

# Bib<sup>Λ</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xand Biber, some history and plans for the future

Philip Kime

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# What is Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ ?

Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  and Biber

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- Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  is a comprehensive bibliography and references typesetting system for  $\text{\LaTeX}$

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- ▶ Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  is a comprehensive bibliography and references typesetting system for  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- ▶ Styles are completely separate from the backend (Bib $\text{\TeX}$ , Biber)

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- ▶ Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  is a comprehensive bibliography and references typesetting system for  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- ▶ Styles are completely separate from the backend (Bib $\text{\TeX}$ , Biber)
- ▶ It uses the `.bb1` file like a database

- ▶ Started in 2006 by Philipp Lehman ...

# Origins of Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$

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- ▶ ... who disappeared in 2011
- ▶ Sophisticated styles for humanities and data/style separation
- ▶ Started to run into limitations imposed by BibT<sub>E</sub>X as backend in 2008



# What is Biber?

- Biber is the default backend for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ , written for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  and designed to overcome Bib $\text{\TeX}$  limitations

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- ▶ Biber is the default backend for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ , written for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  and designed to overcome Bib $\text{\TeX}$  limitations
- ▶ Its main job is sorting (full multi-field, UCA with CLDR tailoring)

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- ▶ Biber is the default backend for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ , written for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$  and designed to overcome Bib $\text{\TeX}$  limitations
- ▶ Its main job is sorting (full multi-field, UCA with CLDR tailoring)
- ▶ It also does a **lot** of other things ...

# Origins of Biber

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- ▶ Started around 2008 by François Charette as dedicated Bib $\LaTeX$  backend

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- ▶ My first commit April 14th 2009
- ▶ Became sole developer early 2011

# Since 2009

► ~4000 total commits

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# Since 2009

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- ▶ ~50k lines of code
- ▶ ~1k issues/bugs, 95% resolved
- ▶ Germany is largest user (~33%) by Sourceforge downloads (twice US)

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- Full Unicode (UTF-8) support including auto-reencoding and  $\text{\LaTeX}$  $\leftrightarrow$ UTF-8 conversion

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- ▶ Sophisticated label auto-disambiguation and generation
- ▶ Customisable data inheritance
- ▶ Full support for all types of “related” entries

# Technical History

29.04.2009 Started on `.bcb` format (XML) which is ~2000 lines as opposed to the **one** line original control file format

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- 2016–2017 Data annotations, extended name format, full generalisation of all aspects of name handling (sorting key, name parts etc.), ISO8601 date handling

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- ▶ Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ - Philip Kime and Moritz Wemheuer

- ▶ Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$ - Philip Kime and Moritz Wemheuer
- ▶ Biber - Philip Kime (plus release builders)

# Planned Developments

- Multiscript support

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# Planned Developments

- ▶ Multiscript support
- ▶ Quick-start documentation

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# Planned Developments

- ▶ Multiscript support
- ▶ Quick-start documentation
- ▶ Granular regression test setup for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$

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# Planned Developments

- ▶ Multiscript support
- ▶ Quick-start documentation
- ▶ Granular regression test setup for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$
- ▶ “Stand-alone” `.bbl`

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# Planned Developments

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- ▶ Multiscript support
- ▶ Quick-start documentation
- ▶ Granular regression test setup for Bib $\text{\LaTeX}$
- ▶ “Stand-alone” `.bbl`
- ▶ Finding someone to help support Biber