

NAME

biblex – lexically analyze BibTeX bibliography data base files

SYNOPSIS

biblex <infile> >outfile

or

biblex bibfile1 bibfile2 bibfile3 ... >outfile

DESCRIPTION

biblex converts one or more bibliography data base files in BibTeX format to a lexical token stream that is convenient for processing by other tools.

The companion **bibunlex**(1) program can be used to recombine such a token stream back into a BibTeX file.

SCRIBE-format bibliography files can be handled as well if they are first converted to BibTeX form by **bibclean**(1).

Only minimal checks are made on the correctness of the input stream, and **biblex** will happily carry out a lexical analysis of nonsensical input, without issuing warnings or errors of any kind, other than possible internal string buffer overflow. To verify that **biblex**'s output token stream is meaningful, the input files can be given to **bibparse**(1) for parsing analysis according to a proposed grammar for BibTeX.

LEXICAL ANALYSIS

biblex produces output in lines of the form

```
<token-number><tab><token-name><tab>"<token-value>"
```

Each output line contains a single complete token, identified by a small integer number for use by a computer program, a token type name for human readers, and a string value in quotes.

Special characters in the token value string are represented with ANSI/ISO Standard C escape sequences, so all characters other than NUL are representable, and multi-line values can be represented in a single line.

Here are the token numbers and token type names that can appear in the output:

- 0 UNKNOWN
- 1 ABBREV
- 2 AT
- 3 COMMA
- 4 COMMENT
- 5 ENTRY
- 6 EQUALS
- 7 FIELD
- 8 INCLUDE
- 9 INLINE
- 10 KEY
- 11 LBRACE
- 12 LITERAL
- 13 NEWLINE
- 14 PREAMBLE
- 15 RBRACE
- 16 SHARP
- 17 SPACE
- 18 STRING
- 19 VALUE

Programs that parse such output should also be prepared for lines beginning with the warning prefix, %%, or the error prefix, ??, and for ANSI/ISO Standard C line number directives of the form

```
# line 273 "textbook1.bib"
```

which record the line number and file name of the current input file.

As an example of the use of **biblex**, the UNIX command pipeline

```
biblex mylib.bib | \
  awk '$2 == "KEY" {print $3}' | \
  sed -e 's"///g' | \
  sort
```

will extract a sorted list of all citation keys in the file *mylib.bib*.

The LITERAL token type is used for arbitrary text that **biblex** does not examine further, such as the contents of a @Preamble{...} or a @Comment{...}.

The UNKNOWN token type should never appear in the output stream. It is used internally to initialize token type variables.

BUGS

Limitations of the **lex**(1) lexical analyzer generator used to construct **biblex** prevent handling of files containing ASCII NUL; that character will be interpreted as an end-of-file condition.

Older versions of **lex**(1) are not *8-bit clean*; they will not reliably handle characters 128–255. This latter deficiency is being remedied by the X/Open Consortium activities to internationalize and standard UNIX applications.

SEE ALSO

bibcheck(1), **bibclean**(1), **bibdup**(1), **bibextract**(1), **bibjoin**(1), **biblabeled**(1), **bibborder**(1), **bibparse**(1), **bibsearch**(1), **bibsort**(1), **bibtex**(1), **bibunlex**(1), **citefind**(1), **citesub**(1), **citetags**(1), **latex**(1), **scribe**(1), **tex**(1).

X/Open Company, Ltd., *X/Open Portability Guide, XSI Commands and Utilities*, volume 1. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, USA, 1989. ISBN 0-13-685835-X.

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