

# 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 to use 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 double:

- Provides new datatype: `@manuscripts` with adapted 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 *LaTeX Project Public Licence*<sup>2</sup>.

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

## 2 New type and fields

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

### 2.1 Mandatory

This bibtype has these mandatory fields:

`collection` field (literal)

the collection in the library. For example: `Supplément grec`.

`location` field (literal)

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

`library` field (literal)

the library where the manuscript is kept. For example: `Bibliothèque Nationale de France`.

`shelfmark` field (literal)

the shelfmark in the collection. For example: `241`.

### 2.2 Optional

This bibtype can use the optional fields:

`bookpagination` field (key)

the pagination of the manuscript which is studied. The standard pagination keys are allowed, but the package add a new key: `folio`. The value of this field is to be used for printing the pages and `pagetotal`.

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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>.

**columns** field (integer)

the number of column by pages. Basically, only two numbers are allowed: 1 or 2.

**dating** field (litteral)

the dating of the manuscript. It can be for example a century.

**shortcollection** field (litteral)

the abbreviated form of the collection. Not used by the default style.

**shortlibrary** field (litteral)

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`.

**pagetotal** field (integer)

the total number of pages in the manuscript.

**pagination** field (key)

the pagination of part of manuscript which is studied. The standard pagination key are allowed, but the package add a new key: `folio`.

**shorthand** field (litteral)

the shorthand of the manuscript. If this field is empty, the entry key will be used as shorthand, except if the option `msnoautosshorthand` is loaded. See § 3.1.1.

**support** field (key)

the support of the manuscript, which will be translated in your work language. These keys are defined: `papyrus`, `paper`, `pergament`.

## 2.3 Special

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

**annotation** field (litteral)

some annotation about the manuscript and its content. 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:

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

**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).

## 3 Use

### 3.1 Loading

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

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

#### 3.1.1 Options

Loading biblatex, you can use all the standard biblatex options. But you can also use these specific options:

`msnoautosorthand=true, false`

default: `false`

Disable the auto definition of manuscript's shorthand by using the citation key.

### 3.2 Citation of one manuscript

The manuscript description is supposed to be used with a `citestyle` of the *verbose* family (see the biblatex handbook).

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}
```

### 3.3 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”.

### 3.4 List of manuscripts with detailed fields

If you want to print a list of manuscripts with detailed fields listed in § 2.3, just use the `env` option, with value equal to `details`.

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

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

If you use `msnoautosorthand` option, 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` commands a `bibcheck` option, equal to `withshorthand` or `withoutshorthand`:

```
\printbibliography[
^^Itype=manuscript,
^^Ienv=details,
^^Ititle=Description of used manuscripts,
^^Icheck=withshorthand
^^I]
\printbibliography[
^^Itype=manuscript,
^^Ititle=Description of other manuscripts,
^^Icheck=withoutshorthand
^^I]
```

## 4 Customization

### 4.1 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 command, use the punctuation commands of `biblatex`.

- `\collectionshelfmarkpunct` the punct between collection and shelfmark. By default `\addspace`.
- `\datingpagespunct` the punct between dating and pages. By default `\isdot\addcomma\addspace`.
- `\librarycollectionpunct` the punct between library and collection. By default `\addcomma\addspace`.
- `\mkcolumns` the way the columns are printed. By default, in parens.
- `\mklocation` the way the location is printed. By default, with the command `\mkbibnamelast`.
- `\mkmanuscriptdescriptionlabel` the way the label are printed before the special field. By default, in bold, following with `\manuscriptdescriptionlabelpunct`.
- `\mkshcite` the way the shorthand is printed when using `\shcite`. By default, no special formatting.
- `\locationlibrarypunct` the punct between location and library. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.
- `\manuscriptdescriptionlabelpunct` the punct between label and text, for the special fields. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.
- `\moreinterpunct` the punct between each special fields when printing in the same paragraph. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.
- `\pagetotalpagespunct` the punct between pagetotal and pages. By default `\addcolon\addspace`.

### 4.2 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.

### 4.3 Localization strings

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

### 4.4 Macros and field formats

The `manuscripts.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.

5 Change history

1.1.0 2014-03-15

Add shortcollection field. . . . . 2.2

Add msnoautosorthand option. . . . . 3.1.1

Add withshorthand and withoutshorthand bibcheck. . . . . 3.4

1.0.0 2014-01-20

First public release.