

# Manuscripts description for philology with biblatex

## New data types

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Goals

The biblatex package defines some standard fields for entry, and allows the use of extra fields, like `usera`, `userb`. However, the number of extra fields needed to describe manuscripts in an introduction of a critical edition of classical texts is too great to use these fields' names without mistake.

The aim of this package is twofold:

- Provides new datatype: `@manuscripts` with appropriate fields.
- Provides new bibliography styles to print the list of manuscripts:
  - As a detailed list of witnesses of a text.

– *As a conspectus siglorum.*

You can see minimal example in the file [example.pdf](#).

## 1.2 Credits

This package was created for Maïeul Rouquette’s PhD<sup>1</sup> in 2014. It is licenced on the *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Project Public Licence*<sup>2</sup>.

All issues can be submitted, in French or English, in the GitHub issues page<sup>3</sup>.

## 2 Requirement

This package needs biblatex 3.3 or later.

## 3 New type and fields

This package defines one new bibtype @manuscript, which is to be used to define a manuscript.

### 3.1 Mandatory

This bibtype has these mandatory fields:

**collection** field (literal)

the collection in the library. For example: Supplément grec or Vaidyaka.

**location** field (literal)

the city or place where the manuscript is kept. For example: Paris or Oxford or Varanasi.

**library** field (literal)

the library where the manuscript is kept. For example: Bibliothèque nationale de France or Sarasvatī Bhavan Library.

**shelfmark** field (literal)

the shelfmark in the collection. For example: 241. Do not prefix with “MS”.

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<sup>1</sup><http://apocryphes.hypotheses.org>.

<sup>2</sup><http://latex-project.org/lppl/lppl-1-3c.html>.

<sup>3</sup><https://github.com/maieul/biblatex-manuscripts-philology/issues>.

### 3.2 Optional

This bibtype can use the optional fields:

- bookpagination** field (key)
- the pagination or foliation of the manuscript which is studied. The standard biblatex pagination keys are allowed, but the package adds a new key: `folio`.
- The value of this field will be used when printing the `pages` and `pagetotal`. E.g., “ff. 3–5” (when `bookpagination` = “folio”) or “pp. 88–99” (“page”). See the biblatex manual for details.
- columns** field (integer)
- the number of column by pages. Basically, only two numbers are allowed: 1 or 2.
- dating** field (literal)
- the dating of the manuscript. It can be for example a century.
- layer** field (key)
- for palimpsests, the layer which is studied. There is two possibility:
- inf** for the inferior layer.
  - sup** for the superior layer
- shortcollection** field (literal)
- the abbreviated form of the collection. Not used by the default style.
- shortlibrary** field (literal)
- the abbreviated form of the library. Not used by the default style.
- pages** field (range)
- the pages which are studied in the manuscript. In this field, you can use the macros `\recto` and `\verso`. This value will be used when formatting citations.
- Use this field also for manuscript folio numbers. E.g., “3\verso–5\recto”.
- pagetotal** field (integer)
- the number of pages or folios in the manuscript.

**pagination** field (key)

the pagination of part of manuscript which is studied. The standard pagination keys are allowed, but the package adds a new key: `folio`. This value will control the formatting the `\postnoterangle` argument of a citation command (see the biblatex manual for details).

**shorthand** field (literal)

the shorthand of the manuscript. If this field is empty, the entry key will be used as shorthand, except if the version `manuscript-noautosshorthand` is loaded. See § 4.1.

**script** list (key or literal)

the script, i.e. the *writing system* of the manuscript (for example Devanāgarī, Śāradā, Cyrillic). You can use or a key-value system, or just use literal value. No default keys are defined. To define your own key, see § 5.1.

**support** field (key or literal)

the support of the manuscript, which will be translated into your work language. These keys are defined:

- `birch-bark`;
- `palm-leaf`;
- `papyrus`;
- `paper`;
- `parchment`.<sup>4</sup>

To define your own key, see § 5.1.

### 3.3 Special

There are also two special fields, which are printed only if we ask for them explicitly:

**annotation** field (literal)

some annotation about the manuscript and its contents. If you want to add paragraphs inside it, you must use the `\par` command between each paragraph.

**catalog** field (special)

a list of catalogues which describe the manuscript. You must fill this field with arguments of a `\cites` command. For example:

---

<sup>4</sup>Historically, the keyword was `pergament`, which is kept only for ascendant compatibility.

```
@manuscript{key,
  field1 = {value1},
  field2 = {value2},
  catalog = {[prenote1][postnote1]{key1}[prenote2][postnote2]{key2}}
```

**content** field (literal)

description of the manuscript’s content, can be used with or instead of annotation. It starts a new block into the description output. If you want to add paragraphs inside it, you must use the `\par` command between each paragraph. E.g., “Covers chapters 1–3 only.”

**origin** field (list)

the places where the manuscript was written.

**owner** field (name)

the name(s) of the owner(s) of the manuscript in the past.

**scribe** field (list)

the name(s) of the scribe(s).

## 4 Use

### 4.1 Loading

When loading the `biblatex` package, use the option `bibstyle` with value equal to `manuscripts`.

```
\usepackage[bibstyle=manuscripts,otheroption...]{biblatex}
```

If you don’t want the shorthand of the manuscript be auto-defined from the entry key, use `manuscripts-noautosshorthand` instead.

```
\usepackage[bibstyle=manuscripts-noautosshorthand,otheroption...]{biblatex}
```

The bibliographic style for other type entries is “verbose”, which call “authortitle”. However, if you need other bibliographic style, use the `biblatex-multiple-dm` package.

### 4.2 Citation of one manuscript

The manuscript description is supposed to be used with a `citestyle` of the *verbose* family (see the `biblatex` handbook), but you can use any other `citestyle`. The only problematic point is that the manuscript citation will be verbose.

So, if you use:

```
\cite{manuscriptkey}
```

the full reference of the manuscript will be printed (see the example file). However, you can use `\shcite` to print directly the shorthand of the manuscript:

```
\shcite{manuscriptkey}
```

### 4.3 List of manuscripts: *conspectus siglorum*

You can use the standard command `\printshorthands` with appropriate options:

```
\printshorthands[type=manuscript,title=Conspectus siglorum]
```

In the previous example, with use one option to print shorthands only for manuscripts entries, and we set the title to the classical one “Conspectus siglorum”.

### 4.4 List of manuscripts with detailed fields

If you want to print a list of manuscripts with detailed fields listed in § 3.3, just use the `env` option, with value equal to `details`.

```
\printshorthands[type=manuscript,env=details,title=Description of manuscripts]
```

In this case, you must run two times `biber`: one after the first run of `LaTeX` and one after the second run, to add in the `.bbl` the catalogues. After that, run a three time `LaTeX`.

If you use `manuscripts-noautosshorthand` version, this list could contain manuscripts without shorthand. By default, the descriptions of such manuscripts will be aligned on the left of the shorthands column.

An other solution is to make two lists: one with manuscripts with shorthand and one with manuscript withoutshorthands. You can add to your `\printbibliography` or `\printshorthands` commands a `bibcheck` option, equal to `withshorthand` or `withoutshorthand`. As you:

```
\printshorthands[
  type=manuscript,
  env=details,
  title=Description of used manuscripts,
  check=withshorthand
]
\printbibliography[
  type=manuscript,
  title=Description of other manuscripts,
  check=withoutshorthand
]
```

## 4.5 Sorting list of manuscripts without shorthand

If you doesn't use the shorthands' feature, you can want to print a list of manuscripts, sorted by Town, Library, Collection, Shelfmark.

For this purpose, you can use, the option `sorting=manuscripts` of a `refcontext` environment.

```
\begin{refcontext}[sorting=manuscripts]{}
\printbibliography[
  type=manuscript,
  title=Description of other manuscripts,
]
\end{refcontext}
```

You can use the special field `sortshelfmark` if the way you shelf marks are sorted is not the way they are printed (like in normal entry type, you can use `sorttitle`).

However, using different sorting scheme for different bibliography in the same document implies that biber will insert many time the bibliographic entries in the `.bbl` file, once by sorting scheme. If you have a bib bibliography, that could make  $\LaTeX$  finishing the next run by a

TeX capacity exceeded, sorry [main memory size=<something>]  
because this will full the memory<sup>5</sup>.

In order to prevent this, the package also provides sorting schemes to get the same sorting scheme for manuscripts and other entries, even if separated in the final bibliography. The following sorting schemes are adapted for the standard biblatex sorting schemes:

- `nty+manuscripts`, adapted from `nty`;
- `nyt+manuscripts`, adapted from `nyt`;
- `nyvt+manuscripts`, adapted from `nyvt`.

To use these scheme, don't use `recontext` environment, but simply the global option when loading biblatex:

```
\usepackage[sorting=nty+manuscripts,...]{biblatex}
```

If you need more sorting scheme, please contact us, we could integrate them easily.

---

<sup>5</sup>The problem should not happen if you use  $\text{Lua}\LaTeX$ , because, contrary to  $\text{X}\LaTeX$  and  $\text{E}\LaTeX$ ,  $\text{Lua}\LaTeX$  has no limit in memory, except the limit of the computer... which should be enough with recent computer.

## 5 Customization

### 5.1 Create your own keys

The `support` and `script` fields can contain either a literal string, either a key that biblatex will transform to a value.

That use only standard biblatex localization string.

To define your own key, add into your preamble:

```
\NewBibliographyString{<key1>}
\NewBibliographyString{<key2>}
...
\NewBibliographyString{<keyn>}
\DefineBibliographyStrings{%
  <key1> = {<value1>},
  <key2> = {<value2>},
  ...,
  <keyn> = {<valuen>}
}
```

Where `<key1>`, `<key2>` ... `<keyn>` must be replaced by the keys, and `<value1>`, `<value2>` ... `<valuen>` by the value.

### 5.2 Commands

You can redefine, with `\renewcommand` some commands defined in `manuscripts.bbx`. The commands starting with `\mk...` take one argument, the other take no argument. In these commands, use the punctuation commands of biblatex.

- `\collectionshelfmarkpunct` the punctuation between collection and shelfmark. By default `\addspace`.
- `\columnslayerpunct` the punctuation between columns and layer. By default `\addsemicolon\addspace`.
- `\datingpagespunct` the punctuation between dating and pages. By default `\addcomma\addspace`. The `\isdot` is automatically called when printing dating field.
- `\librarycollectionpunct` the punctuation between library and collection. By default `\addcomma\addspace`.
- `\mkcolumns` the way the columns are printed. By default, in parens.
- `\mkcolumnslayer` the way the columns and layer fields are printed together. By default, in parens.
- `\mklocation` the way the location is printed. By default, with the command `\mkbibnamefamily`.
- `\mkmanuscriptdescriptionlabel` the way the label are printed before the special fields. By default, in bold, followed with `\manuscriptdescriptionlabelpunct`.



`\mkmanuscriptdescriptionlabel` the way the label are printed before the special fields which can contains paragraph (e.g. content. B default, in bold, followed with `\par`.

`\mkshcite` the way the shorthand is printed when using `\shcite`. By default, no special formatting.

`\locationlibrarypunct` the punctuation between `location` and `library`. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.

`\manuscriptdescriptionlabelpunct` the punctuation between label and text, for the special fields. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.

`\moreinterpunct` the punctuation between each special fields when printing in the same paragraph. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.

`\pagetotalpagespunct` the punctuation between `pagetotal` and `pages`. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.

### 5.3 Commands to use in the pages field

In the pages field, you can use `\recto` and `\verso` command when you speak of folios. Default value are `r` and `v` but you can change them.

### 5.4 Localization strings

Some specific localization strings are defined in the `manuscripts-xxx.lbx` files. Read the `biblatex` handbook to know how to customize it.

### 5.5 Macros and field formats

The `manuscripts-shared.bbx` file defines `bibmacros` and `field formats` (read the `biblatex` handbook to know more about `bibmacro` and `field format`). We can't list all of them, but you can look on them to know how to customize more finely the manuscripts description.

## 6 Use with `biblatex-realauthor`

To use this package with the features of `biblatex-realauthor`, you must use the package `biblatex-multiple-dm`.

## 7 Migration to v.2.0.0

The version 2.0.0 adds some modification which could require modifications in your own customization.

1. We have decided to prefix all `bibmacros` concerning manuscript with `manuscript:`. If you have redefined one of the following macros, or if you have created your own macros which call them, you should adapt your code:

- annotation;
- catalog;
- collection+shelfmark;
- date/dating;
- more+annotation+catalog;

2. The support+dating does not exist anymore.

3. Now, the annotation field is introduced with a label. If you don't want this label, add into your preamble/custom style:

```
\DeclareFieldFormat{annotation}{#1}
```

## 8 Change history

### 2.0.0 2018-09-19

Add contents and script fields.

Add new support types.

Improve handbook (thanks to Dominik Wujastyk).

Really add italian translation.

### 1.12.3 2017-11-26

Add compatibility with biblatex 3.8.

### 1.12.2 2017-01-31

Fix spurious space after citation of a manuscript.

### 1.12.1 2016-10-28

Move url after folio and columns data.

### 1.12.0 2016-10-23

New sorting schemes.

### 1.11.0 2016-09-21

Fix typographical bug when using both layer and columns fields without pages field.

### 1.10.1 2016-09-07

Use \mkbibnamefamily instead of \mkbibnamelast (biblatex 3.3 and later).

#### **1.10.0 2016-06-07**

Add error message to know more quickly break compatibility with new releases of biblatex.

#### **1.8.0 2016-03-11**

Fix compatibility with biblatex 3.3.

#### **1.7.0 2016-02-10**

Add italian translation.

#### **1.6.2 2015-11-01**

Fix missing line break before scribe or owner fields when origin field is empty.

#### **1.6.1a 2015-05-06**

Fix typo in handbook

Insert good version number in the \ProvidesFile commands.

#### **1.6.1 2014-10-21**

Add \isdot after each printing of the dating field, to allow to use abbreviations with a dot (like “c.”) without adding a uppercase after. Consequently, \isdot is deleted from \datingpagespunct.

#### **1.6.0 2014-10-16**

Patching some bibmacros to prevent lost of manuscript descriptions when using op. cit abbreviation.

#### **1.5.0 2014-10-08**

Formating of collection+shelfmark defined in a FielFormat.

Compatibility with chicago-notes styles.

#### **1.4.0 2014-06-23**

Compatibility with biblatex-multiple-dm. . . . . 6

#### **1.3.0 2014-06-16**

Add sorting description. . . . . 4.5

#### **1.2.0 2014-04-07**

Add layer. . . . . 3.2

**1.1.1 2014-03-20**

Delete msnoautosorthand option and replace it by the manuscripts-noautosorthand style. . . . . 4.1

**1.1.0 2014-03-15**

- Add msnoautosorthand option. . . . . 3.2
- Add shortcollection field. . . . . 3.2
- Add withshorthand and withoutshorthand bibcheck. . . . . 4.4

**1.0.0 2014-01-20**

First public release.