

# The anonymous Package for the ACM L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Master Article Template

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## ABSTRACT

Academics often need to submit anonymous versions of their papers for peer-review. This often requires anonymization which at some future date needs to be reversed. However de-anonymizing an anonymized paper can be laborious and error-prone. This L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package allows anonymization options to be specified at the time of writing for authors using `acmart.cls`, the official Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) master article template. Anonymization or deanonymization is carried out by simply changing one option and recompiling.

### ACM Reference Format:

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The anonymous package allows for the easy anonymization and deanonymization of academic papers. The required information for both the anonymous and non-anonymous versions of the paper are specified at the time of writing. It is made to be used with the official Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) master article template for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X as described in Section 1.3. This pdf was produced using `acmart`. `acmart` has an anonymous mode which allows for the anonymization of author information, the optional acknowledgments section, and also allows arbitrary text to be hidden (without being replaced by anything such as placeholder text). This package provides additional functionality including placeholder text, anonymous links and anonymous citations/references as described in Section 2.

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## 1.1 Demonstration

A live demonstration of this package is available on Overleaf at:

- <https://www.overleaf.com/read/bmqdgdxfkfwys>

(Overleaf account required).

## 1.2 Installation

The anonymous package can be found at:

- <https://ctan.org/pkg/anonymous>

Simply include `anonymous.sty` in the preamble of your `.tex` file.

## 1.3 Requirements

At this time the anonymous package is designed to work with **acmart**, the official Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) master article template for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. This file was prepared with `acmart`. It is available here:

- <https://www.acm.org/publications/proceedings-template>

or here:

- <https://www.ctan.org/pkg/acmart>.

This package was tested with `acmart` version 1.69. The users' guide, implementation and GitHub repo for this class are available here at the link above.

The anonymous text and link features described in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 will work with or without `acmart`. The anonymization of references and citations described in Section 2.4 may or may not - it was tested with the ACM reference format only. The anonymization of authors and acknowledgments described in Sections 2.1 and 2.5 will most likely only work with `acmart`.

This package also uses the `hyperref` package which is already used by `acmart`, so there is probably no need to use it directly, but we include it here for completeness:

- <http://www.ctan.org/pkg/hyperref>

## 1.4 License

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## 2 USAGE

The following command should be placed in the preamble of the .tex document you wish to make anonymous.

```
\usepackage[option]{anonymous}
```

option can be true or false. True turns anonymous mode on, and false turns anonymous mode off.

### 2.1 Author Anonymity

The following command is used to anonymize author information.

```
\authoranon{authors information}
```

It should be used to enclose the normal author entries as in the example below.

```
\authoranon{
  \author{Brett A. Becker}
  \affiliation{
    \institution{University College Dublin}
    \city{Dublin}
    \country{Ireland}}
  \email{brett.becker@ucd.ie}
  ...
  %other authors' information here
}
```

When anonymous mode is on, the author listing will appear as follows:

#### Anonymous Author(s)

Additionally, author information will be removed from the 'ACM Reference Format' and the 'bibstrip' (in this document at the bottom of the first column on page 1). It will also be removed from running headers that appear on pages other than the title page.

### 2.2 Anonymous Arbitrary Text

The following command replaces arbitrary text with a default placeholder or a placeholder of the user's choice.

```
\textanon{text}{placeholder}
```

where text is the text that should be replaced. If the second argument is empty, text is replaced with the default placeholder: <text removed for peer review>. If placeholder is non-empty, that is used to replace text.

#### Example 1

```
In 2020 at \textanon{University College Dublin}{}
we conducted a randomized controlled trial with
128 students enrolled in the BSc in Biology.
```

When anonymous mode is on, the above will appear as follows:

In 2020 at <text removed for peer review> we conducted a randomized controlled trial with 128 students enrolled in the BSc in Biology.

When anonymous mode is off, it will appear as expected:

In 2020 at University College Dublin we conducted a randomized controlled trial with 128 students enrolled in the BSc in Biology.

#### Example 2

```
In 2020 at \textanon{University College Dublin}
{Anonymous University} we conducted a randomized
controlled trial with 128 students enrolled in the
BSc in Biology.
```

When anonymous mode is on, the above will appear as follows:

In 2020 at Anonymous University we conducted a randomized controlled trial with 128 students enrolled in the BSc in Biology.

When anonymous mode is off, it will appear as expected:

In 2020 at University College Dublin we conducted a randomized controlled trial with 128 students enrolled in the BSc in Biology.

### 2.3 Anonymous Links

The following commands allow links to be hidden with some flexibility:

```
\linkanon{}{}
\textlinkanon{}{}
```

Here is an example:

```
The url for Google is:
\linkanon{https://www.google.com}{www.google.com}

\textlinkanon{https://www.ryanair.com}{Click here}
to go to Ryanair.
```

When anonymous mode is on, links are deactivated and the above appears as follows:

The url for Google is: <anonymous link>  
Click here to go to Ryanair.

When anonymous mode is off, links are active, and the above appears as follows:

The url for Google is: [www.google.com](https://www.google.com)  
Click here to go to Ryanair.

\linkanon can also be used with one argument as follows:

```
\linkanon{www.google.com}
```

In that case the link text and the link itself are both set to be the argument.

### 2.4 Anonymous References & Citations

The following command is used to make citations anonymous.

```
\citeanon[option]{bibentry}
```

When anonymous mode is on, citations will appear as [anonymous] and the corresponding reference will not appear in the reference list. If there are other non-anonymous citations in your paper, they may appear renumbered depending on the location of the temporarily anonymized reference in the ordering of references..

When anonymous mode is off, citations appear as normal. For example, \citeanon{bibentry} might appear as [4] depending on your bibfile and bibliography style. \citeanon[p.1]{bibentry} might appear as [4, p.1]. Additionally, the corresponding reference will appear in the references list.

## 2.5 Anonymous Acknowledgments

When anonymous mode is on the Acknowledgments Section is automatically hidden (header and body). When anonymous mode is off it appears as normal. It is necessary to use the “acks” environment provided by acmart:

```
\begin{acks}
  Acknowledgments go here.
\end{acks}
```