

The **sblfonts** Package

David Purton*

2026/01/12 v1.0

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.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Usage	1
1.2	Bug Reports and Feature Requests	1
2	Package Options	2
3	Commands	2
4	Implementation	2
4.1	Language Set Up	3
4.2	Font Set Up	3

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>.

*Email: dcpurton@marshwiggle.net

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 \languagename { 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 L^AT_EX Greek font.

```
82 \cs_new_protected:Nn \__sblfonts_load_default_greek_font:
83 {
```

```

84 \babelfont [ 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     \babelfont [ 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     \babelfont { 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                          BoldItalicFont = *-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 ⟨/package⟩
```