

**NAME**

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

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**DESCRIPTION**

This manual page is not meant to be exhaustive. The complete documentation for this version of TeX can be found in the info file or manual *Web2C: A TeX implementation*.

BIBTeX reads the top-level auxiliary (`.aux`) file *auxname* that was output during 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 TeX.

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 TeX 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 ‘BIBTeXing’ document describes extensions and details of this format, and it gives other useful hints for using BIBTeX.

**OPTIONS**

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*.

**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.

`btldoc.tex`

“BIBTeXing” – L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xable documentation for general BIBTeX users

`btshak.tex`

“Designing BIBTeX Styles” – L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xable documentation for style designers

`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

All those files should be available somewhere on your system.

The host math.utah.edu has a vast collection of **.bib** files available for anonymous ftp, including references for all the standard T<sub>E</sub>X books and a complete bibliography for TUGboat.

## SEE ALSO

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

Leslie Lamport, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X – *A Document Preparation System*, Addison-Wesley, 1985, ISBN 0-201-15790-X.

## AUTHOR

Oren Patashnik, Stanford University. This man page describes the web2c version of BIBT<sub>E</sub>X. Other ports of BIBT<sub>E</sub>X, such as Donald Knuth's version using the Sun Pascal compiler, do not have the same path searching implementation, or the command-line options.