

# The **biblatex-asa** Package

## American Sociological Association Style for **biblatex**

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### Abstract

The **biblatex-asa** package provides a complete implementation of the American Sociological Association (ASA) citation and bibliography style for LaTeX using the **biblatex** package. This implementation follows the format requirements of the *American Sociological Review* and the ASA Style Guide.

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## 1 Introduction

The `biblatex-asa` package provides citation and bibliography formatting according to the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guide. This package is particularly useful for students writing sociology papers or theses, researchers submitting to sociology journals, and anyone requiring ASA-style citations and references.

### 1.1 Requirements

You will need:

- **LaTeX distribution:** TeX Live 2020 or later, MiKTeX 2020 or later
- **biblatex:** Version 3.14 or later
- **biber:** Version 2.14 or later (recommended backend)
- **etoolbox:** Version 2.5 or later (automatically loaded by biblatex)

The package is built on top of biblatex's `standard` and `authoryear` styles.

## 2 Installation

### 2.1 Automatic Installation

Install through your TeX distribution's package manager:

- **TeX Live:** `tlmgr install biblatex-asa`
- **MiKTeX:** Available through MiKTeX Package Manager
- **Overleaf:** Pre-installed and ready to use

### 2.2 Manual Installation

For local use, copy these files to your project directory:

- `biblatex-asa.sty`
- `asa.bbx`
- `asa.cbx`

For system-wide installation, place files in your local `texmf` tree under `texmf/tex/latex/biblatex-asa/` and run `texhash` (TeX Live) or `initexmf -update-fndb` (MiKTeX).

## 3 Usage

### 3.1 Basic Usage

Load the package in your document preamble:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{biblatex-asa}
\addbibresource{references.bib}

\begin{document}
This is a citation \parencite{key2023}.
\textcite{author2022} argues that...
\printbibliography
\end{document}
```

### 3.2 Direct Style Usage

Alternatively, use the ASA style directly:

```
\usepackage[backend=biber,style=asa]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{references.bib}
```

### 3.3 Package Options

**giveninits** Use initials for given names

**nogiveninits** Use full given names (default)

**backend=biber** Use biber backend (recommended)

**backend=bibtex** Use bibtex backend

Example:

```
\usepackage[giveninits,backend=biber]{biblatex-asa}
```

## 4 Citation Commands

The package supports standard biblatex citation commands:

**\parencite{key}** Parenthetical citation: (Author Year)

**\textcite{key}** In-text citation: Author (Year)

**\cite{key}** Bare citation: Author Year

Examples:

- `\parencite{smith2020}` → (Smith 2020)
- `\textcite{jones2019}` argues... → Jones (2019) argues...
- `\parencite[p. 42]{doe2018}` → (Doe 2018, p. 42)

## 5 Compilation

Compile documents using this sequence:

1. `pdflatex document.tex`
2. `biber document`
3. `pdflatex document.tex`
4. `pdflatex document.tex`

For Overleaf users, the compilation sequence is handled automatically.

## 6 ASA Format Implementation

### 6.1 Citation Format

- Single author: (Smith 2020)
- Two authors: (Smith and Jones 2020)
- Three or more authors: (Smith et al. 2020)
- Multiple citations: (Smith 2020; Jones 2021)

### 6.2 Bibliography Format

- Authors: First author inverted (Last, First), subsequent authors normal order
- All authors listed (no "et al." truncation in bibliography)
- Articles: Journal name italicized, volume(issue):pages format
- Books: Publisher and location information
- Book chapters: "Pp. X–Y in..." formatting
- Proper handling of publication dates, DOIs, and URLs

## 7 Package Details

The detailed implementation and examples for this package are contained in the source files and example documents distributed with this package:

**biblatex-asa.sty** The main package file that provides a convenient wrapper interface. This file loads the ASA style and sets up appropriate defaults for American Sociological Association formatting.

**asa.bbx** The bibliography style file that defines how references appear in the bibliography section. This file contains the core formatting logic for ASA-style reference lists, including author ordering, journal formatting, and special handling for different entry types.

**asa.cbx** The citation style file that controls how citations appear in the text. This implements ASA parenthetical citation format, including proper handling of multiple authors, page numbers, and year disambiguation.

**examples/basic/example.tex** A basic example document demonstrating standard usage of the ASA style. This example shows fundamental citation commands and bibliography generation using direct biblatex style loading.

**examples/with-package/example-with-package.tex** An example using the convenience package wrapper. This demonstrates the recommended approach for most users and includes various citation scenarios and entry types.

**tests/test-asa.tex** A comprehensive test document that exercises all supported entry types and citation formats. This document serves as both a validation tool and a reference for advanced formatting scenarios.

**tests/test-asa.bib** The bibliography database containing test entries for all major bibliographic entry types. These entries demonstrate proper field usage and formatting expectations for ASA style.

Users new to the package should start with the **with-package** example, which provides a complete working example with detailed comments. Advanced users and package developers may find **tests/test-asa.tex** useful for understanding edge cases and comprehensive formatting options.

## 8 Supported Entry Types

The package supports all standard biblatex entry types with ASA formatting:

- **@article** - Journal articles

- `@book` - Books
- `@incollection` - Book chapters
- `@inproceedings` - Conference proceedings
- `@misc` - Miscellaneous sources
- `@online` - Online sources
- `@report` - Reports
- `@thesis` - Theses and dissertations

## 9 Troubleshooting

**References not showing** Ensure you run `biber` (not `bibtex`).

**File not found errors** Check package installation or ensure files are in project directory.

**Encoding problems** Save all files as UTF-8.

## 10 License and Contact

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