**STEPBible module converter**

Module converter



**Maintenance Guide**

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# Introduction

This document talks about the STEPBible Text Converter. Here’s a useful schematic showing what it does, which will help you distinguish it from other lesser forms of software:

|  |
| --- |
| Repository package  OSIS  USX  Etc  **Magic** |

In other words, it takes Bible texts supplied to us by third parties (most often in USX form, although we also cater for OSIS input and for things like VerseLine (VL) and Sword IMP format) and converts them to a package which can be used to populate the STEPBible repositories. This package contains the actual Sword module, along with supporting information (particularly copies of the input data) which would make it possible to regenerate the module in revised form at a future date if necessary.

The remainder of this document gives details of various aspects of the conversion process. Sections are in no particular order.

# Modules and repository packages – naming and creation

## Types of module

Modules come in essentially in two flavours – open access and STEPBible-only.

If we are given a text which is subject to copyright, we create a STEPBible-only module. (In the unlikely event we are given a copyright text along with permission to make it publicly available, the text would be regarded as non-copyright for the purposes of the discussion here.)

If we are given a text which is not subject to copyright, we create both an open access and a STEPBible-only module.

## Open access modules

**Version of osis2mod used**: Crosswire’s.

**Encrypted**: No.

**Samified (‘Versified’)**[[1]](#footnote-1): No.

**Version of offline STEPBible required**: Any.

**Reflected in admin comment at top of Sword configuration file as follows**:  
 stepTarget=P (‘P’ for Public)  
 stepEncrypted=No  
 stepVersified=No[[2]](#footnote-2)

## STEPBible-only modules

**Version of osis2mod used**: Ours.

**Encrypted**: Yes.

**Samified (‘Versified’)**: Yes. (Samification occurs automatically when using our version of osis2mod.)

**Version of offline STEPBible required**: At least version 2.

**Reflected in admin comment at top of Sword configuration file as follows**:  
 stepTarget=S (‘S’ for STEPBible-only)  
 stepSoftwareVersionRequired=2 (or above)  
 stepEncrypted=Yes  
 stepVersified=Yes[[3]](#footnote-3)

## Module naming

* Module names typically comprise the three-character language code (uppercase first letter followed by lowercase letters), followed by the abbreviated name of the text.[[4]](#footnote-4) For example *deuHFA*.
* On **STEPBible-only modules**, the language code is dropped on English Bibles and texts in the ancient languages. On **open access modules**, the language code is always retained, and it is followed by an underscore (*Deu\_HFA*). The presence of the underscore is a means of distinguishing this as being an open access module, while still keeping the name short.
* In general if we are updating a module, we retain its existing name, regardless of whether this fits the other rules here or not. In particular, some existing modules have a suffix such as \_*th* (*DeuHFA\_th*), and where this is the case, the suffix is retained.

Rules for determining the abbreviated name are somewhat complicated:

* If we are not supplied with an abbreviation, we look for any online consensus (eg at at [bible.com](http://bible.com) and / or [ScriptureEarth.org](https://scriptureearth.org)), or else make one up. Abbreviations should be kept reasonably short, because they are displayed in places where screen real-estate is at a premium. They should describe the text as a whole, not the particular collection of books supplied. (In other words, the abbreviation should not, for instance, make reference to NT merely because we have been supplied only with the NT books.)
* Sometimes we may be given a suitable abbreviation (as, for example, in DBL metadata). In general, we use the supplied abbreviation – the vernacular form if available and in Latin characters, or otherwise the English form – and we follow the upper / lower case structure of the abbreviation. There are, however, exceptions:
* In some cases, the abbreviated names merely duplicate the language code. In particular this is true for many SeedCompany and Unlimited Bible texts on DBL. For these, the abbreviation is always SC and ULB respectively. (I haven’t encountered any other texts like this, so this particular rule presently caters only for these two sources.)
* Biblica have supplied us with some texts in both open access and copyright form. In general they have added ‘Open’ to the names of the open access texts (and ‘O’ to the English abbreviation – and something equivalent to the vernacular form). Where we have a text in both open access and copyright form, we are using the copyright abbreviation with both the copyright text and the open access text.

## Special case considerations

Most STEPBible-only modules are made available both online and for use with offline STEPBible. However in some cases the organisation supplying the text may indicate that the module is not to be made available offline.

The admin comment at the top of the Sword configuration file indicates what access is permitted:

stepLimitedToOnlineUsageOnly=[Yes or No]

## Repository naming

Repository files are given names which look something like:

forRepository\_Ces\_SNC\_P.zip

The red portions are always present.

The green portion is the 3-character language code and (unlike the situation with module names described above) is never suppressed.

The blue portion is the abbreviated name of the Bible.

The purple portion is either **P**(ublic) or **S**(tep only).

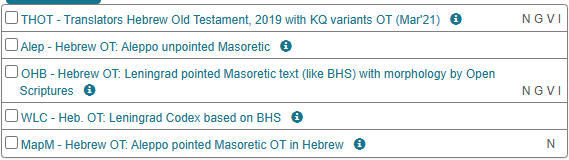
‘\_onlineUsageOnly’ is appended to the name of the repository file if the module is limited to online use.

## Obsoletes

The Sword configuration file contains statements *Obsoletes=…* to indicate the names of other modules which the present one replaces. There is no need to record the fact that the module obsoletes earlier versions of itself (although no harm in doing so).

# Module descriptions

The module description forms the bulk of the text which appears in the STEPBible Bible chooser for a given Bible. Just to be clear, we are talking here about the page which looks contains data like:



(Don’t take too much notice of the actual content above – the content of the description tends to vary from one Bible to another, and also according to whether the module was created a long time ago. The purpose of the present section is to go through all of the various options in detail.)

Here is a fully populated description as it stands at the time of writing:

My German Bible (MGB) / Meine deutsche Bibel (MDB) | Jamie Inc 2024 | NT only | In German

Normally we will be given some of this information in the metadata accompanying the text, but possibly not all of it; and even where we are given it, we may decide that it is not appropriate, and may have to override it.

Various elements are also suppressed on some texts because they simply duplicate information already available in other elements. As a result, it is comparatively unusual to see a full description like the one above.

I’ll repeat the description at the top of the next page so that all the information is visible in one place.

**My German Bible (MGB) / Meine deutsche Bibel (MDB) | Jamie Inc 2024 | NT only | In German**

|  |
| --- |
| Name of language (English) plus abbreviation (English); followed by name of language (vernacular) plus abbreviation (vernacular).  The English name always appears (so long as we know it), along with English abbreviation.  The vernacular name is suppressed if it is not known or (with some slightly fuzzy matching) if it is the same as the English name.  The vernacular abbreviation is suppressed if the vernacular name is suppressed or if the vernacular abbreviation is the same as the English abbreviation.  Abbreviations mirror exactly the values we are given (including upper/lower case), except where we have reason to override them and use values we choose ourselves. See the discussion in section 2.4. |
| Name of text owner (abbreviated name if available, otherwise full name).  If this information also appears in the name information, then I suppress the field. |
| Year extracted from copyright data or ‘About’ data. I go to some lengths to locate this item, so there’s a reasonable chance I’ll be able to find it if it’s there.  This field does not appear if I can’t find it or if it appears already in the name data. |
| The portion of the Bible covered by the text.  There are various possibilities – enough to make this complicated to follow:   * Full Protestant Bible: This field is suppressed. * Full Protestant Bible with one or more DC books: ‘+OT2’. * Full OT only: ‘OT only’. * Full OT plus one or more DC books: ‘OT + OT2’. * Full NT only: ‘NT only’. * Full NT plus one or more DC books: ‘OT2 + NT’. * One or more DC books and nothing else: ‘OT2 only’. * Otherwise, the really complicated option, which is potentially made up of an OT portion, an NT portion and a DC portion as follows:   + OT portion: If OT is empty, then empty; else if OT is complete then ‘OT’; else if OT comprises more than 5 books then ‘OT partial’; else a list of book abbreviations for the available books.   + NT portion: Same as OT portion, *mutatis mutandis*.   + DC portion: ‘OT2’ if any DC books are present, otherwise empty.   + Then join these three bits together. |
| The name of the language.  This is obtained by looking up the language code in an internal table which I maintain. While this table is extensive, I make no claim that it is comprehensive.  Language details are suppressed if the language is English or if the lookup fails.  We are looking to add country details on selected languages – watch this space. |

# Versification

Not all Bibles are split into verses in the same way – ie the translation a given piece of, say, Hebrew text may have one verse reference in one Bible, and another reference in another.

This is a problem when it comes to added value features such as interlinear display, because it means we cannot necessarily display the verse labelled, say, Gen 32:9 in one text against Gen 32:9 in another.

STEPBible addresses this in one of three ways:

**\* End of document \***

1. The terms *versification* and *samification* are discussed in section 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *stepEncrypted* and *stepVersified* here add no extra information – open access modules are *never* encrypted or versified. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *stepEncrypted* and *stepVersified* here add no extra information – STEPBible modules are *always* encrypted and versified. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. At the time of writing we have never encountered a situation where a country code is required in addition to the language code, so I have not given consideration to how this would be handled. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)