

# The ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt Publication Module

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# Motivation for the module

- Bibliographic functionality was missing but needed
- There was no interface to BibTeX

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# Design Goals

- Do as much as possible in T<sub>E</sub>X macros.
- User interface should merge with the rest of ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt.
- Try to avoid BibT<sub>E</sub>X itself as much as possible.
- Make sure it is extensible.
- Make switching between bibliographic styles as easy as possible.
- Blend in with the ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt multi-lingual interface for language-specific things.

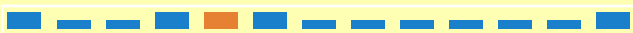
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# Structure of the distribution

- A main module called m-bib.tex
- Style definitions are done in separate macro files
- BibTeX style files to convert BIB databases

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# Document flow

- The user creates bibliographic data (directly or after conversion from BibTeX)
- The main document loads the bibliographic module
- At `\starttext` the module reads the bibliographic information (BBL)
- The document references some items
- These are typeset at the end of the document

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# BibTeX

- The full database is to be converted to the module's BBL format
- The only thing the BST files do is sorting and parsing. Esp., no subsetting is taking place!
- An extra run is needed to generate the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-centric .aux file.

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# Features I

Referencing with `\cite` can create:

- author(s)
- year
- author+year (2styles)
- final list order number
- database order number
- short key
- reference key
- type of article
- the data block
- page number of first data occurrence.

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# Features II

Other features:

- `\cite` can have a default behaviour
- every type of citation can have it's own set of micro-typesetting options
- author-year and numeric lists can be compressed
- there can be more then one data source
- the layout styles can be switched with one global command

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# Problems and issues

- While converting BibTeX databases: sorting should not be done by BibTeX.
- Improper database data: most legacy databases have L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-specific commands in them (`\newcommand`, NFSS commands in abstracts)
- Very large databases can overflow T<sub>E</sub>X's memory

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# To be done

In the very near future:

- Interaction support.
- Language dependant labels for punctuation.
- Remove some known bugs
- Drop L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X support

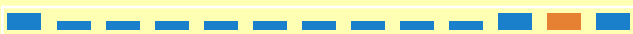
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# Wish-list

- Define new reference styles
- Switch to XML database format (remove BibTeX altogether).
- Support for humanities' type short-references.
- speed/memory optimizations
- add namespaces to the database

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The module is currently available from:

<http://www.elvenkind.com/~taco/m-bib>

Soon it will move into the standard ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt distribution

Announcements will appear on the ConT<sub>E</sub>Xt list:

[ntg-context@ntg.nl](mailto:ntg-context@ntg.nl)

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