

# Inserting References in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Documents

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## 1 Introduction

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X includes features so you can easily cite references and create bibliographies in your document. This document will explain how to do this using a separate BibTeX file to store the details of your references.

## 2 The BibTeX file

Your BibTeX file contains all the references you want to cite in your document. It has the file extension .bib and should be kept in the same folder as your document .tex file. The .bib file is plain text - it can be edited using Notepad or your L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X editor (e.g. WinEdt). You should enter each of your references in the BibTeX file in the following format:

```
@article{
Birdetal2001,
  Author = {Bird, R. B. and Smith, E. A. and Bird, D. W.},
  Title = {The hunting handicap: costly signaling in human
foraging strategies},
  Journal = {Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology},
  Volume = {50},
  Pages = {9-19},
  Year = {2001} }
```

Each reference starts with the **reference type** (@article in the example above). Other reference types include @book, @incollection for a chapter in

an edited book and @inproceedings for papers presented at conferences<sup>1</sup>.

The reference type declaration is followed by a curly bracket, then the **citation key**. Each reference's citation key must be unique - you can use anything you want, but a system based on the first author's name and year (as in the example above) is probably easiest to keep track of.

The remaining lines contain the reference information in the format  
`Field name = {field contents},.`

You need to include LaTeX commands in your BibTeX file for any special text formatting - e.g. italics (`\emph{Rattus norvegicus}`), quotation marks (`“...”`), ampersand (`\&`).

Surround any letters in a journal article title that need to be capitalised with curly brackets `{...}`. BibTeX automatically uncapitalises any capital letters within the journal article title. For example, “Dispersal in the contemporary United States” will be printed as “Dispersal in the contemporary united states”, but “Dispersal in the contemporary {U}nited {S}tates” will be printed as “Dispersal in the contemporary United States”.

You can type the BibTeX file yourself, or you can use reference management software such as EndNote to create it[3].

### 3 Citing references

Type `\cite{citationkey}` where you want to cite a reference in your .tex document. If you don't want an in text citation, but still want the reference to appear in the bibliography, use `\nocite{citationkey}`.

To include a page number in your in-text citation put it in square brackets before the citation key: `\cite[p. 215]{citationkey}`.

To cite multiple references include all the citation keys within the curly brackets separated by commas: `\cite{citation01,citation02,citation03}`.

### 4 Inserting the bibliography

Type the following where you want the bibliography to appear in your document (usually at the end):

---

<sup>1</sup>See the Bibliography Management chapter in the LaTeX Wikibook[1] for a full list of the reference types that BibTeX knows about, and their required and optional fields.

```
\bibliographystyle{plain}
\bibliography{references}
```

Where **references** is the name of your .bib file.

## 5 Styles

### 5.1 Numerical citations

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X comes with several styles with numerical in-text citations, these include:

**Plain** The citation is a number in square brackets (e.g. [1]). The bibliography is ordered alphabetically by first author surname. All of the authors' names are written in full.

**Abbrev** The same as **plain** except the authors' first names are abbreviated to an initial.

**Unsrtd** The same as **plain** except the references in the bibliography appear in the order that the citations appear in the document.

**Alpha** The same as **plain** except the citation is an alphanumeric abbreviation based on the author(s) surname(s) and year of publication, surrounded by square brackets (e.g. [Kop10]).

### 5.2 Author-date citations

Use the **natbib** package if you want to include author-date citations. Natbib uses the command `\citep{...}` for a citation in brackets (e.g. [Koppe, 2010]) and `\citete{...}` for a citation where only the year is in brackets (e.g. Koppe [2010]). There are lots of other ways that you can modify citations when using the natbib package - see the package's reference sheet for full details[2].

Natbib comes with three bibliography styles: **plainnat**, **abbrvnat** and **unsrtnat**. These format the bibliography in the same way as the **plain**, **abbrev**

and **unsrt** styles, respectively.

### 5.3 Other bibliography styles

If you want to use a different style (e.g. one provided by the journal you are submitting an article to) you should save the style file (.bst file) in the same folder as your .tex and .bib files. Include the name of the .bst file in the `\bibliographystyle{...}` command.

## References

- [1] L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Wikibook. <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX>, accessed 22 October 2010.
- [2] Reference sheet for natbib usage. <http://mirror.ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/natbib/natnotes.pdf>, describing version 8.31a from 2009/11/07.
- [3] Skills Development Team. Using EndNote with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. <https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/x/sZpKBg>, accessed 22 October 2010.