The ctanbib package

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1 Introduction

This package provides script named ctanbib which can be used for retrieving of the bibliographic information for packages hosted on CTAN.

It looks up the Catalogue entry for each PKGNAME on CTAN (at https://ctan.org/xml/2.0/pkg/PKGNAME), and convert relevant information to a BibTeX entry.

By default, the url field in the output entry is the package’s home field value if that is specified in the Catalogue entry; if it isn’t, https://ctan.org/pkg/PKGNAMEis used.

2 Usage

It can be used in the following way:

c tanbib [options] ⟨packagename1⟩ ... ⟨packagenameX⟩ > filename.bib

The curl utility needs to be installed on the user’s system in order to support the package info download.

3 Available options

-c,--ctan always use CTAN /pkg/ url instead of the package homepage

-C,--ctanpath use the package’s CTAN path as url (e.g.: /support/ctanbib)

-e,--entrypoint explicitly set the BibTeX entry type.

-h,--help print the help message.

-p,--pkgname wrap the package name in a \ctanbibpkgname command.

-v,--version print the version info.
4 Examples

cтанbib latex

This invocation will print data in the Bib(La)TeX format to the standard output:

```latex
@manual{latex,
    title = {The latex package},
    subtitle = {A TeX macro package that defines LaTeX},
    author = {{The LaTeX Team} and Lamport, Leslie},
    url = {http://www.latex-project.org/},
    urldate = {2021-06-26},
    date = {},
    version = {2021-06-01},
}
```

The `--ctan` option:

cтанbib -c latex

This produces a bib record that uses the CTAN package entry for the URL, instead of the original package URL.

```latex
@manual{latex,
    title = {The latex package},
    ...,
    url = {https://ctan.org/pkg/latex},
    ...,
}
```

The `--ctanpath` option:

cтанbib -C biblatex

This produces a bib record that uses the CTAN package tree location for the URL.

```latex
@manual{biblatex,
    ...,
    url = {/macros/latex/contrib/biblatex},
    ...,
}
```

The `--entrytype` option:

cтанbib -e ctan latex

```latex
```
It selects different entry type for the record:

@ctan{latex,
   ...
}

The --pkgname option:

cтанbib -p latex

Puts the package name into the \ctanbibpkgname command, which can be redefined by user to produce a special formatting of the name:

@preamble{ "\providecommand\ctanbibpkgname[1]{\textsl{#1}}" }
@manual{latex,
   title = {The \ctanbibpkgname{latex} package},
   ...
}

5 License

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6 Acknowledgements

This package was created thanks to TeX.sx user Daniel\textsuperscript{1}. Lukas C. Bossert had useful comments which led to update of the original script and it’s eventual release on CTAN. Herbert Voss added the --CTAN option. Karl Berry and Boris Veytsman suggested addition of the --pkgname option and leaving package names uncapitalized.

\textsuperscript{1}https://tex.stackexchange.com/users/3751/daniel
7 Changelog

2023-10-25 Version 0.2d released
2023-10-20 Sort authors alphabetically
2023-10-19 Updated the --help message
2023-10-16 Use larger font in the documentation
2023-10-16 Indent the BibTeX entry by two spaces
2023-10-08 Get date from the copyright field if we cannot retrieve it from version
2023-09-18 Version 0.2c released
2023-09-14 Renamed the --tugboat option to --pkgname
2023-09-12 Don't capitalize package names
2023-09-12 Added the --tugboat option for creation of records suitable for the TUGboat journal
2023-02-20 Version 0.2b released
2023-02-20 Use --ssl-no-revoke option for Curl, to prevent SSL certificate errors
2023-02-20 Better handling of errors in package info downloading
2023-02-20 Fixed link to the author mail address
2021-06-29 Version 0.2a released
2021-06-29 Removed the --CTAN option, entry type can be set using --entrytype and CTAN URL is requested using --ctan
2021-06-26 Version 0.2 released
2021-06-26 Added --entrytype option for explicit specification of the BibTeX entry type
2021-06-26 Fixed package name verification
2021-06-26 Added support for multiple package names
2021-06-26 Print https://www.ctan.org/pkg/<pkgname> with the -c option
2021-06-20 Version 0.1e released
2021-06-20 Added --CTAN option, thanks to Herbert Voss
2019-12-23 Don't return non-zero exit codes for non-error runs
2019-12-23 Test for the packagename with the -c option
2019-09-21 Try to find the author in full CTAN author list if the author cannot be found in the package info
2019-09-16 Use the CTAN API 2.0 to fetch the package info
2019-05-04 Version 0.1c released
2019-05-04 Use the curl command to download the package info
2019-05-04 Added information about the need to have the curl command installed
2019-03-11 Version 0.1b released
2018-09-10 Added support for institutional names
2018-09-10 Escape TeX commands in the title and subtitle
2018-08-29  Added man page
2018-08-27  Added –ctan option
2018-08-23  Version 0.1 released.
2018-08-23  Created documentation.
2018-08-21  Rewrote the script to use the DOM api provided by LuaXML. This provides greater flexibility in the XML processing.
2018-08-20  Fixed the script for the current XML format provided by CTAN.
2014-09-12  Initial version of the script have been released in answer on TeX.sx\textsuperscript{2}.

\textsuperscript{2}https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/200856/2891