

# **biblatex-mla**

## **MLA Style Using Biblatex**

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**Version 2.0**

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## **1 Version Note**

This update is to improve compatibility with the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook*, published April 2021. See § 3 for more on switching between editions.

## **2 Introduction**

Biblatex-mla provides support to Biblatex, BibTeX, and LaTeX for citations and Works Cited lists in the style established by the Modern Language Association (MLA). For commands and options to change package defaults, see § 3.1 and § 3.2, respectively, below.

MLA style, a common standard for writers in the humanities, is outlined in the *MLA Style Manual*, in its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, and the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Biblatex-mla follows the style outlined in the latter of these. It also follows the logic of the MLA when citing similar material repeatedly, trimming unnecessary information from citations where necessary. Biblatex-mla is compatible with Biblatex's support for hyperref and tex4ht, and the main word in each citation (either the author's name, the title, or the page number) serves as a link to the particular entry in the Works Cited. For anything not covered by this manual, please also see the Biblatex documentation or reach out via GitHub.

### 3 Use

To ensure American-style quotation marks (if that’s your thing),<sup>1</sup> call the `babel` and `csquotes` packages in the preamble of your LaTeX document:

```
\usepackage[american]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
\usepackage[style=mla]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{<bibfile.bib>}
```

By default, `biblatex-mla` will transform some data in ways preferred by MLA style: for example, URLs will omit protocol prefixes like `http://`, some URLs will be converted to eprint entries, and publisher names will be simplified to abbreviate “University Press” to “UP.” To skip these transformations, change the style referenced in the third line to **mla-strict**:

```
\usepackage[american]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
\usepackage[style=mla-strict]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{<bibfile.bib>}
```

To use the older style called for by the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook*, change this line to **mla7**:

```
\usepackage[american]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
\usepackage[style=mla7]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{<bibfile.bib>}
```

Replace “<bibfile.bib>” with the name of your .bib bibliography file. The style (provisionally) supports footnote citations with the **autocite=footnote** package option. Some of the other options supported by `biblatex-mla` include **firstlonghand**, **noremoteinfo**, **showlocation**, and others discussed in § 3.2.

#### 3.1 Commands

The standard commands for `biblatex-mla` generally follow those defined by `Biblatex`. Included below are the most typical commands. For more commands and options, reference the `Biblatex` manual.

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<sup>1</sup>Other localization files, `mla-spanish.lbx`, `mla-portuguese.lbx`, and `mla-italian.lbx`, are also available to use `biblatex-mla` in languages other than English. These and other localization files are included in `biblatex-mla` releases, but they have fallen out of sync with the English versions. The latest version of these files will be kept on GitHub (<<https://github.com/jmclawson/biblatex-mla/>>); new translations are welcome. There is also support for proper punctuation in non-American dialects of English. Try **british**, **canadian**, or other Babel identifiers, such as **spanish**.

### 3.1.1 Typical Commands

**\printbibliography** Insert the list of Works Cited; typically used at the end of a document. As may be expected, this command will print a bibliography including full, alphabetized, MLA-style entries for every source cited using one of the below citation commands.

**\autocite** Insert a citation. This is the most common command for citing in `biblatex-mla`, and it defaults to printing a parenthetical citation. See table 1 for examples. For best results, use the command before punctuation like this:

`\autocite{x}`.

In the following example, `x` represents the bibkey of the particular bibliographic entry being cited. Insert page numbers and citational prenotes using square braces:

`\autocite[z][y]{x}`

Here, `y` is the page number, and `z` is the prenote (such as “qtd. in”). If indicating a prenote but no page number, you must include an empty set for the page number:

`\autocite[z][]{x}`

When citing a page number without any prenote, only one set of square brackets is needed:

`\autocite[y]{x}`

To omit the name of the author (or editor) responsible for the source when they’ve already been named in the sentence, use the starred version (`\autocite*[z][y]{x}`) of this command.

**\autocites** Insert a citation for multiple sources at once. The respective citations will be printed separated by semicolons.

`\autocites[z1][y1]{x1}[z2][y2]{x1}[z3][y3]{x3}`

The curled braces always indicate the bibkey, and the squared braces respectively belong to the curly braces that follow them.

**\parencite** Insert a citation inside parentheses. Indicate page numbers and any prenote like “qtd. in” in the spaces marked `y` and `z` below, respectively:

`\parencite[z][y]{x}`

All of these citation commands follow the pattern described above for `\autocite{}`, which is the preferred citation command to use. To omit the source author or editor, use the starred version of this command: `\parencite*[z][y]{x}`

**\footcite** Insert a citation in a footnote. The `\footcite` command should be reserved for occasional use in favor of the general use of `\autocite` with the package option `autocite=footnote`, mentioned above. To omit the name of the author or editor, use the starred version of this command: `\footcite*[z][y]{x}`

Input	Output	Comment
<code>\autocite[12]{morrison02aa}</code>	(Morrison 12)	A typical citation includes everything necessary.
<code>\autocite[34]{morrison02aa}</code>	(34)	Immediately subsequent citations to the same source shorten the citation by dropping redundant information.
<code>\autocite{morrison02aa}</code>	(Morrison)	Immediately subsequent citations lacking page reference add back information to show a citation.
<code>\autocite[12]{frye57ab}</code>	(Frye, <i>Sound and Poetry</i> 12)	A citation to a text by an author with multiple works cited also includes a short title.
<code>\autocite[34]{frye57ab}</code>	(34)	Subsequent immediate citations to the same source shorten the citation as much as possible.
<code>\autocite[56]{frye91aa}</code>	( <i>Double Vision</i> 56)	Citations to a new source by the same author omit the repetition of the author's name.
<code>\autocite[101]{morrison02aa}</code>	(Morrison 101)	A citation interrupting those by Frye will reset the trackers.
<code>\autocite[78]{frye91aa}</code>	(Frye, <i>Double Vision</i> 78)	With a reset author tracker, the citation includes all necessary information.
<code>\autocite*[102]{morrison02aa}</code>	(102)	The asterisked version suppresses the author's name—useful when the author is named in the sentence.
<code>\autocite*[91]{frye57ab}</code>	( <i>Sound and Poetry</i> 91)	Suppressing the name of a prolific author will still print the short title to avoid ambiguity.
<code>\autocite*{morrison02aa}</code>	( <i>Sula</i> )	Suppressing the author's name without page numbers given will print the title of the work.
<code>\mancite   \autocite[34]{morrison02aa}</code>	(Morrison 34)	Resetting the author tracker makes sure that the author's name is always printed—useful to avoid ambiguity.

Table 1: Syntax and output showing effects of citation trackers, starred variants, and manual resets with typical citations using `biblatex-mla`

### 3.1.2 In-Text Commands

- \cite** Insert a citation without parentheses or footnote styling. These kinds of citations aren't often used in writing for MLA-related fields, but the command may be useful within a parenthetical aside or a footnote. To omit the name of the author or editor, use the starred version of this command: `\cite*[z]{y}{x}`
- \citeauthor** Print the names of the author(s) or editor(s) associated with a source. In its current form, the unstarred command will always print given and family names, while the starred variant (`\citeauthor*{x}`) will omit given names.
- \citetitle** Print the title of a source. The unstarred version will print the `shorttitle` if it is available; the starred version (`\citetitle*{x}`) will always print the full title.
- \citeyear** Print the year associated with a source.

### 3.1.3 Special Commands

- \mancite** Reset most trackers that would shorten subsequent citations. See table 1 for an example. If `biblatex-mla`'s ambition to shorten citations leads to ambiguity, using this command before a citation should print the longer version.
- \citereset** Reset all citation trackers for `biblatex-mla`.
- \headlesscite** Suppress the author's name in a citation. This command provides an alias to `\autocite*` to make it easier for anyone using `biblatex-mla` and `biblatex-chicago` interchangeably.
- \textcite** An alias to `\cite`, above.

## 3.2 Package Options

`Biblatex-mla` defaults to the recommendations established by the MLA, but there may be times when it is appropriate to change some of these options for publication or other uses. Package options change the default functionality of `biblatex-mla`.

- annotation** It is possible to print annotations to entries in the Works Cited if the **annotation** field is defined in an entry. To turn on this option, add **annotation=true** to your preamble:
- ```
\usepackage[style=mla,annotation=true]{biblatex}
```
- firstlonghand** The first citation of a source with a shorthand defined will always print a citation with author's name and, potentially, the `shorttitle` field. (For more on this field, see section § 4.1, below.) Add **firstlonghand=false** to your preamble to disable this option and print only the shorthand even on the first citation:
- ```
\usepackage[style=mla,firstlonghand=false]{biblatex}
```

**guessmedium** When using the `style=mla7` option, an entry with no defined `howpublished` field will default either to a “Web” publication (if there’s a defined `url` field or `eprint` field) or a “Print” publication (if there’s not). To avoid `biblatex-mla` guessing the publication medium, thereby printing nothing when the field is undefined, deactivate the **guessmedium** option:

```
\usepackage[style=mla7,guessmedium=false]{biblatex}
```

**longdash** (new in 2.0) The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook* clarifies that dashes indicating multiple entries by one author can either be styled with three em-dashes or three hyphens. From version 2.0, `biblatex-mla` defaults to em-dashes, but setting `longdash` to false in the document header reverts to using hyphens:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,longdash=false]{biblatex}
```

**mancitepar** Although perhaps they should, the author trackers in `biblatex-mla` do not by default reset with each paragraph or page. As a result, shortened citations may be unclear when much distance has passed from previous, fuller citations. To avoid this ambiguity, the `\mancite` command can be called before an unclear citation. (See table 1 for the effects of `\mancite`.) Alternatively, consider asking `biblatex-mla` to silently call the `\mancite` command with each new paragraph by enabling the **mancitepar** package option:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,mancitepar=true]{biblatex}
```

**mladraft** When using MLA parenthetical citations, it is best practice to cite only when necessary to avoid ambiguity. `Biblatex-mla` can flag consecutive citations to the same page range, allowing you to defer citations to the end. In draft mode, `biblatex-mla` will place a clover (♣) in the margin, along with a single footnote explanation. To use the tool outside of draft mode, set the **mladraft** option in your preamble to true; similarly, to avoid seeing these clovers and the footnote in draft mode, set the option to false:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,mladraft=true]{biblatex}
```

**nofullfootnote** When using `biblatex-mla` for footnotes, the style file will provide full bibliographic detail for the first citation of every source. To turn off this option, add to your preamble **nofullfootnote**:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,autocite=footnote,nofullfootnote]{biblatex}
```

**noremoveinfo** Modeled after the implementation in `biblatex-apa` to suppress remote information in the `.bib` file from being printed in the bibliography, this option affects `isbn`, `issn`, `isrn`, `doi`, and `eprint` fields.

```
\usepackage[style=mla,noremoveinfo=true]{biblatex}
```

**showlocation** (new in 2.0) The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> editions of the *MLA Handbook* advise withholding publication location for most entries, so `biblatex-mla` omits showing the `location` field for many entry types. To show these location fields for all sources when they exist, use the `showlocation` option in the document header:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,showlocation=true]{biblatex}
```

Alternatively, selectively show the location for individual entries by defining the options field in the .bib file:

```
@book{dewey99aa,  
  ...  
  options = {showlocation=true}  
}
```

**showmedium** When using the style=mla7 option, biblatex-mla will print the publication medium at the end of each entry in the list of Works Cited. Turn off this option—and some other new changes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition—by setting the **showmedium** option to false:

```
\usepackage[style=mla7,showmedium=false]{biblatex}
```

## 4 Database Guide

Biblatex uses BibTeX-style databases to manage the citations and list of works cited. With some notable distinctions, biblatex-mla tries to follow typical Biblatex conventions for fields and entry types. Much of the the bibfile database is pretty obvious, so the best way to get acquainted with biblatex-mla is to explore the included .bib, .tex, and .pdf files. Additionally, some of the different @types and fields are explained below. Keep in mind that some of the fields in the @book and @article types (for example, nameaddon, origyear, and others) are also available in others where it makes sense; I don't repeat them here to save room.

### 4.1 Notable Fields

Biblatex supports the following fields, sometimes concerned more with presentation than bibliographic merit, in all entrytypes. Define these in your **.bib** files:

**crossref** the key of a parent source in which a shorter source is found. The crossref field is handy to avoid spending time re-inputting similar data, but it is also useful for including MLA-style cross-references in the list of Works Cited. Keep in mind the problems of the crossref field, explained in section 2.4.1 of the Biblatex manual.

**shorttitle** the shortened title to be printed in citations to disambiguate among multiple titles by one author. Biblatex-mla will only print this field in citations when necessary; when this field is not defined, biblatex-mla will use the whole of the title field.

**shorthand** when defined, a unique label to be printed in citations instead of the author and shorttitle. By default, biblatex-mla will only use the shorthand label after a

first citation with author (and title, if necessary). See the **firstlonghand** option on page 5 to disable this feature.

**options** separate the following options with a comma:

**noreMOTEinfo=false** indicates that the “remote” information of an entry is to be printed, including the fields `isbn`, `issn`, `isrn`, `doi`, and `eprint`. These fields are usually omitted. See also the global option also called **noreMOTEinfo**, on page 6, above, for defining this option on a per-document basis. The **noreMOTEinfo** option defaults to true.

**showlocation=true** (new in 2.0) indicates that the publisher’s city of operations for an entry is to be printed. These fields are usually omitted. See also the global option also called **showlocation**, on page 6, above, for defining this option on a per-document basis. The **showlocation** option defaults to false.

**totalnames=true** allows the label to include all the names in its list, rather than maxing out at three. The **totalnames** option defaults to false.

**uniqueTranslator=true** indicates that a translator of a particular `@incollection` entry is unique to that work, rather than the collection at large. The **uniqueTranslator** option defaults to false.

**useauthor=false** allows the label of the entry to default to something other than the author, when the author field is defined. If the editor is defined, the label will default to that. The **useauthor** option defaults to true.

**useeditor=false** allows the label of the entry default to something other than the editor in the case of the author field being undefined or the **useauthor** option set to false. The **useeditor** option defaults to true.

**usetranslator=true** allows the label of the entry to inherit the name of the translator when the author and editor fields are undefined or the **useauthor** and **useeditor** options are set to false. The **usetranslator** option defaults to false.

## 4.2 Standalone Sources

The following entrytypes are for long sources not part of any other publication except, potentially, multivolume sets or publishers’ series.

### @book

A book, usually with one author. MLA-style book entries are straightforward, and the `biblatex-mla` files style all the potential fields for a typical book

**author** the author of the book



- title** book title; when using `crossref`, also define `booktitle` and be sure to define `title` of the child entry
- subtitle** book subtitle; when using `crossref`, also define `booksubtitle` and be sure to define `subtitle` of the child
- location** place of publication; ignored unless `showlocation` is true
- publisher** publishing house
- date** date of publication; defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range. Use a tilde to indicate uncertainty: ~1400 will print as “circa 1400” in the list of Works Cited.

Other fields might come in handy for further granularity:

- origdate** original publication date, for reprints; defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range
- edition** edition number, preferably an integer
- volume** volume number of book
- volumes** total number of volumes
- maintitle** title of multi-volume collection of which this book is one volume
- mainsubtitle** subtitle of the above `maintitle`
- series** name of a publication series
- number** number of the above series represented by this book

Additionally, the style files support more name types for situations needing them:

- editor** editor of a book
- editortype** to indicate if the named editor is actually an editor (“ed.”), a compiler (“comp.”) or a compilerandeditor (“comp. and ed.”). Default value is `editor`.
- translator** translator of a work
- introduction** author of a book’s introduction
- foreword** author of a book’s foreword
- afterword** author of a book’s afterword

- redactor** name of redactor
- commentator** name of commentator
- annotator** name of annotator

Finally, the style files also define the following note fields for further clarification:

- nameaddon** pseudonym, misattribution, or other note (printed in brackets after author)
- booktitleaddon** note after the booktitle
- maintitleaddon** note after the maintitle
- note** miscellaneous data printed before publisher
- addendum** miscellaneous data printed at the end of the entry

### **@booklet**

Small pamphlet, often without an author listed. In `biblatex-mla`, **@booklet** is an alias for **@book** (see above), and is styled similarly.

### **@collection**

A book that is a collection of self-contained essays, stories, or poems, usually with multiple unique authors and collectively edited by a single editorial body. In `biblatex-mla`, **@collection** is an alias for **@book** (see above), and is styled similarly. To accurately support **@incollection** entries using **crossref**, be sure to define the following fields instead of **title** and **subtitle** in the parent **@collection** entry:

- booktitle** the title of a book or collection
- booksubtitle** the subtitle of a book or collection

Additionally, remember to define the **editor** field if needed.

### **@periodical**

An entire issue of a journal, usually cited by editor. `biblatex-mla` accepts the following fields:

- editor** the editor or editors of an issue
- issuetitle** title of a special issue

<b>issuesubtitle</b>	subtitle of a special issue
<b>title</b>	title of the journal
<b>subtitle</b>	subtitle of the journal
<b>volume</b>	volume number
<b>number</b>	issue number
<b>issue</b>	season, when used in place of month (as in the “spring” issue of a journal)
<b>date</b>	date of publication, defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range.
<b>pages</b>	complete pagination of the issue

### **@proceedings**

The published proceedings of a conference. Biblatex-mla styles @proceedings entries like @book or @collection entries, but it also provides support for the following unique fields:

<b>eventtitle</b>	title of the conference represented by the proceedings (if not included in the title of the published proceedings)
<b>organization</b>	body sponsoring the conference
<b>urldate</b>	original date of the conference; defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range. Please note that this is an unusual and temporary use of the urldate field; in a future version of biblatex-mla, it will change to eventdate.
<b>institution</b>	university or institution hosting the conference
<b>venue</b>	location of the conference

### **@reference**

A reference book such as a dictionary or encyclopedia, often supporting @inreference entries through crossref fields. Biblatex-mla styles a @reference entry as it would a @book entry.

## @thesis

The thesis or dissertation resulting from a doctorate or a master's degree, whether published or unpublished. Supports the following fields typical for defining such an entry:

**author** the author of the thesis/dissertation

**title** title

**subtitle** subtitle

**type** degree type. Biblatex-mla defines some MLA-style @thesis types pre-localized; choose from the following strings to get accurate styling:

**phd** for doctorate; prints as "Diss." in English

**dphil** for doctorate; prints as "Diss." in English

**lic** for licentiate; prints as "Licentiate thesis"

**ma** for master's; prints as "MA thesis"

**ms** for master's; prints as "MS thesis"

**msc** for master's; prints as "MSc thesis"

**mphil** for master's; prints as "MPhil thesis"

**mlitt** for master's; prints as "MLitt thesis"

For all other types not matching the above codes, biblatex-mla will print the type field exactly as entered, respecting all existing capitalization

**institution** name of degree-granting university

**date** date degree awarded, defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD

The entry for a @thesis that has been published needs a few additional fields:

**entrysubtype** When using the 7<sup>th</sup> edition style, which differentiates between published and unpublished dissertation titles, biblatex-mla recognizes two keys in the entrysubtype field for the @thesis:

**published** for published theses

**unpublished** for unpublished theses

Any key other than published or unpublished will be treated as if it were unpublished.

**location** place of publication

**publisher** publisher

- origdate** date degree was awarded, defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD; please note this difference from an unpublished thesis
- date** date of publication, defined as YYYY for a year; please note this difference from an unpublished thesis
- series** name of a publication series
- number** number of the above series represented by this book

### 4.3 Sources within other works

The following entrytypes are for shorter works (essays, poems, and other things) that are part of another publication. Many have corresponding standalone sources representing the larger work of which they are a part (i.e., @incollection and @collection). Entries of shorter works can inherit fields of parent entries by using the `crossref` field.

#### @article

Articles appearing in periodicals in many media, including academic journals, newspapers, and online sources. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields typical of an article in an academic journal:

- author** author of the article
- title** title of the article
- subtitle** subtitle of the article
- journaltitle** title of journal
- journalsubtitle** subtitle of journal
- volume** journal volume number
- number** journal issue number
- issue** season, when used in place of month (as in the “spring” issue of a journal)
- date** date, defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range
- pages** page numbers of the article

For online and newspaper articles, the style provides additional support for the following fields:

**entrysubtype** defines an article's medium, allowing finer control over styling. Biblatex-mla responds to the following keys in the `entrysubtype` field:

**newspaper** used for newspaper articles

**magazine** used for magazine articles

online articles are styled by the presence or absence of a `url` field

**url** the url address of an online article

**urldate** date of access of an online article, defined as YYYY-MM-DD

**date** date a newspaper article is published, defined as YYYY-MM-DD for a day

**location** for newspapers lacking a place-name in their title, the city of publication

**version** the printing edition of a newspaper (ie, early edition, national edition, etc.)

**chapter** the section of a newspaper article if it uses numbers instead of letters; if the newspaper uses letters, combine the letter with the page number (ie, page "B12") in the `page` field

In addition, the style provides support for the following fields, used in edge cases and unusual circumstances:

**nameaddon** pseudonym, misattribution, or other note (printed in brackets after author)

**titleaddon** note after the title

**origdate** year of original publication for a reprinted article

**issuetitle** title of the special issue in which it appeared

**issuesubtitle** subtitle of the special issue

**editor** editor of the special issue

**translator** translator of the article

**redactor** name of redactor

**commentator** name of commentator

**annotator** name of annotator

**introduction** author of introduction to special issue

**foreword** author of foreword to special issue

- afterword** author of afterword to special issue
- series** name of journal series; define the series name or define as `newseries` or `oldseries` to let `biblatex-mla` style the series name correctly
- note** miscellaneous data to print before the page numbers
- addendum** further miscellaneous note at the end of an entry

### **@bookinbook**

A particular kind of `@incollection`. (See below.)

### **@incollection**

A self-contained unit in a `@collection`. Supports the following fields typical of an essay, short story, or poem found in an anthology:

- author** the author of the work
- title** title of the work
- subtitle** subtitle of the work
- entrysubtype** defines a work's medium, allowing finer control over styling. By default, `@incollection` entries are printed inside quotation marks, like essays, poems, stories, and other shorter works. `Biblatex-mla` responds to **book** and **play** in the `entrysubtype` field, each of which will cause the title to be printed italicized rather than inside quotation marks. Alternatively, set the entry to a `@bookinbook` type for the same effect.
- origdate** original publication date of the work, defined as `YYYY`, `YYYY-MM`, or `YYYY-MM-DD`
- booktitle** title of the anthology
- booksubtitle** subtitle of the anthology
- editor** anthology's editor
- location** anthology's city of publication
- publisher** anthology's publisher
- date** date anthology is published, defined as `YYYY`
- pages** page numbers of the work

Further fields supported include all of those supported by the `@book` type.

### **@inproceedings**

A work published in the proceedings of a conference. Supports all the fields of the `@incollection` and `@proceedings` types.

### **@inreference**

A particular type of `@incollection`, potentially without an author. In addition to those fields defined by `@incollection`, `@inreference` adds or refines the following:

**title** name of entry in reference book

**titleaddon** particular definition of the word

**booktitle** the title of the reference book

Note that `@inreference` entries do not need to cite page numbers, though they should specify the edition used. If the year and edition fields match, `biblatex-mla` styles the entry accordingly.

### **@letter**

The `@letter` entry type is defined similarly to the `@article` type, so it will accept additional fields used in those entries.

**author** main author of the letter

**title** indication of sender and addressee

**titleaddon** additional information

**pages** pages

**origdate** original date letter was sent

### **@review**

A particular type of `@article`, potentially without a title. In addition to those fields defined by `@article`, `@review` adds or refines the following:

**booktitle** the title of the book being reviewed

**bookauthor** the author of the book being reviewed

**editor** the editor of the book being reviewed

Note that reviews found in special issues of journals (using the `issuetitle` and `issuesubtitle` fields) are not fully supported yet.



### **@suppbook**

A foreword, introduction, preface, or other supplementary (and often untitled) material to a @book. Supports the following fields typical of such a piece:

- author** author of the piece
- title** title of the piece
- subtitle** subtitle of the piece
- entrysubtype** the type of supplemental material, including subtypes like “introduction,” “foreword,” and “Editor’s note.”
- booktitle** title of the book the piece appears in
- booksubtitle** subtitle of the book the piece appears in
- location** city of publication of the book the piece appears in
- publisher** publisher of the book the piece appears in
- date** date of publication of the book the piece appears in, defined as YYYY
- pages** page numbers of the piece

Further fields supported include all of those supported by the @book type.

### **@suppcollection**

A foreword, introduction, preface, or other supplementary (and often untitled) material to a @collection. Supports all the same fields as @suppbook.

## **4.4 Other media**

### **@artwork**

The @artwork entry type is defined similarly to the @article type, so it will accept additional fields used in those entries.

- author** artist responsible for the work
- title** title of the piece
- type** description of the medium. (Please note that this field doesn’t yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added to support bibliographies made for biblatex-chicago.)
- note** additional note on the work

- date** date of creation, defined as YYYY for a year, YYYY-MM for a month, YYYY-MM-DD for a day, or YYYY-MM-DD/YYYY-MM-DD for a range
- institution** institution holding the artwork. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added to support bibliographies made for biblatex-chicago.)
- location** city of the institution. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added to support bibliographies made for biblatex-chicago.)

## **@audio**

The @audio entry type is defined similarly to the @article type, so it will accept additional fields used in those entries.

- author** author or composer of a work
- title** title of the speech, song, or other short piece. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added.)
- booktitle** title of the opera, cycle, or other larger collection
- origdate** date work was originally written. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added.)
- maintitle** title of a book containing the work
- date** date of publication of work being referenced
- publisher** publisher of work being referenced. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added.)
- location** city of publisher. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of biblatex-mla, though support will be added.)

## **@image**

The @image entry type is defined similarly to the @article type, so it will accept additional fields used in those entries.

- author** creator of the image
- title** title of the work

- type** description of the medium. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of `biblatex-mla`, though support will be added to support bibliographies made for `biblatex-chicago`.)
- note** additional description of the work
- date** date of creation
- institution** institution holding the work. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of `biblatex-mla`, though support will be added.)
- location** city of the institution holding the work. (Please note that this field doesn't yet work with the current version of `biblatex-mla`, though support will be added.)

### **@manual**

(new in 2.0) This entry type is an alias for `@book`.

### **@misc**

(new in 2.0) This entry type behaves like `@article` entries, but titles aren't printed inside quotation marks.

### **@movie**

(new in 2.0) This entry type is an alias for `@video`.

### **@music**

This entry type is an alias for `@audio`.

### **@online**

This entry type is an alias for `@article`.

### **@patent**

(new in 2.0) This entry type is currently built onto the same backend as `@article` entries, so it accepts additional fields used in that entry type. Additionally, it adds some additional operations to the `type` field:

**type** the type of patent, with relation to the country in which it was issued. For instance, `patenteu` or `patentus` will automatically establish some standard expectations for the Works Cited entry of a patent from the European Union or one from the United States. See section 4.9.2.20 of the Biblatex manual for more of these expected strings.

## **@report**

(new in 2.0) This entry type is an alias for `@book`.

## **@unpublished**

An unpublished manuscript or typescript. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields typical to an unpublished entry:

**author** author of the work

**title** title of a short work (i.e., an essay or poem)

**subtitle** subtitle of a short work

**booktitle** title of a longer work (i.e., a book or play)

**booksubtitle** subtitle of a longer work

**titleaddon** description of untitled work

**note** further information used to classify the collection; typeset before the type field

**type** form of the material. For example, some of the following strings are recognized:

**manuscript** printed as “Manuscript” or “ms” in English

**transcript** printed as “Typescript” or “ts” in English

For all other types not matching the above codes, biblatex-mla will print the type field exactly as entered, respecting all existing capitalization

**entrysubtype** (new in 2.0) special consideration for styling the title of the work or for indicating that a given title is just a description of the material consulted. The following strings are recognized:

**untitled** for unstyled titles

**book** for titles that should be styled like a book

**article** for titles that should be styled like an article

Biblatex-mla will further try to style the title to match any type listed in the `entrysubtype` field.

- number** identifying number (such as a call number, box, or folio reference) in a library or archive
- library** library, archive, or other research institution holding the unpublished work
- location** location of the library
- addendum** extra material printed at the end of an entry

## @video

A recording of a movie, television program, etc. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields necessary for a video:

- title** title of the work
- subtitle** subtitle of the work
- bookauthor** author of the book on which the video is based
- publisher** distributor
- origdate** original date of release
- howpublished** publishing medium (ie, DVD, videocassette, etc.)

Additionally, biblatex-mla supports the `author`, `editor`, `namea`, `nameb`, and `namec` fields, modified with the `authortype`, `editortype`, `nameatype`, `namebtype`, and `namectype` fields, attuned to the following localization keys:

- <x>type** **director** director of a work
- screenplay** author of the screenplay
- performer** list of crucial performers
- composer** composer of a soundtrack
- producer** producer of a work

Note that biblatex-mla will print the author field before the title (styled using the appropriate `authortype` key) unless the field is empty or the **useauthor** option is false—at which point it will cascade to the `editor` field, unless *it* is undefined or the **useeditor** option is false. No other name fields will be printed before the title. Except for any printed before the title, these fields will be printed after the title in the following order: `author`, `editor`, `namea`, `nameb`, `namec`.

## 4.5 MLA-Style Containers

### @mlasource

(new in 2.0) In addition to these typical Biblatex-supported entry types, biblatex-mla 2.0 introduces support for defining entries using the containerized explanations of sources first described in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the *MLA Handbook*. Because the non-author fields are defined to handle information literally, this kind of entry is in many ways inferior to the above semantically-defined entry types, which should handle punctuation in lists of editor names, strings like “vol.” and “by,” subtitle punctuation, and other matters. The user will need to keep output in mind as they define the metadata of an @mlasource entry. All of these fields are optional, and they should only include information set out in the *MLA Handbook*.

- author** the name of the person(s) who should be used as the label for a work.
- title** title of the piece; subtitles and any necessary colons should be included within the title field.
- titletype** a string like **complete**, **part**, or **unstyled** determining how the source’s title gets printed. This field is typically unnecessary: biblatex-mla assumes **complete** if the source lacks a **titlea** field, and it assumes **part** if the **titlea** field is defined, styling the title in italics or in quotation marks, respectively. Setting this field overrides biblatex-mla’s logic.
- supplemental** any supplemental information for the source.
  - titlea** the title of the first container; biblatex-mla will style **titlea** in italics, but subtitles and any necessary colons should be included within the this field.
  - contributora** any necessary contributors to the first container.
  - versiona** the version or edition of the first container.
  - numbora** the number of the first container.
  - publishera** the publisher of the first container.
  - datea** the date associated with the first container.
  - locationa** the location of the first container.
- supplementala** any supplemental information for the first container.
  - titleb** the title of the second container; biblatex-mla will style **titleb** in italics, but subtitles and any necessary colons should be included within the this field.
  - contributorb** any necessary contributors to the second container.

- versionb** the version or edition of the second container.
- numberb** the number of the second container.
- publisherb** the publisher of the second container.
- dateb** the date associated with the second container.
- locationb** the location of the second container.
- supplementalb** any supplemental information for the second container.

## 5 Meta

### 5.1 License

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### 5.2 Feedback

If you have any questions, requests, or other feedback please email me or reach out on GitHub. If you end up improving the code to be more accurate to the MLA standard, please be kind to the rest of us and share; I'm very happy to incorporate improvements! If anything works differently than you feel it ought to work, please let me know. Apart from time and my willingness to write documentation, I'm limited only by the problems of which I'm unaware.