The cтанbib package

Michal Hoftich
michal.h21@gmail.com
2023-02-21, version 0.2b

1 Introduction

This package provides script named cтанbib which can be used for retrieving
of the bibliographic information for packages hosted on CTAN.

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 use the CTAN package entry as package URL instead of URL pro-
vided by the package.

-C,--ctanpath use package’s CTAN path as URL

-e,--entrypoint explicitly set the BibTeX entry type.

-h,--help print the help message.

-v,--version print the version info.

4 Examples

cтанbib latex

This invocation will print data in the BibTeX 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/},
The \texttt{--ctan} option:

cтанbib \texttt{-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 \La\TeX{} package},
  ... 
  url = {https://ctan.org/pkg/latex},
  ... 
}

The \texttt{--ctanpath} option:

cтанbib \texttt{-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 \texttt{--entrytype} option:

cтанbib \texttt{-e ctan latex}

It selects different entry type for the record:

\@ctan{latex, 
  ... 
}

\section{License}

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this software under the terms of the \La\TeX{} Project Public License, version 1.3.

\section{Acknowledgements}

This package was created thanks to \TeX{}\,sx user Daniel\textsuperscript{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 \texttt{--CTAN} option.

\textsuperscript{1}https://tex.stackexchange.com/users/3751/daniel
7 Changelog

2023-02-20 Version 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.
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.sx².

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