The deckblatt package

Cover pages for self-archived publications from BibTeX data

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deckblatt (German for ‘cover page’) creates a cover page for a self-archived publication that gives the bibliographic details of the original publication. The data are taken from an entry of a BibTeX or biblatex file. The cover page shows the authors, the title and the source, a suggested citation, optionally a QR code for the DOI, the BibTeX code of the entry and a note on self-archiving. There are two designs to choose from. Colours, fonts and texts can be adjusted. The PDF file of the publication can be appended directly. The package requires LuaLaTeX.

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1 Introduction

Authors who make their articles available in a repository or on their own website usually add a cover page that identifies the original publication. deckblatt sets this cover page from the data that are already present in one's own bibliography. The package reads the BibTeX file itself. BibTeX, Biber or biblatex are not needed for this.

Figure 1 shows the two variants. `banner` sets the authors and the title on a band across the full width of the page. `sidebar` puts a stripe at the left or right edge of the page and lists the details of the original publication in a table. Both variants default to black, white and shades of grey and use the fonts of the document.

Requirements

deckblatt works with LuaLaTeX only and requires a LaTeX kernel dated 1 June 2022 or later. The package consists of the files `deckblatt.sty` and `deckblatt.lua`. It loads xcolor, graphicx, qrcode and pdfpages. At the end of the preamble it also loads csquotes (with the option `autostyle`) and hyperref, unless the document has already loaded these packages itself. Options of one's own for csquotes and hyperref can therefore be given as usual, even after deckblatt. Options for xcolor should be set before deckblatt, as with every package that loads xcolor.

Legal note

Whether and in which version an article may be self-archived follows from the publishing contract, from the publisher's policy or from statute law. The statutory right of secondary publication under § 38(4) of the German and § 37a of the Austrian Copyright Act, for example, covers only the accepted manuscript, not the publisher's version. deckblatt does not check any such requirements.



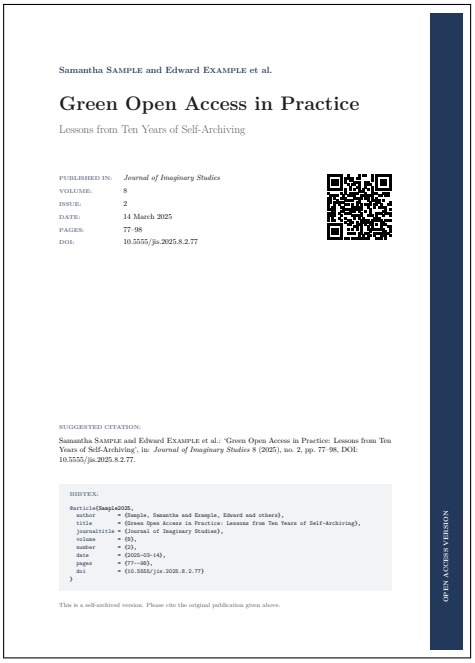
banner with default colours
(deckblatt-example-banner.tex)



sidebar with default colours
(deckblatt-example-sidebar.tex)



banner, English, accent colour
(deckblatt-example-english.tex)



sidebar on the right, English, own colours
(deckblatt-example-colors.tex)

Figure 1: The two variants in the example files

2 Quick start

```
\documentclass[a4paper]{article}
\usepackage[british]{babel}
\usepackage{deckblatt}
\deckblattsetup{
  bibfile = publications.bib,
  key     = Muster2024,
  note,
}
\begin{document}
\deckblatt[file=Muster2024.pdf]
\end{document}
```

Compile the document twice with `lualatex`. It then contains the cover page followed by all pages of the file `Muster2024.pdf`. Without the option `file` only the cover page is produced.

3 Choosing the entry

`bibfile=`⟨*files*⟩
: One or more bibliography files, separated by commas. The files are found via the TEX search path. They must be encoded in UTF-8.

`key=`⟨*key*⟩
: The key of the entry. Upper and lower case do not matter if there is no exactly matching key.

`jobname=true|false`
: If the job name is a key of the bibliography, this entry is chosen, even if `key` says otherwise (default: `true`). This way one and the same template can be used for every publication:

  ```
  lualatex -jobname=Muster2024 cover-template.tex
  ```

  The output file is then called `Muster2024.pdf`.

4 Setting the cover page

`\deckblatt[`⟨*options*⟩`]`
: sets the cover page on a page of its own. The options act like `\deckblattsetup` and also apply to later calls. Only `file` applies to the current call alone.

`\deckblattsetup{⟨options⟩}`
: sets options in the preamble or in the document. Almost all options can also be given when loading the package. Options whose value contains commands (fonts, texts of one's own) belong in `\deckblattsetup`.

`file=`⟨*PDF file*⟩
: appends the file after the cover page using `\includepdf`.

`file-options=`⟨*options*⟩
: options for `\includepdf` (default: `pages=-`).

The cover page is set with margins of its own and placed as a whole on an empty page with the page style `empty`. Text area, headers and margins of the document stay untouched. The dimensions follow the paper size of the document. A document can contain several cover pages, for instance a course reader:

```
\deckblatt[key=Muster2024, file=muster.pdf]
\deckblatt[key=Beispiel2023, file=beispiel.pdf]
```

5 Variants

`variant=banner|sidebar`
: chooses the design (default: `banner`).

`sidebar=left|right`
: puts the stripe of the variant `sidebar` at the left or right edge (default: `left`).

`sidebar-text=`⟨*text*⟩
: text in the stripe. Default: 'Self-archived version', German 'Zweitveröffentlichung'.

6 Elements of the cover page

`qrcode=true|false`
: QR code with the link to the DOI (default: `true`). It only appears if the entry has a DOI.

`qrcode-size=`⟨*length*⟩
: height of the QR code (default: `30mm`).

`citation=true|false`
: suggested citation (default: `true`).

`citation-text=`⟨*text*⟩
: replaces the generated suggested citation by a text of one's own.

`bibtex=true|false`
: BibTeX code of the entry (default: `true`). The fields appear in the order of the bibliography file. If a word is too long for the line, the font of the block is reduced.

`note=true|false`
: note on self-archiving at the foot of the page (default: `false`).

`note-text=`⟨*text*⟩
: text of one's own for the note. The option also switches the note on. The default text reads: 'This is a self-archived version. Please cite the original publication given above.' German: 'Dies ist eine Zweitveröffentlichung (Self-Archiving). Bitte zitieren Sie nach der oben genannten Erstveröffentlichung.'

`title-split=true|false`
: splits the title into main title and subtitle (default: `true`, see section 11).

Publishers often require a particular statement, for instance on the version and with a link to the version of record. This is what `note-text` is for:

```
\deckblattsetup{
  note-text = {This is the accepted manuscript. The version of
    record is available at \dbdoiurl.},
}
```

7 Language

The texts on the cover page and the building blocks of the suggested citation exist in German and English. With `language=auto` (default) the package follows the current language of babel or polyglossia. All varieties of German give German texts, all other languages English texts. `language=german` or `language=english` fixes the language. The quotation marks of the suggested citation come from csquotes and follow the language of the document.

Option	English	German
`published-in-label`	Published in	Erschienen in
`published-label`	Published (monographs, `banner`)	Erschienen
`citation-label`	Suggested citation	Zitiervorschlag
`bibtex-label`	BibTeX	BibTeX
`doi-label`	DOI	DOI
`volume-label`	Volume	Jahrgang
`issue-label`	Issue	Heft
`publisher-label`	Publisher	Verlag
`date-label`	Date	Datum
`year-label`	Year	Jahr

Option	English	German
`pages-label`	Pages	Seiten
`isbn-label`	ISBN	ISBN

A text set with these options applies to both languages. The package adds the colon after the labels. In English the suggested citation uses ‘ed.’/‘eds.’, ‘no.’, ‘p.’/‘pp.’, ‘et al.’ and ‘trans. by’, in German ‘Hrsg.’, ‘H.’, ‘S.’, ‘u. a.’ and ‘übers. von’. German citations separate several authors by slashes, English citations by commas and ‘and’.

8 Colours

Each colour is set with ⟨*role*⟩`-color=`⟨*colour*⟩. Any colour expression of xcolor is allowed, for instance `red!75!black`. A value that has been set applies to both variants. The package provides the colours under the names `deckblatt-`⟨*role*⟩. In the table, `accent` is short for `deckblatt-accent` and so on.

Role	`banner`	`sidebar`	Used for
`main`	`black`	`black`	band or stripe
`main-text`	`white`	`white`	text on band and stripe
`accent`	`black`	`black`	highlight colour that other roles refer to
`label`	`accent`	`black!65`	labels
`title`	`main-text`	`black!88`	main title
`subtitle`	`main-text!85!main`	`black!65`	subtitle
`author`	`main-text`	`accent`	authors or editors
`note`	`black!65`	`black!65`	note on self-archiving
`bibtex`	`black!75`	`black`	base colour of the BibTeX code
`bibtex-background`	`none`	`black!7`	background of the BibTeX box (none: no background)
`bibtex-rule`	`accent`	`accent`	rule at the left of the BibTeX box
`bibtex-type`	`bibtex`	`accent`	entry type
`bibtex-key`	`bibtex`	`black`	key
`bibtex-field`	`bibtex`	`accent`	field names
`bibtex-value`	`bibtex`	`black!85`	field values

The width of the rule at the BibTeX box is set by `bibtex-rule-width` (default: `1.5pt` for `banner`, `0pt` for `sidebar`). A cover page in a single colour usually needs no more than `main-color` and `accent-color`:

```
\definecolor{navy}{HTML}{23395B}
\deckblattsetup{
  variant                = sidebar,
  main-color             = navy,
```

```
  accent-color            = navy,
  bibtex-background-color = navy!6,
}
```

9 Fonts

The package uses the fonts of the document. The option ⟨*role*⟩`-font=`⟨*commands*⟩ sets the font of a role. The value replaces the default completely, including the size. The sizes are fixed so that the cover page looks the same regardless of the base font size of the document.

Role	Default `banner`	Default `sidebar`
`text`	`\fontsize{10}{12.5}`	as `banner`
`author`	`\sffamily`, 12/14.5 pt	`\bfseries`, 12/14.5 pt
`title`	27/32 pt	`\bfseries`, 26/30 pt
`subtitle`	`\itshape`, 14/18 pt	15/19 pt
`label`	`\sffamily\bfseries`, 7.5/9 pt	`\bfseries`, 7.5/9 pt
`source`	12/14.5 pt (source)	not used
`bibtex`	`\ttfamily`, 8/10.6 pt	as `banner`
`note`	8/10 pt	as `banner`
`sidebar`	not used	`\bfseries`, 8.5/10 pt (stripe)
`smallcaps`	empty	empty
`doi`	empty	empty

Labels and the text in the stripe are set in capitals and letterspaced: `label-letterspace` (default: `10` for `banner`, `9` for `sidebar`) and `sidebar-letterspace` (default: `22`). The values follow the option `LetterSpace` of fontspec and only take effect with fontspec fonts. Example with a light weight for the subtitle:

```
\newfontfamily\light{LibreFranklin}[Extension=.otf,
  UprightFont=*-Light, ItalicFont=*-LightItalic]
\deckblattsetup{
  subtitle-font = \light\fontsize{15}{19}\selectfont,
}
```

Small capitals

Last names are set in small capitals. `\dbsc{`⟨*text*⟩`}` uses real small capitals if the current font has them (for fontspec fonts the OpenType feature `smcp`). Otherwise the command sets the lowercase letters as reduced capitals. This replacement is controlled by `smallcaps-font` (font of the replacement letters, for instance a heavier weight), `smallcaps-scale` (size relative to the font, default: `0.78`) and `smallcaps-letterspace` (letterspacing, default: `4`).

10 PDF metadata

With `pdfmeta=true` (default) the package writes the title, the authors and the suggested citation without the DOI into the PDF metadata as title, author and subject. Several authors are passed as a list so that they appear separately in the XMP metadata. It also sets `pdfcreator` and `pdfdisplaydoctitle`. The first entry chosen is decisive. For documents with several cover pages or metadata of their own, this can be switched off with `pdfmeta=false`.

11 Supported entries and fields

The package distinguishes three kinds of entries:

- *journal articles*: entries of type `article` or `periodical` and entries with a field `journaltitle` or `journal`, but without `booktitle`,
- *contributions to collections*: entries with a field `booktitle`,
- *monographs*: all other entries.

The fields `author`, `editor`, `translator`, `title`, `subtitle`, `journaltitle` or `journal`, `booktitle`, `series`, `volume`, `number` or `issue`, `pages`, `date` or `year`, `edition`, `location` or `address`, `publisher`, `isbn` and `doi` are evaluated. Field values are TEX code and are set as they stand in the file. Abbreviations defined with `@string` are not expanded.

Names can be given as 'First Last' or 'Last, First', separated by `and`. `and others` gives 'et al.' or 'u. a.' A date in the format `YYYY-MM-DD` is written out in full, `YYYY-MM` as month and year.

If an entry has no field `subtitle`, the package splits the title at the first '. ', '? ' or '! ' outside curly braces, failing that at the first ': '. A full stop after a digit, a single letter or a known abbreviation (such as 'Art.', 'Hrsg.', 'Vol.') does not split. Titles of the form 'Review of: …' or 'Rezension zu: …' get 'Review' or 'Rezension' as main title. `title-split=false` switches the splitting off.

12 Designs of one's own

The following commands print the data of the chosen entry. They can be used to design cover pages or labels of one's own. The commands with `if` take two further arguments for the cases 'yes' and 'no'.

Command	Output
`\dbfield{`⟨*field*⟩`}`	field value as TEX code
`\dbrawfield{`⟨*field*⟩`}`	field value as plain text
`\dbkey`, `\dbtype`	key, entry type

Command	Output
`\dbauthors`	authors (or editors with ‘(ed.)’)
`\dbauthorssc`	the same, last names in small capitals
`\dbauthorscite`	the same in the form of the suggested citation
`\dbtitle`, `\dbsubtitle`	main title, subtitle
`\dbyear`, `\dbdate`	year, date written out
`\dbjournal`	journal or title of the collection
`\dbcollection`	editors, title and series of the collection
`\dbpublisher`	place and publisher
`\dbsource`	source
`\dbcitation`	suggested citation
`\dbdoi`, `\dbdoiurl`	DOI as a link, shown as DOI or as URL
`\dbdoiqr[`⟨*options*⟩`]`	QR code for the DOI (options of `\qrcode`)
`\dbbibtex`	BibTeX code of the entry
`\dbtext{`⟨*name*⟩`}`	text in the current language, e. g. `{citation}`
`\dbsc{`⟨*text*⟩`}`	small capitals with replacement
`\dbiffield{`⟨*field*⟩`}`	is the field present and not empty?
`\dbiftype{`⟨*types*⟩`}`	is the type one of those given?
`\dbifarticle`, `\dbifsubtitle`	journal article? subtitle?
`\dbifdoi`, `\dbifpublisher`	DOI? place or publisher?
`\dbiffulldate`	date with month?

```
\dbifdoi{Online: \dbdoiurl}{No DOI available.}
```

13 Example files

`deckblatt-example.bib`
: invented entries for the examples,

`deckblatt-example-banner.tex`
: `banner` with default colours and note, font Libertine,

`deckblatt-example-sidebar.tex`
: `sidebar` with default colours and note, font Libre Franklin with a light subtitle and replacement small capitals,

`deckblatt-example-english.tex`
: `banner` in English with an accent colour and a note text of one’s own,

`deckblatt-example-colors.tex`
: `sidebar` on the right, in English, with colours and a stripe text of one’s own.

14 Version history

1.0 (2026-11-23)
First release on CTAN.

15 Licence

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