

**NAME**

`bibtex` – make a bibliography for (La)TeX

**SYNOPSIS**

`bibtex [-min-crossrefs=number] [-terse] auxname[.aux]`

**DESCRIPTION**

BIBTEX reads the top-level auxiliary (**.aux**) file *auxname* that was output during (typically) the running of **latex**(1) or **tex**(1), and creates a bibliography (**.bbl**) file that will be incorporated into the document on subsequent runs of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or T<sub>E</sub>X.

BIBTEX looks up, in bibliographic database (**.bib**) files specified by the `\bibliography` command, the entries specified by the `\cite` and `\nocite` commands in the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or T<sub>E</sub>X source file. It formats the information from those entries according to instructions in a bibliography style (**.bst**) file (specified by the `\bibliographystyle` command), and it outputs the results to the **.bbl** file.

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X manual explains what a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source file must contain to work with BIBTEX. Appendix B of the manual describes the format of the **.bib** files.

The short ‘BIBTEXing’ (“*btxdoc*”) document describes extensions and details of this format, and gives other useful hints for using BIBTEX.

BIBTEX can also be used with plain TeX, via `\input btxmac`; the interface is essentially the same as L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. The support is included in **eplain**(1), and the Eplain manual explains the usage, which is essentially the same as in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: <https://tug.org/eplain/doc/eplain.html#Citations>

**OPTIONS**

See **tex**(1) for details of command-line parsing.

The **-min-crossrefs** option defines the minimum number of **crossref** required for automatic inclusion of the crossref base entry in the citation list; the default is two. To avoid these automatic inclusions altogether, give this option a sufficiently large number, and be sure to remove any previous **.aux** and **.bbl** files. Otherwise the option may appear to have no effect, since BIBTEX will have added the citation for the base entry to the **.aux** file, and nothing will remove it.

With the **-terse** option, BIBTEX operates silently. Without it, a banner and progress reports are printed on stdout.

The standard **-help** and **-version** options are also supported.

**ENVIRONMENT**

BIBTEX searches the directories in the path defined by the `BSTINPUTS` environment variable for **.bst** files. If `BSTINPUTS` is not set, it uses the system default. For **.bib** files, it uses the `BIBINPUTS` environment variable if that is set, otherwise the default. See **tex**(1) for the details of the searching.

If the environment variable `TEXMFOUTPUT` is set, BIBTEX attempts to put its output files in it, if they cannot be put in the current directory. Again, see **tex**(1). No special searching is done for the **.aux** file.

**FILES**

*\*.bst* Bibliography style files.

*btxdoc.tex* “BIBTEXing” – documentation for BIBTEX users

*btshak.tex* “Designing BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> Styles” – documentation for .bst writers

*btldoc.bib* database file for those two documents

*xampl.bib* database file giving examples of all standard entry types

*btbst.doc* template file and documentation for the standard styles

*btmac.tex* BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> for plain TeX

All those files should be available somewhere on your system. Running *texdoc btldoc* (or *btshak*) may display the above documents.

## SEE ALSO

**latex(1)**, **eplain(1)**, **tex(1)**.

BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> home page: <https://tug.org/bibtex>

Bib-related CTAN topics: <https://ctan.org/topic/:B>

BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> package page on CTAN: <https://ctan.org/pkg/bibtex>  
(which has links to the above documents, among others).

Leslie Lamport, *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: A Document Preparation System*, Addison-Wesley.

Bibliography support in plain TeX: <https://tug.org/eplain/doc/eplain.html#Citations>

BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> chapter in the Web2c manual: <https://tug.org/texinfohtml/web2c.html#BibTeX>

Typeset source code for BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>: <https://ctan.org/pkg/knuth-pdf>

Thanks to Nelson Beebe, the University of Utah has a vast collection of .*bib* files available, including entries for all the standard T<sub>E</sub>X books and a complete bibliography for *TUGboat*.

Nelson also provides this information page on BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>:

<https://ftp.math.utah.edu/pub/bibnet/bibtex-info.html>

and a large collection of BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>-related tools:

<https://www.math.utah.edu/~beebe/software/bibtex-bibliography-tools.html>

## AUTHOR

Oren Patashnik, Stanford University. This man page describes the Web2c (T<sub>E</sub>X Live) version of BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>. Other ports of BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> do not have the same path searching implementation or the same command-line options.

Public discussion list and bug reports: <https://lists.tug.org/biblio>