

The ctanbib package

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2023-09-18, version 0.2c

1 Introduction

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

2 Usage

It can be used in the following way:

```
ctanbib [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** use the CTAN package entry as package URL instead of URL provided by the package.
- C,--ctanpath** use package's CTAN path as URL
- e,--entrypoint** explicitly set the BibTeX entry type.
- h,--help** print the help message.
- p,--pkgname** Put the package name in a \ctanbibpkgname command.
- v,--version** print the version info.

4 Examples

```
ctanbib latex
```

This invocation will print data in the BibTeX format to the standard output:

```
@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:

```
ctanbib -c latex
```

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

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

The --ctanpath option:

```
ctanbib -C biblatex
```

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

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

The --entrytype option:

```
ctanbib -e ctan latex
```

It selects different entry type for the record:

```
@ctan{latex,
...
}
```

The --pkgname option:

```
ctanbib -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 Daniel¹. 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.

¹<https://tex.stackexchange.com/users/3751/daniel>

7 Changelog

- 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 Added the `--ctanpath` option.
- 2021-06-26 Version 0.2 released
- 2021-06-26 Removed the `--CTAN` option, entry type can be set using `--entrytype` and CTAN URL is requested using `--ctan`
- 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.sx².

²<https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/200856/2891>