The `ctanbib` package

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2023-10-25, version 0.2d

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/PKGNAMEisused`.

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 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

```
ctanbib latex
```

This invocation will print data in the Bib(La)TeX 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 Daniel[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.

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[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	Verson 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.sx[2].

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[2] https://tex.stackexchange.com/a/200856/2891