define:nn { sblfonts }
7   {
8     , font .tl_set:N          = \l__sblfonts_mainfont_tl
9     , fontoptions .clist_set:N = \l__sblfonts_mainfont_options_clist
10    , hefont .tl_set:N         = \l__sblfonts_hefont_tl
11    , grfont .tl_set:N         = \l__sblfonts_grfont_tl
12  }
13 \sys_if_engine_opentype:T
14 {
15   \keys_define:nn { sblfonts }
16   {
17     , sblfonts .choices:nn = { true, false, fallback }
18     {
19       \tl_set:NV
20       \l__sblfonts_sblgreek_tl
21       \l_keys_choice_str
22       \tl_set:NV
23       \l__sblfonts_sblhebrew_tl
24       \l_keys_choice_str
25     }
26     , sblfonts .default:n = { true }
27     , sblgreek .choices:nn = { true, false, fallback }
28     {
29       \tl_set:NV
30       \l__sblfonts_sblgreek_tl
31       \l_keys_choice_str
32     }
33     , sblgreek .default:n = { true }
34     , sblgreek .initial:n = { fallback }
35     , sblhebrew .choices:nn = { true, false, fallback }
36     {
37       \tl_set:NV
38       \l__sblfonts_sblhebrew_tl
39       \l_keys_choice_str
40     }
41     , sblhebrew .default:n = { true }
42     , sblhebrew .initial:n = { fallback }
43   }
44 }
45 \ProcessKeyOptions
```

4.1 Language Set Up

`\babelprovide` macros need to be run outside of `ExplSyntax`.

```

46 \ExplSyntaxOff
47 \newcommand*{\@sblfonts@load@american}{%
48   \babelprovide[import, main]{american}}
49 \newcommand*{\@sblfonts@load@polytonicgreek}{%
50   \babelprovide[import, onchar=ids fonts]{polytonicgreek}}
51 \newcommand*{\@sblfonts@load@hebrew}{%
52   \babelprovide[import, onchar=ids fonts]{hebrew}}
53 \ExplSyntaxOn

```

`_sblfonts_load_languages:` Load American, Polytonic Greek and Hebrew languages using babel.

```

54 \cs_new_protected:Nn \_sblfonts_load_languages:
55 {
56   \tl_if_eq:NnT \language { nil }
57   { \@sblfonts@load@american }
58   \@sblfonts@load@polytonicgreek
59   \@sblfonts@load@hebrew
60   \sys_if_engine luatex:T
61   {
62     \babelcharproperty { \char"FB1D } [ \char"FB4F ] { locale } { hebrew }
63   }
64   \babeladjust{ select.write = shift }
65 }
66 \cs_set_eq:NN \@sblfonts@load@languages \_sblfonts_load_languages:

```

(End of definition for _sblfonts_load_languages:.)

```

67 \sys_if_engine_opentype:TF
68 {
69   \RequirePackage { fontspec }
70   \sys_if_engine luatex:T
71   { \RequirePackage [ bidi=basic, provide** ] { babel } }
72   \sys_if_engine xetex:T
73   { \RequirePackage [ bidi=default, provide** ] { babel } }
74 }
75 {
76   \RequirePackage [ NHE8, LGR, T1 ] { fontenc }
77   \RequirePackage [ bidi=default, provide** ] { babel }
78 }

```

`\babelprovide` macros need to be run outside of `ExplSyntax`.

```

79 \ExplSyntaxOff
80 \@sblfonts@load@languages
81 \ExplSyntaxOn

```

4.2 Font Set Up

`_sblfonts_load_default_greek_font:` Load the default \LaTeX Greek font.

```

82 \cs_new_protected:Nn \_sblfonts_load_default_greek_font:
83 {

```

```

84 \belfont [ polytonicgreek ] { rm }
85 [
86     Extension      = .otf ,
87     ItalicFont      = cmunti ,
88     BoldFont        = cmunbx ,
89     BoldItalicFont = cmunbi
90 ]
91 { cmunrm }
92 }

```

(End of definition for `_sblfonts_load_default_greek_font:`)

`_sblfonts_load_default_hebrew_font:`

```

93 %
94 %   Load the default \LaTeX\ Hebrew font.
95 %
96 \cs_new_protected:Nn \_sblfonts_load_default_hebrew_font:
97 {
98     \belfont [ hebrew ] { rm }
99     [
100         Extension      = .otf ,
101         UprightFont     = *-Medium ,
102         ItalicFont      = *-MediumItalic ,
103         BoldFont        = *-Bold ,
104         BoldItalicFont = *-BoldItalic
105     ]
106     { DavidCLM }
107 }

```

(End of definition for `_sblfonts_load_default_hebrew_font:`)

```

108 \sys_if_engine_opentype:TF
109 {

```

Use main font for Greek and Hebrew if it supports it unless SBL fonts have been explicitly asked for. **Note:** Some fonts support only monotonic Greek, but there generally isn't a way to tell this without checking which glyphs are actually present.

```

110 \tl_if_empty:NTF \l__sblfonts_mainfont_tl
111 {

```

Initially set Greek and Hebrew to CMU Serif and David CLM

```

112     \_sblfonts_load_default_greek_font:
113     \_sblfonts_load_default_hebrew_font:
114 }
115 {
116     \belfont { rm }
117     [ \l__sblfonts_mainfont_options_clist ]
118     { \l__sblfonts_mainfont_tl }
119     \fontspec_if_script:nF { grek }
120     {
121         \tl_if_eq:NnT \l__sblfonts_sblgreek_tl { fallback }
122         { \_sblfonts_load_default_greek_font: }
123     }
124     \fontspec_if_script:nF { hebr }
125     {

```

```

126         \tl_if_eq:NnT \l__sblfonts_sblhebrew_tl { fallback }
127         { \__sblfonts_load_default_hebrew_font: }
128     }
129 }

```

Try to load SBL fonts if asked for.

For Greek: SBL BibLit, SBL Greek, Alegreya

For Hebrew: SBL BibLit, SBL Hebrew, Frank Ruehl CLM

Note: The SBL font is strongly advised for biblical Hebrew. Alegreya and Frank Ruehl CLM are included in TeXLive so should be present.

```

130     \tl_if_eq:NnT \l__sblfonts_sblgreek_tl { true }
131     {
132         \fontspec_font_if_exist:nTF { SBL ~ BibLit }
133         {
134             \babelfont [ polytonicgreek ] { rm }
135             [
136                 ItalicFont      = SBL ~ BibLit ,
137                 BoldFont        = SBL ~ BibLit ,
138                 BoldItalicFont = SBL ~ BibLit
139             ]
140             { SBL ~ BibLit }
141         }
142         {
143             \fontspec_font_if_exist:nTF { SBL ~ Greek }
144             {
145                 \babelfont [ polytonicgreek ] { rm }
146                 [
147                     ItalicFont      = SBL ~ Greek ,
148                     BoldFont        = SBL ~ Greek ,
149                     BoldItalicFont = SBL ~ Greek
150                 ]
151                 { SBL ~ Greek }
152             }
153             {
154                 \babelfont [ polytonicgreek ] { rm }
155                 [
156                     Extension      = .otf ,
157                     UprightFont    = *-Regular ,
158                     ItalicFont     = *-Italic ,
159                     BoldFont       = *-Bold ,
160                     BoldItalic     = *-BoldItalic
161                 ]
162                 { Alegreya }
163             }
164         }
165     }
166
167     \tl_if_eq:NnT \l__sblfonts_sblhebrew_tl { true }
168     {
169         \fontspec_font_if_exist:nTF { SBL ~ BibLit }
170         {
171             \babelfont [ hebrew ] { rm }

```

```

172         [
173             ItalicFont      = SBL ~ BibLit ,
174             BoldFont        = SBL ~ BibLit ,
175             BoldItalicFont  = SBL ~ BibLit
176         ]
177     { SBL ~ BibLit }
178 }
179 {
180     \fontspec_font_if_exist:nTF { SBL ~ Hebrew }
181     {
182         \babelfont [ hebrew ] { rm }
183         [
184             ItalicFont      = SBL ~ Hebrew ,
185             BoldFont        = SBL ~ Hebrew ,
186             BoldItalicFont  = SBL ~ Hebrew
187         ]
188         { SBL ~ Hebrew }
189     }
190     {
191         \babelfont [ hebrew ] { rm }
192         [
193             Extension = .ttf ,
194             UprightFont = *-Medium ,
195             ItalicFont = *-MediumOblique ,
196             BoldFont = *-Bold ,
197             BoldItalic = *-BoldOblique
198         ]
199         { FrankRuehlCLM }
200     }
201 }
202 }

```

Override Greek and Hebrew fonts if specified in `grfont` and `hefont` options.

```

203     \tl_if_empty:NF \l__sblfonts_grfont_tl
204     {
205         \babelfont [ polytonicgreek ] { rm } { \l__sblfonts_grfont_tl }
206     }
207     \tl_if_empty:NF \l__sblfonts_hefont_tl
208     {
209         \babelfont [ hebrew ] { rm } { \l__sblfonts_hefont_tl }
210     }
211 }
212 {

```

For `pdflatex`, load font using a package.

```

213     \tl_if_empty:NF \l__sblfonts_mainfont_tl
214     {
215         \RequirePackage
216         [ \l__sblfonts_font_options_clist ]
217         { \l__sblfonts_font_tl }
218     }

```

Override Greek and Hebrew fonts if specified in `grfont` and `hefont` options.

```

219     \tl_if_empty:NF \l__sblfonts_grfont_tl

```

```

220     {
221       \DeclareFontFamilySubstitution
222       { LGR }
223       { \rmdefault }
224       { \l__sblfonts_grfont_tl }
225     }
226   \tl_if_empty:NF \l__sblfonts_hefont_tl
227   {
228     \DeclareFontFamilySubstitution
229     { NHE8 }
230     { \rmdefault }
231     { \l__sblfonts_hefont_tl }
232   }
233 }
234 \endinput
235 \endpackage

```