

Package ‘bibtex’

September 22, 2026

Version 0.5.3

Title Bibtex Parser

Description Utility to parse a bibtex file.

BugReports <https://github.com/ropensci/bibtex/issues>

URL <https://github.com/ropensci/bibtex>,
<https://docs.ropensci.org/bibtex/>

License GPL (>= 2)

Depends R (>= 3.6.0)

Imports utils

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.3)

LazyLoad yes

Encoding UTF-8

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/roxygen2/version 8.0.0

NeedsCompilation no

Author Romain Francois [aut, cph] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2444-4226>>, principal developer of
bibtex R package),

Diego Hernangómez [aut] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8457-4658>>),

James Joseph Balamuta [aut, cre] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2826-8458>>),

Scott Chamberlain [ctb] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1444-9135>>),

Kurt Hornik [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4198-9911>>),

Brian Ripley [ctb] (compilation fixes),

Michael Koohafkan [ctb],

Mathew W. McLean [ctb] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7891-9645>>)

Maintainer James Joseph Balamuta <balamut2@illinois.edu>

Repository CRAN

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do_read_bib	<i>Read the raw entries of a bib file</i>
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Description

Parses a bib file into its entries without building [bibentry](#) objects. This is the parser used by [read.bib](#), exported for packages that process the entries differently.

Usage

```
do_read_bib(file, encoding = "unknown", srcfile)
```

Arguments

file	file name
encoding	encoding
srcfile	Deprecated

Details

The parser is greatly inspired from the ‘bibparse’ library.

Value

A list with one element per entry, leaving out @string, @preamble and @comment blocks. Each element is a character vector of field values, named by field as written, with the outer braces or quotes removed and the file’s @string macros expanded. Its attributes are entry (the entry type as written), key (the citation key) and srcref (the line numbers from the start of the entry up to the next entry or the end of the file). An empty file, or one holding only comments, gives an empty list.

See Also

[bibentry](#)

Examples

```
entries <- do_read_bib(system.file("bib", "xampl_single.bib",
  package = "bibtex"
))
attr(entries[[1]], "key")
entries[[1]][["title"]]
```

read.bib	<i>bibtex parser</i>
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Description

Parser for bibliography databases written in the bib format.

Usage

```
read.bib(  
  file = findBibFile(package),  
  package = "bibtex",  
  encoding = "unknown",  
  header,  
  footer  
)
```

Arguments

file	bib file to parse. By default, the file 'REFERENCES.bib' in the root directory of the package given by the package argument is used.
package	package from which we want to read the bibliography. Only used if file is unspecified. Core R packages (base, datasets, graphics, grDevices, methods, stats, stats4, tools and utils) are treated specially: this package contains bibtex entries for these packages.
encoding	encoding
header	DEPRECATED.
footer	DEPRECATED

Value

An object of class "bibentry", similar to those obtained by the [bibentry](#) function.

References

Nelson H. F. Beebe. bibparse 1.04. 1999. <https://www.math.utah.edu/~beebe/>

Examples

```
## this package has a REFERENCES.bib file  
bib <- read.bib(package = "bibtex")  
  
## bibtex collects bibtex entries for R base packages  
base.bib <- read.bib(package = "base")
```

`write.bib`*Generate a Bibtex File from Package Citations*

Description

Generates a Bibtex file from a `bibentry` object or a list of packages. It is useful for adding relevant citations in Sweave documents.

Usage

```
write.bib(entry, file = "Rpackages.bib", append = FALSE, verbose = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>entry</code>	a <code>bibentry</code> object or a character vector of package names.
<code>file</code>	output Bibtex file.
<code>append</code>	logical. If TRUE content is appended to the file.
<code>verbose</code>	a logical to toggle verbosity.

Value

the list of Bibtex objects – invisibly.

Author(s)

Renaud Gaujoux, based on the function `Rpackages.bib` from Achim Zeileis (see *References*).

References

[R] *Creating bibtex file of all installed packages?* Achim Zeileis. R-help mailing list.

Examples

```
tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".bib")
write.bib(c("bibtex", "utils", "tools"), file = tmp)
bibs <- read.bib(tmp)

tmp2 <- tempfile(fileext = ".bib")
write.bib(bibs, tmp2)
unname(tools::md5sum(tmp) == tools::md5sum(tmp2))

unlink(c(tmp, tmp2))
```

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