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.

Contents

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, first generate the style files from the provided sources:

- Run `latex biblatex-asa.ins` in the package directory.

- This will create `biblatex-asa.sty`, `asa.bbx`, and `asa.cbx`.

- Copy these files to your project directory (or leave them in place if working in the same folder).

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 distributed package includes the following files:

`biblatex-asa.dtx, biblatex-asa.ins` The documented source and installation script. To use the package locally, you must first run `latex biblatex-asa.ins` to generate the style files (`biblatex-asa.sty`, `asa.bbx`, `asa.cbx`).

`docs/example-with-package.tex, docs/example-with-package.bib` Example document and bibliography demonstrating usage with the package wrapper.

`docs/example-without-package.tex, docs/example-without-package.bib` Example document and bibliography demonstrating direct style usage.

`docs/biblatex-asa-manual.pdf` This user manual.

The style files (`biblatex-asa.sty`, `asa.bbx`, `asa.cbx`) are not included directly in the package. They must be generated by the user from the provided source files as described above, unless you install the package automatically through your TeX distribution.

Users new to the package should start with the `example-with-package.tex` example, which provides a complete working example with detailed comments.

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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GitHub: https://github.com/yuqi-liang-qiqi/biblatex-asa