

**NAME**

ctanbib - retrieve bibliographic information for packages hosted on CTAN

**SYNOPSIS**

ctanbib [*options*] *package-name* ...

**DESCRIPTION**

This command can retrieve bibliographic information for TeX packages hosted on CTAN in the BibTeX format.

Look up the Catalogue entry for each *package-name* on CTAN (at <https://ctan.org/xml/2.0/pkg/package-name>), and convert relevant information to a BibTeX entry.

By default, the url field in the output entry is the package's home field value if that is specified in the Catalogue entry; if it isn't, or if the --ctan option is given, <https://ctan.org/pkg/package-name> is used. Or, if the --CTAN option is given, the url field is the package's directory on CTAN (e.g., [/macros/latex/contrib/hyperref](https://ctan.org/macros/latex/contrib/hyperref)).

**OPTIONS**

-c,--ctan

Always use CTAN /pkg/ url instead of the package homepage

-C,--CTAN

Use the package's CTAN path as url (e.g.: /support/ctanbib)

-e,--entrytype

(default manual) Change entry type

-h,--help

print the help message.

-p,--pkgname

Wrap the package name in a \ctanbibpkgname command. This command can be redefined in the document for the desired formatting.

-v,--version

print the version info.

**EXAMPLES**

```
ctanbib latex
```

This minimal invocation will print data using conventional BibLaTeX fields to standard output:

```
@manual{latex,
  title = {The latex package},
  subtitle = {A TeX macro package that defines LaTeX},
  author = {Lamport, Leslie and {The LaTeX Project Team}},
  url = {http://www.latex-project.org/},
  urldate = {2026-05-18},
  date = {2025-11-01},
  version = {},
}
```

Note that the output does not use TeX control sequences or have completely correct capitalization. **ctanbib** works only from the (plain text) data available from CTAN; any typesetting niceties

are up to you.

With the `--entrytype` option:

```
ctanbib -e ctan hyperref
```

This produces a bib record with the `@ctan` type:

```
@ctan{hyperref,  
  title = {The hyperref package},  
  subtitle = {Extensive support for hypertext in LaTeX},  
  author = {Oberdiek, Heiko and Rahtz, Sebastian  
    and {Oberdiek Package Support Group}  
    and {The LaTeX Project Team}},  
  url = {https://github.com/latex3/hyperref},  
  urldate = {2026-05-18},  
  date = {2026-04-24},  
  version = {7.01q},  
}
```

## SEE ALSO

See `ctanbib-doc.pdf` (run: `texdoc ctanbib`) for more details.

## AUTHOR

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<https://github.com/michal-h21/ctanbib>

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