biblatex-mla 0.7

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1 ABOUT

The biblatex-mla files provide support to biblatex, bibtex, and latex for MLA-style citations and Works Cited lists. The style defaults to inline parenthetical citations (as recommended by the MLA), but it also offers support for MLA-style footnotes by using the `\footcite` command or the `\autocite` command and setting the package option "**autocite=footnote**." For more on the footnote output, see section 5.3, below.

The MLA style, a common standard for writers in the humanities, is outlined in the *MLA Style Manual*, recently updated to its third edition, and the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, now in its seventh edition. These files follow definitions for the second edition of the *Manual* and the sixth edition of the *Handbook*, though they will be updated soon. Biblatex-mla also follows the logic of the MLA when citing similar material repeatedly, borrowing the function (but not the form) of *ibid* and *idem*. (See section 5.2.1 below for examples.) Biblatex-mla is compatible with Biblatex's support for hyperref and tex2ht, and the main word in each citation (the author's name when it's unambiguous, the title when that author has multiple works, the page number when it's the only thing left) serves as a link to the particular entry in the Works Cited. For anything not covered by this manual, please also see the Biblatex documentation or contact me by email.

2 INSTALLATION

NOTE—before using biblatex-mla, you will need to install Biblatex: <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/biblatex.html>

1. Locate your biblatex installation folder

   - In OS X, biblatex can be found at
     ∼`/Library/texmf/tex/latex/biblatex/`

2. Place "mla.cbx" into the "cbx" folder there

3. Place "mla.bbx" into the "bbx" folder there

4. Place "mla-american.lbx" and "mla-english.lbx" into the "lbx" folder there[1]

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[1]Other localization files, mla-spanish.lbx and mla-portuguese.lbx, are also available to use biblatex-mla in languages other than English. These and other localization files are included in biblatex-mla releases, but they will not always be the latest versions available. Updated and new localization files will be uploaded to <http://konx.net/biblatex-mla/lbx> once they are ready.

3 Usage

3.1 Preamble and Options

Beginning in biblatex-mla version 0.6, to ensure American-style quotation marks (if that's your thing),[2] you need to call the **babel** and **csquotes** packages in the preamble of your Latex document:

```
\usepackage[american]{babel}
\usepackage{csquotes}
```

Then call the MLA style in your preamble, replacing "<bibfile>" with the name of your .bib bibliography file:

```
\usepackage[style=mla]{biblatex}
\bibliography{<bibfile>}
```

Package options supported by biblatex-mla include **firstlonghand**, **nofullfoot-note**, **annotation**, and **mladraft**. The style also supports footnote citations with the **autocite=footnote** option.

3.1.1 autocite=footnote

Using \autocite with biblatex-mla defaults to MLA-preferred inline, parenthetical citations. To style citations as footnotes, set the **autocite=footnote** option in your preamble:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,autocite=footnote]{biblatex}
```

3.1.2 firstlonghand

The first citation of a source with a shorthand defined will always print a citation with author's name and, potentially, the **shorttitle** field. (See section 5.2.3, below.) Add **firstlonghand=false** to your preamble to disable this option and print only the shorthand even on the first citation:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,firstlonghand=false]{biblatex}
```

---

[2]Biblatex-mla also offers support for other languages and for proper punctuation in non-American dialects of English. Try **british**, **canadian**, or other Babel identifiers, such as **spanish**.

3.1.3 `nofullfootnote`

When using biblatex-mla for footnotes, the style file will provide full bibliographic detail for the first citation of every source. To turn off this option, add **nofullfootnote=true** to your preamble:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,nofullfootnote=true]{biblatex}
```

3.1.4 `annotation`

It is possible to print annotations to entries in the Works Cited if the `annotation` field is defined in an entry. To turn on this option, add **annotation=true** to your preamble:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,annotation=true]{biblatex}
```

3.1.5 `mladraft`

When using MLA parenthetical citations, it is best practice to cite as seldom as is necessary to avoid ambiguity. Beginning in version 0.7, biblatex-mla can flag consecutive citations to the same page range, allowing you to defer citations to the end. In draft mode, biblatex-mla will place a clover (♣) in the margin, along with a single footnote explanation. To use the tool outside of draft mode, set the **mladraft** option in your preamble to true; similarly, to avoid seeing these clovers and the footnote in draft mode, set the option to false:

```
\usepackage[style=mla,mladraft=true]{biblatex}
```

3.2 Standard Citations

For backward compatibility with any pre-existing documents, biblatex-mla doesn't distinguish between \cite and \autocite when using the standard in-text citations. **This will change in a future version of biblatex-mla**. Future releases will comply with the biblatex standard outlined in section 3.6.1 of the biblatex manual.

Note the placement of punctuation with the citation commands. Place \cite and \parencite citations before punctuation. Put \footcite citations after punctuation. \autocite citations will shuffle punctuation around automatically and should be placed before punctuation (no matter where the punctuation will, in the end, be printed). See 5.3 for more examples of footnotes in use.

3.2.1 With Default Options

Input
```
Here's a citation \autocite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output

Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

…

Input

```
Here's a citation \cite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output

Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

…

Input

```
Here's a citation \parencite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output

Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

…

Input

```
Here's a citation. \footcite[34]{askme06aa}
```

Output

> Here's a citation.[1]
>
> _____
>
> [1] Donna Askme. "Elaborate Article." trans. Minnie Tongues. *Journal of Translated Articles* 29 (Sept. 2006): 34.

3.2.2 Using `autocite=footnote`

Input

```
Here's a citation \autocite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output

> Here's a citation.[1]
>
> _____
>
> [1] Donna Askme. "Elaborate Article." trans. Minnie Tongues. *Journal of Translated Articles* 29 (Sept. 2006): 34.

…

Input

```
Here's a citation \cite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output

Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

...

INPUT

```
Here's a citation \parencite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

OUTPUT

Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

...

INPUT

```
Here's a citation. \footcite[34]{askme06aa}
```

OUTPUT

> Here's a citation.[1]
>
> ───────────────
>
> [1] Donna Askme. "Elaborate Article." trans. Minnie Tongues. *Journal of Translated Articles* 29 (Sept. 2006): 34.

3.3 Citations with Prenotes

If citing a quotation attributed to someone other than the author of the piece you are citing, use an optional "prenote":

INPUT

```
Shakespeare says some funny things \autocite[qtd.~in][34]
{askme06aa}.
```

OUTPUT

Shakespeare says some funny things (qtd. in Askme, "Elaborate" 34).

3.4 Compressed Citations

To compress citations when using the author's name in the sentence, use the starred variant of the \autocite command. The asterisk (∗) forces the citation to skip the author's name in any circumstance:

INPUT

```
Askme deserves citing \autocite*[34]{askme06aa}.
```

OUTPUT

Askme deserves citing ("Elaborate" 34).

3.5 Multiple Citations

To cite multiple sources in one citation, use the plural form of the \autocite command, \autocites. Within parentheses, citations will be separated by a semicolon:

```
Many people deserve citing \autocites[34]{askme06aa}[22]{haggis99aa}.
```

Many people deserve citing (Askme, "Elaborate" 34; Haggis 22).

3.6 Calling the Works Cited

Before the end of your document, include the following line where you want your bibliography to appear:

```
\printbibliography
```

4 Documenting Sources

Biblatex (and, thus, biblatex-mla) uses bibtex "databases" to manage the citations and list of works cited. While these databases are just flat text files, there are many good programs available to help you manage them. Zotero, for example, can export as bibtex, as can Endnote and other commercial programs; each of these will nevertheless export with varying degrees of success. Standalone bibtex managers such as JabRef and (on the Mac) BibDesk use .bib files as their native filetype and are much more reliable for managing your list of sources.

Whether exporting from Zotero or another program, whether managing your .bib files in a standalone editor or manipulating them in a text editor, you will at some point have to know the fields available to biblatex-mla—especially as some of these are unique to biblatex, and as I've had to repurpose some of the fields to suit biblatex-mla. Below are the different **@types** and the **fields** available to them. Keep in mind that some of the fields in the **@book** and **@article** types (for example, **nameaddon**, **origyear**, and others) are also available in others where it makes sense; I don't repeat them here to save room.

4.1 Unusual Fields

Biblatex supports the following fields, usually concerned more with presentation than bibliographic merit, in all entrytypes. Define these in your .bib files:

crossref the **key** of a parent source in which a shorter source is found. The **crossref** field is handy to avoid spending time re-inputting similar data, but it is also useful for including MLA-style cross-references in the list of Works Cited. Keep in mind the

problems inherent in using the `crossref` field, outlined in section 2.4.1 of the biblatex manual. In the future, biblatex-mla may provide further support for the biblatex `xref` field, making `crossref` secondary in importance.

shorttitle the shortened title to be printed in citations to disambiguate among multiple titles by one author

shorthand when defined, a unique label to be printed in citations instead of the author and shorttitle. By default, biblatex-mla will only use the shorthand label after a first citation with author (and title, if necessary). See the `firstlonghand` option in section 3.1.2 to disable this feature.

options separate the following options with a comma:

useauthor=false allows the label of the entry default to something other than the author, when the `author` field is defined. If the `editor` is defined, the label will default to that. The `useauthor` option defaults to true.

useeditor=false allows the label of the entry default to something other than the editor in the case of the `author` field being undefined or the `useauthor` option set to false. The `useeditor` option defaults to true.

usetranslator=true allows the label of the entry inherit the name of the `translator` when the `author` and `editor` fields are undefined or the `useauthor` and `useeditor` options are set to false. The `usetranslator` option defaults to false.

totalnames=true allows the label to include all the names in its list, rather than maxing out at three.

uniquetranslator=true indicates that the `translator` of an `@incollection` entry is unique to the particular work, rather than the collection at large.

4.2 Standalone Sources

The following entrytypes are for long sources not part of any other publication except, potentially, multivolume sets or publishers' series.

@book

A book, usually with one author. MLA-style book entries are straightforward, and the biblatex-mla files style all the potential fields for a typical book:

`author`	the author of the book
`title`	book title; when using `crossref`, also define `booktitle` and be sure to define `title` of the child entry
`subtitle`	book subtitle; when using `crossref`, also define `booksubtitle` and be sure to define `subtitle` of the child entry
`location`	place of publication
`publisher`	publishing house
`year`	year of publication

Other fields might come in handy for further granularity:

`origyear`	original publication year, for reprints
`edition`	edition number
`volume`	volume number of book
`volumes`	total number of volumes
`maintitle`	title of multi-volume collection of which this book is one volume
`mainsubtitle`	subtitle of the above `maintitle`
`series`	name of a publication series
`number`	number of the above `series` represented by this book

Additionally, the style files support more name types for situations needing them:

`editor`	editor of a book
`editortype`	to indicate if the named `editor` is actually an **editor** ("ed."), a **compiler** ("comp.") or a **compilerandeditor** ("comp. and ed."). Default value is **editor**.
`translator`	translator of a work
`introduction`	author of a book's introduction
`foreword`	author of a book's foreword

afterword author of a book's afterword

redactor name of redactor

commentator name of commentator

annotator name of annotator

Finally, the style files also define the following note fields for further clarification:

nameaddon pseudonym, misattribution, or other note (printed in brackets after **author**)

booktitleaddon note after the **booktitle**

maintitleaddon note after the **maintitle**

note miscellaneous data printed before **publisher**

addendum miscellaneous data printed at the end of the entry

Fields not yet supported in biblatex-mla (but which should be supported in future versions) include the following:

howpublished to be used in support of the MLA-style revisions in the third edition of the *MLA Style Manual* and the (upcoming) 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook*; will default to "Print" when undefined

origlocation original place of publication (for reprints)

origpublisher original publisher (for reprints)

origtitle original title (for reprints)

origlanguage the original language of a translated, reprinted work. Biblatex-mla will not print information in this field, but if the field has information in it, it will use the phrase "Trans. of" before the original title, instead of "Rept. of".

@booklet

Small pamphlet, often without an author listed. In biblatex-mla, **@booklet** is an alias for **@book** (see above), and is styled similarly.

@collection

A book that is a collection of self-contained essays, stories, or poems, usually with multiple unique authors and collectively edited by a single editorial body. In biblatex-mla, `@collection` is an an alias for `@book` (see above), and is styled similarly. To accurately support `@incollection` entries using `crossref`, be sure to define the following fields **instead of** `title` and `subtitle`:

> `booktitle` the title of a book or collection
>
> `booksubtitle` the subtitle of a book or collection

@periodical

An entire issue of a journal, usually cited by editor. Biblatex-mla accepts the following fields:

> `editor` the editor or editors of an issue
>
> `issuetitle` title of a special issue
>
> `issuesubtitle` subtitle of a special issue
>
> `title` title of a journal
>
> `subtitle` subtitle of a journal
>
> `volume` volume number of a journal
>
> `number` issue number of a journal
>
> `issue` season, when used in place of `month` (as in the "spring" issue of a journal)
>
> `date` in `yyyy-mm-dd` or `yyyy-mm` format; alternatively, use `year`, `month`, and `day` fields
>
> `year` year of publication; alternatively, use the `date` field
>
> `pages` complete pagination of the issue

@proceedings

The published proceedings of a conference. Biblatex-mla styles `@proceedings` entries like `@book` or `@collection` entries, but it also provides support for the following unique fields:

eventtitle title of the conference represented by the proceedings (if not included in the **title** of the published proceedings)

organization body sponsoring the conference

urldate original date of the conference; defined as **yyyy-mm-dd** or **yyyy-mm**; please note that this is an unusual use of the **urldate** field and may change in future versions of biblatex-mla

institution university or institution hosting the conference

venue location of the conference

@reference

A reference book such as a dictionary or encyclopedia, often supporting **@inreference** entries through **crossref** fields. Biblatex-mla styles a **@reference** entry as it would a **@book** entry.

@thesis

The thesis or dissertation resulting from a doctorate or a master's degree, whether published or unpublished. Supports the following fields typical for defining such an entry:

author the author of the thesis/dissertation

title title

subtitle subtitle

type degree type. Biblatex-mla defines some MLA-style **@thesis** types pre-localized; choose from the following strings to get accurate styling:

    phd for doctorate; prints as "Diss." in English

    dphil for doctorate; prints as "Diss." in English

    lic for licentiate; prints as "Licentiate thesis"

    ma for master's; prints as "MA thesis"

    ms for master's; prints as "MS thesis"

    msc for master's; prints as "MSc thesis"

    mphil for master's; prints as "MPhil thesis"

    mlitt for master's; prints as "MLitt thesis"

For all other types not matching the above codes, biblatex-mla will print the `type` field exactly as entered, respecting all existing capitalization

`institution` name of degree-granting university

`year` year degree awarded

The entry for a `@thesis` that has been published needs a few additional fields:

`entrysubtype` biblatex-mla recognizes only two keys in the `entrysubtype` field:

> **published** for published theses
> **unpublished** for unpublished theses

> any key other than **published** or **unpublished** will be treated as if it were **unpublished**

`location` place of publication

`publisher` publisher

`origyear` **year degree awarded**; please note this difference from an unpublished thesis

`year` year of publication

`series` name of a publication series

`number` number of the above `series` represented by this book

@unpublished

An unpublished manuscript or typescript. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields typical to an unpublished entry:

`author` author of the work

`title` title of a short work (ie, an essay or poem)

`subtitle` subtitle of a short work (ie, an essay or poem)

`booktitle` title of a longer work (ie, a play or book)

`booksubtitle` subtitle of a longer work (ie, a play or book)

`titleaddon` description of untitled work

note	further information used to classify the collection; typeset before the **type** field
type	form of the material. Biblatex-mla defines some MLA-style **@unpublished** types pre-localized; choose from the following strings to get accurate styling:

manuscript for the manuscript of a work; printed as "Ms." or "ms." in English

typescript for the typescript of a work; printed as "Ts." or "ts." in English

For all other types not matching the above codes, biblatex-mla will print the **type** field exactly as entered, respecting all existing capitalization

number	identifying number (such as a call number, box, or folio reference) in a library or archive
library	library, archive, or other research institution holding the unpublished work
location	location of the **library**
addendum	extra material printed at the end of an entry

@video

A recording of a movie, television program, etc. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields necessary for a video:

title	title of the work
subtitle	subtitle of the work
bookauthor	author of the book on which a work is based
publisher	distributor
origyear	original year of release
howpublished	publishing medium (ie, dvd, videocassette, etc.)

Additionally, biblatex-mla supports the **author**, **editor**, **namea**, **nameb**, and **namec** fields, modified with the **authortype**, **editortype**, **nameatype**, **namebtype**, and **namectype** fields, attuned to the following localization keys:

director director of a work

screenplay author of the screenplay

performer list of crucial performers whose performance you wish to cite

composer composer of a soundtrack

producer producer of a work

Note that biblatex-mla will print the **author** field before the title (styled using the appropriate **authortype** key) unless the field is empty or the **useauthor** option is false—at which point it will cascade to the **editor** field, unless *it* is undefined or the **useeditor** option is false. No other name fields will be printed before the title. If these options are false, the respective fields will be printed after the title in the following order: **author**, **editor**, **namea**, **nameb**, **namec**.

4.3 Sources in Other Works

The following entrytypes are for shorter works (essays, poems, and other things) that are part of another publication. Many have corresponding standalone sources representing the larger work of which they are a part (i.e., **@incollection** and **@collection**). Entries of shorter works can inherit fields of parent entries by using the **crossref** field.

@article

Articles appearing in periodicals in many media, including academic journals, newspapers, and online sources. Biblatex-mla supports the following fields typical of an article in an academic journal:

author   the author of the article

title   article title

subtitle   article subtitle

journaltitle title of journal

journalsubtitle subtitle of journal

volume   journal volume number

number   journal issue number

issue   season, when used in place of **month** (as in the "spring" issue of a journal)

date   in **yyyy-mm-dd** or **yyyy-mm** format; alternatively use **year**, **month**, and **day** fields

year   year of article; alternatively use the **date** field

month   month article published, in integer format (ie, for February, use "2"); alternatively use the **date** field

pages   page numbers of the article

For online and newspaper articles, the style provides additional support for the following fields:

entrysubtype defines an article's medium, allowing finer control over styling. Biblatex-mla responds to the following keys in the **entrysubtype** field:

> **newspaper** used for newspaper articles
>
> **magazine** used for magazine articles
>
> online articles are styled by the presence or absence of a **url** field

url   the url address of an online article

urldate   date of access of an online article in **yyyy-mm-dd** or **yyyy-mm** format

day   day newspaper article published; alternatively use the **date** field

location   for newspapers lacking a place-name in their title, the city of publication

version   the printing edition of a newspaper (ie, early edition, national edition, etc.)

chapter   the section of a newspaper article if it uses numbers instead of letters; if the newspaper uses letters, combine the letter with the page number (ie, page "B12") in the **page** field

In addition, the style provides support for the following fields, used in edge cases and unusual circumstances:

nameaddon pseudonym, misattribution, or other note (printed in brackets after author)

titleaddon note after the title

origyear   year of original publication for a reprinted article

issuetitle title of the special issue in which it appeared

`issuesubtitle`	subtitle of the special issue
`editor`	editor of the special issue
`translator`	translator of the article
`redactor`	name of redactor
`commentator`	name of commentator
`annotator`	name of annotator
`introduction`	author of introduction to special issue
`foreword`	author of foreword to special issue
`afterword`	author of afterword to special issue
`series`	name of journal series; define the series name or define as "`newseries`" or "`oldseries`" to let biblatex-mla style the series name correctly
`note`	miscellaneous data to print before the page numbers
`addendum`	further miscellaneous note at the end of an entry

@incollection

A self-contained unit in a `@collection`. Supports the following fields typical of an essay, short story, or a poem found in an anthology:

`author`	the author of the piece
`title`	title
`subtitle`	subtitle
`booktitle`	title of anthology
`booksubtitle`	subtitle of anthology
`editor`	editor of anthology
`location`	place of publication of anthology
`publisher`	publisher of anthology
`year`	year of publication
`pages`	page numbers

Further fields supported include all of those supported by the `@book` type.

@suppbook

A foreword, introduction, preface, or other supplementary (and often untitled) material to a **@book**. Supports the following fields typical of such a piece:

author   the author of the piece

title   title

subtitle   subtitle

entrysubtype the type of supplemental material ("**introduction**," "**foreword**," etc.)

booktitle   title of book

booksubtitle subtitle of book

location   place of publication of book

publisher   publisher

year   year of publication

pages   page numbers

Further fields supported include all of those supported by the **@book** type.

@suppcollection

A foreword, introduction, preface, or other supplementary (and often untitled) material to a **@collection**. Supports all the same fields as **@suppbook**.

@inproceedings

A work published in the proceedings of a conference. Supports all the fields of the **@incollection** and **@proceedings** types.

@inreference

A particular type of **@incollection**, potentially without an author. In addition to those fields defined by **@incollection**, **@inreference** adds or refines the following:

title   name of entry in reference book

titleaddon   used to specify a particular definition

booktitle and **booksubtitle**, the title of the reference book

Note that **@inreference** entries do not need to cite page numbers, though they should specify the edition used. If the **year** and **edition** fields match, biblatex-mla styles the entry accordingly.

@review

A particular type of **@article**, potentially without a title. In addition to those fields defined by **@article**, **@review** adds or refines the following:

booktitle the title of the book being reviewed

bookauthor the author of the book being reviewed

editor   the editor of the book being reviewed

Note that reviews found in special issues of journals (using the **issuetitle** and **issuesubtitle** fields) are not fully supported yet.

5 EXAMPLES

5.1 Variations

5.1.1 Anonymous Works

Add `Options={useeditor=false}` to the entry in your `.bib` file to cite an anonymous source by title, rather than editor.

> **INPUT**
> Here's a citation of an anonymous work \autocite[34]
> {octovian86aa}.
>
> **OUTPUT**
> Here's a citation of an anonymous work (*Octovian* 34).
>
> …
>
> **INPUT**
> Here's another \autocite[34]{beowulf06aa}.
>
> **OUTPUT**
> Here's another ("Beowulf" 34).

<div style="text-align:center">Works Cited</div>

"Beowulf." *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. 8th ed. Vol. 1. New York: W. W. Norton, 2006. 34–100.
Octovian. Ed. Frances McSparran. Early English Text Soc. 289. London: Oxford UP, 1986.

5.1.2 Translations

To cite a particular source by its translator (as explained in the *MLA Style Manual*, 2nd edition, §6.6.13), add `options={useauthor=false,useeditor=false,usetranslator =true}` to the entry in your bibfile.

> **INPUT**
> Here's a citation of a translation \autocite[34]
> {coulson64aa}.
>
> **OUTPUT**
> Here's a citation of a translation (Coulson 34).

Coulson, Jessie, trans. *Crime and Punishment*. By Feodor Dostoevsky. Ed. George Gibian. New York: Norton, 1964.

5.1.3   Works with Multiple Authors

Input
```
Here's a reference to a multi-authored book \autocite[34]
{public08ab}.
```

Output
Here's a reference to a multi-authored book (Public and Moi 34).

Public, John Q. and Mimi Moi. *Multi-Authored, More Elaborate Book Template*. Ed. Ima G. Reader. Trans. Minnie Tongues. 9th ed. Elaborate Book Template Series 4. Hello, HI: Publishers Unlimited, 2008.

5.1.4   Multiple Works by One Author

Citations to books written by authors with multiple Works Cited entries include a shortened title in the citation to distinguish among that author's many citations:

Input
```
Here is a sample \autocite[34]{public07aa}.
```

Output
Here is a sample (Public, *Default* 34).

Citations of articles written by prolific authors, on the other hand, present titles surrounded by quotation marks:

Input
```
Here's an online article \autocite{webb83aa}.
```

Output
Here's an online article (Webb, "Online").

The list of works cited correctly prints a dash instead of a repeated author's name:

Webb, I. C. "A PhD Dissertation Template." Diss. Correspondence Course State University, 1981.
——. "Online Article Template with Access Date." *Online Studies* 9.1 (1983) 22 Nov. 2007 <www.example.com/webb1983>.

5.2   Citation Logic

5.2.1   Successive Citations

MLA citations are meant to be as unintrusive as possible, with citations including only relevant information; thus, the biblatex-mla style suppresses needless information from successive citations. When citing work by one author, immediately citing

another work by the same author will just present the relevant changed information—in this case, the new shortened title and page number:

```
There is a first citation \autocite[34]{public07aa}, followed
by another with the same author \autocite[34]{public08aa}.
```

Output
There is a first citation (Public, *Default* 34), followed by another with the same author (*Elaborate* 34).

Immediately successive citations to the same work will even omit this shortened title, as it should be assumed that the same work is being discussed (34). Citing any other author in the meantime resets this behavior:

Input

```
Continuing from above, a citation from the most recent work
\autocite[34]{public08aa}, followed by a different work \autocite
{webb83aa}, and the prior one again \autocite[34]{public08aa}.
```

Output
Continuing from above, a citation from the most recent work (34), followed by a different work (Webb, "Online"), and the prior one again (Public, *Elaborate* 34).

Similarly, the `\citereset` command is useful to clear any citation caches in cases of ambiguity, and the `\mancite` command is helpful for doing so on a case-by-case basis. Please see 3.6.8 of the Biblatex user's guide for more on these commands.

These "ibid-" and "idem-" type behaviors work intelligently with all variants of the citation commands, including all of the following:

• citations made with`\cite` and `\autocite`

Input

```
Here's a citation \autocite[34]{askme06aa}.   Here's another
\cite[34]{askme06aa}.
```

Output
Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34). Here's another (34).

• citations made without page numbers

Input

```
Here's a citation with no page number \autocite{public07aa}.
Here's another \autocite{public07aa}.
```

Here's a citation with no page number (Public, *Default*). Here's another (*Default*).

…

```
Here's a citation with no page number \autocite{askme06aa}.
Here's another \autocite{askme06aa}.
```

Here's a citation with no page number (Askme, "Elaborate"). Here's another ("Elaborate").

- idem-type citations across ibids

  ```
  Here's a citation \autocite[34]{public07aa}.  Here's another
  \autocite[34]{public07aa}.  Here's yet another \autocite[34]
  {public08aa}.
  ```

  Here's a citation (Public, *Default* 34). Here's another (34). Here's yet another (*Elaborate* 34).

- and starred varations

  ```
  Askme deserves citing \autocite*[34]{askme06aa}.  Askme deserves
  citing again \autocite*[34]{askme06aa}.
  ```

  Askme deserves citing ("Elaborate" 34). Askme deserves citing again (34).

  …

  ```
  Public deserves citing \autocite*[34]{public07aa}.  Public de-
  serves citing again \autocite*[34]{public07aa}.  Public deserves
  citing yet again \autocite*[34]{public08aa}.
  ```

  Public deserves citing (*Default* 34). Public deserves citing again (34). Public deserves citing yet again (*Elaborate* 34).

5.2.2 Successive Citations with Prenotes

Prenotes follow a slightly different logic. If a prenote is introduced but the citational text remains the same (ibid), everything functions as above.

INPUT
```
Here's a citation \autocite[34]{askme06aa}.  Here's a quoted
citation \autocite[Shakespeare qtd. ∼in][34]{askme06aa}.
```

OUTPUT
Here's a citation (Askme, "Elaborate" 34). Here's a quoted citation (Shakespeare qtd. in 34).

However, the simultaneous occurrence of a prenote with ibid resets the idem function to avoid obscuring a work's author, making it obvious a quoted author (Plato, below) is not responsible for the second text (here, *Elaborate*):

INPUT
```
Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd. ∼in][34]
{public07aa}.  Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd. ∼in]
[34]{public07aa}.  Here's another citation \autocite[34]
{public08aa}.  Here's yet another \autocite[Pythagoras qtd. ∼in]
[34]{public08aa}.  And another \autocite[Pythagoras qtd. ∼in][34]
{public07aa}.
```

OUTPUT
Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in Public, *Default* 34). Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in 34). Here's another citation (Public, *Elaborate* 34). Here's yet another (Pythagoras qtd. in 34). And another (Pythagoras qtd. in Public, *Default* 34).

As expected, the starred variant still overrides the author's name:

INPUT
```
Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd. ∼in][34]
{public07aa}.  Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd. ∼in]
[34]{public07aa}.  Here's another citation from our friend Pub-
lic \autocite*[34]{public08aa}.
```

OUTPUT
Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in Public, *Default* 34). Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in 34). Here's another citation from our friend Public (*Elaborate* 34).

At the same time, ibid continues to work as expected, and after an ibid with no prenote, idem continues to work as usual:

INPUT

```
Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd.~in][34]
{public07aa}. Here's a quoted citation \autocite[Plato qtd.~in]
[34]{public07aa}. Here's another (ibid) citation \autocite[34]
{public07aa}. Here's another (idem) citation \autocite[34]
{public08aa}.
```

OUTPUT

Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in Public, *Default* 34). Here's a quoted citation (Plato qtd. in 34). Here's another (ibid) citation (34). Here's another (idem) citation (*Elaborate* 34).

5.2.3 Shorthand Citations

Biblatex-mla assumes that the first citation of a source with a defined `shorthand` field should print more than just the shorthand. The first citation to this article, with a defined shorthand, will print the `author` and `shortitle` fields before the page number, instead of just the shorthand and page number, as subsequent citations show:

INPUT

```
Here is an article with a defined shorthand \autocite[79]
{taskme06aa}. Here is a source by a different author to reset
the idem cache \autocite[45]{public08aa}. Here is the first
source, cited by shorthand \autocite [44]{taskme06aa}. Here is
an idem after a shorthand \autocite[12]{taskme07aa}.
```

OUTPUT

Here is an article with a defined shorthand (Taskme, "Elaborate Article" 79). Here is a source by a different author to reset the idem cache (Public, *Elaborate* 45). Here is the first source, cited by shorthand ("EA" 44). Here is an idem after a shorthand ("Simple Article" 12).

To get away from this behavior and just use shorthands all the time, use the `first-longhand` option, outlined in section 3.1.2 above.

5.3 First Footnotes

Examples of footnotes and Works Cited entries were getting too difficult to maintain in this manual. For examples of first footnotes, please see the included files examples-footnotes.tex, examples-footnotes.pdf, and handbook-footnotes.tex.

5.4   Works Cited Entries

Examples of footnotes and Works Cited entries were getting too difficult to maintain in this manual. For examples of entries in the Works Cited, please see the included files examples-standard.tex, examples-standard.pdf, and handbook.tex. Run Latex on the latter to see examples taken from the *MLA Handbook* (included in handbook-samples.bib).

6   FEEDBACK

If you have any questions, requests, or other feedback please email me. My email address is my last name at gmail.com. My last name is at the top of this document. (You can also click my name in the PDF.)

Additionally, feel free to modify any code in these style files. I would ask you to share your code with the rest of us, however, if you end up improving it to be more accurate to the MLA standard. On that same note, I'm very happy to incorporate improvements anyone suggests. If anything works differently than you feel it ought to work, please let me know; I'm limited only by the problems of which I'm unaware.