

The **biblatex-asa** Package

American Sociological Association Style for **biblatex**

Yuqi Liang
yuqi.liang.1900@gmail.com

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Abstract

The **biblatex-asa** package provides an ASA citation and bibliography style for **biblatex**. It follows common American Sociological Association / *American Sociological Review* conventions for names, journals, chapters, and in-text citations, with DOI and URL presentation aligned to the ASA Style Guide, 7th edition (2022).

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1 Introduction

The `biblatex-asa` package provides citation and bibliography formatting according to the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guide. This package is particularly useful for students writing sociology papers or theses, researchers submitting to sociology journals, and anyone requiring ASA-style citations and references.

1.1 Requirements

You will need:

- **LaTeX distribution:** TeX Live 2020 or later, MiKTeX 2020 or later
- **biblatex:** Version 3.14 or later
- **biber:** Version 2.14 or later (recommended backend)
- **etoolbox:** Version 2.5 or later (automatically loaded by biblatex)

The package is built on top of biblatex’s `standard` and `authoryear` styles.

1.2 Acknowledgments

This is my first LaTeX package. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Vincent Goulet from the CTAN team for helping me lay a solid foundation. I have learned from his rigor, comprehensiveness, professionalism, and enthusiasm. I also thank Jan Meyerhoff-Liang and Ridhi Kashyap for their support.

2 Installation

2.1 Automatic Installation

Install through your TeX distribution’s package manager:

- **TeX Live:** `tlmgr install biblatex-asa`
- **MiKTeX:** Available through MiKTeX Package Manager
- **Overleaf:** Pre-installed and ready to use

2.2 Manual Installation

For local use, first generate the style files from the provided sources:

- Run `latex biblatex-asa.ins` in the package directory.
- This will create `biblatex-asa.sty`, `biblatex-asa.bbx`, and `biblatex-asa.cbx`.
- Copy these files to your project directory (or leave them in place if working in the same folder).

For system-wide installation, place files in your local `texmf` tree under `texmf/tex/latex/biblatex-asa/` and run `texhash` (TeX Live) or `initexmf -update-fndb` (MiKTeX).

3 Usage

3.1 Basic Usage

Load the package in your document preamble:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{biblatex-asa}
\addbibresource{references.bib}

\begin{document}
This is a citation \parencite{key2023}.
\textcite{author2022} argues that...
\printbibliography
\end{document}
```

3.2 Direct Style Usage

Alternatively, use the ASA style directly:

```
\usepackage[backend=biber,style=biblatex-asa]{biblatex}
\addbibresource{references.bib}
```

3.3 Package Options

giveninits Use initials for given names

nogiveninits Use full given names (default)

backend=biber Use biber backend (recommended)

backend=bibtex Use bibtex backend

Example:

```
\usepackage[giveninits,backend=biber]{biblatex-asa}
```

4 Citation Commands

The package supports standard biblatex citation commands:

`\parencite{key}` Parenthetical citation: (Author Year)

`\textcite{key}` In-text citation: Author (Year)

`\cite{key}` Bare citation: Author Year

Examples:

- `\parencite{smith2020}` → (Smith 2020)
- `\textcite{jones2019}` argues... → Jones (2019) argues...
- `\parencite[p. 42]{doe2018}` → (Doe 2018, p. 42)

5 Compilation

Compile documents using this sequence:

1. `pdflatex document.tex`
2. `biber document`
3. `pdflatex document.tex`
4. `pdflatex document.tex`

For Overleaf users, the compilation sequence is handled automatically.

6 ASA Format Implementation

6.1 Citation Format

- Single author: (Smith 2020)
- Two authors: (Smith and Jones 2020)
- Three or more authors: (Smith et al. 2020)
- Multiple citations: (Smith 2020; Jones 2021)

6.2 Bibliography Format

- Authors: First author inverted (Last, First), subsequent authors normal order
- All authors listed (no "et al." truncation in bibliography)
- Articles: Journal name italicized, volume(issue):pages format
- Books: Publisher and location information
- Book chapters: "Pp. X–Y in..." formatting
- Proper handling of publication dates, DOIs, and URLs

7 Package Details

The distributed package includes the following files:

biblatex-asa.dtx, **biblatex-asa.ins** The documented source and installation script. To use the package locally, first run `latex biblatex-asa.ins` to generate **biblatex-asa.sty**, **biblatex-asa.bbx**, and **biblatex-asa.cbx**.

docs/biblatex-asa-example.bib Shared example bibliography database.

docs/biblatex-asa-with-package.tex Example using the package wrapper (`\usepackage{biblatex-asa}`).

docs/biblatex-asa-without-package.tex Example using the style directly (`style=biblatex-asa`).

docs/biblatex-asa-manual.pdf This user manual.

The style files (**biblatex-asa.sty**, **biblatex-asa.bbx**, **biblatex-asa.cbx**) are not included directly in the package archive. They must be generated from the provided sources as described above, unless you install the package through your TeX distribution.

Users new to the package should start with **biblatex-asa-with-package.tex**.

8 Supported Entry Types

The package supports all standard **biblatex** entry types with ASA formatting:

- `@article` - Journal articles
- `@book` - Books

- `@incollection` - Book chapters
- `@inproceedings` - Conference proceedings
- `@misc` - Miscellaneous sources
- `@online` - Online sources
- `@report` - Reports
- `@thesis` - Theses and dissertations

9 Troubleshooting

References not showing Ensure you run `biber` (not `bibtex`).

File not found errors Check package installation or ensure files are in project directory.

Encoding problems Save all files as UTF-8.

10 License and Contact

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Author: Yuqi Liang, University of Oxford

Email: `yuqi.liang.1900@gmail.com`

GitHub: <https://github.com/yuqi-liang-qiqi/biblatex-asa>