

The `bibalias` package*

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Abstract

Changing the way you use BibTeX databases or merging them (for example, with somebody else's) is a recipe for disaster: the mapping from keys to texts is suddenly not one-to-one anymore. This package is an attempt to support many-to-one mappings.

1 Introduction

The author is currently (again) trying to merge BibTeX databases across his working group. Unfortunately, we all have different naming schemes for the keys. For reasons of backwards compatibility, it is not advisable to remove an existing key, because two years hence, certainly some old funding report will need to be re-TeXed and then break.

We could just leave duplicates in the database, sure, but unfortunately, that might lead to duplicate entries in the references if we cite the same paper using two distinct keys.

A solution that takes a reasonable amount of time is to introduce an *alias mapping* in a separate file, and to extend `\cite` to first expand keys through this mapping. This is what the `bibalias` package does.

2 Usage

The package provides two commands:

`\bibalias` The command `\bibalias{⟨oldkey⟩}{⟨newkey⟩}` introduces a mapping from *oldkey* to *newkey*, i.e. citing will always yield the data from *newkey*. Upon loading of the package, the file `bibalias.cfg` is loaded if present, which is a good place to stick your replacements.

`\acite` To be on a vaguely safe side, the `bibalias` package does not meddle with the `\cite` command by default. Instead, you have to use the command `\acite[⟨stuff⟩]{⟨keys⟩}`, which behaves like `\cite⟨stuff⟩{⟨keys⟩}`, only with all keys checked if they have been bibaliased to something else. This somewhat

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clumsy interface should make us compatible with other packages, even if they change the syntax of `\cite` by adding more than one optional parameter, stars, etc. The price you pay for this is writing `\acite[{{p.~131}}]{Knu}` instead of `\cite[p.~131]{Knu}`. If you dare, you can give the *overload* option to the package, which will redefine `\cite`. The only limitation that remains is that the keys must be in the first mandatory argument, and you are not allowed to omit the curly braces around it, even if you cite a work whose key is a single letter.

3 Limitations

No attempt is made to improve the gazillion commands like `\citep`, `\citeauthor` and whatnot defined by the likes of `natbib`, `jurabib`, `biblatex` etc.

The package cannot magically infer which entries in the database actually correspond.

4 Implementation

```

1 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
2 \ProvidesPackage{bibalias}[2009/06/28 v0.2 Multiple keys for one cite (ums)]
3 \newcommand\bibalias[2]{%
4   \@namedef{bibali@#1}{#2}%
5 }
6 \let\biba@orig@cite=\cite
7 \newtoks\biba@toks
8 \def\biba@replace#1{%
9   \@ifundefined{bibali@#1}{%
10     #1%
11   }{%
12     \biba@replace{\csname bibali@#1\endcsname}%
13   }%
14 }%
15 \newcommand\acite[2][{}]{%
16   \biba@toks{\biba@orig@cite#1}%
17   \def\biba@comma{,%}%
18   \def\biba@all{,%}%
19   \@for\biba@one:=#2\do{%
20     \edef\biba@new{\biba@replace{\biba@one}}%
21     \ifx\biba@new\biba@one\else
22       \PackageInfo{bibalias}{%
23         Replacing citation ‘\biba@one’ with ‘\biba@new’
24       }%
25     \fi
26     \edef\biba@all{\biba@all\biba@comma\biba@new}%
27     \def\biba@comma{,%}%
28   }%
29   \edef\biba@tmp{\the\biba@toks\biba@all}%
30   \biba@tmp

```

31 }

If you are feeling brave, the `overload` option redefines the `\cite` command to behave similar to `\acite`. We try to gobble up everything to the first explicit opening brace, since some packages redefine `\cite` to have starred forms or several optargs. If those packages try to do something tricky with catcodes, they will break.

```
32 \DeclareOption{overload}{%
33   \PackageWarningNoLine{bibalias}{Redefining \string\cite}%
34   \def\cite#1#{\acite[{#1}]}}
```

Final stuff: pick up the alias table, activate overload.

```
35 \InputIfFileExists{bibalias.cfg}{}%
36 \PackageWarningNoLine{bibalias}{There's no central alias file bibalias.cfg?}%
37 }%
38 \ProcessOptions\relax
```

Change History

0.2

General: initial public release 2