

Dealing with Ancient Works in Bibliographies

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Good cooperations

\LaTeX + $\text{BIB}\text{\TeX}$ ■

or biblatex + biber■

. . . for bibliographies whose items are 'recent'.

Ancient Works

Ἡσίοδος. Ἔργα καὶ ἡμέραι. 8th century BC.■

[Mersenne Marin?] *Campanae Parisienses* — *Aria*.

In *Ancient Airs and Dances*, by Ottorino Respighi.■

[Ignoto] *Italiana. Ibidem*.

With BibT_EX

```
YEAR = {8th century \textsc{bc}}
```

OK! because all the fields are strings, all the sorts are lexicographic.

(BIBT_EX performs a concatenation of some fields: author(s), year, title.)

Another solution

$$\text{YEAR} = \{-8xx\}$$

but negative numbers are not recognised as such.■

Compare:

$$\text{YEAR} = \{800\} \quad \text{YEAR} = \{1492\}$$

(Show.)

Surmised names

Better, with a command for a dummy accent:

```
AUTHOR = {Mersenne Marin{\unaccent}}
```

but works are *interleaved*.

With biber

YEAR = {154?} SORTYEAR = {1549}

but all the sorts are lexicographic, too.

MI BibT_EX

Advantage or drawback? A semantic analysis of values associated with fields is performed. Example: the YEAR field. ■

If a numerical sort is performed, all the concerned data were checked as numbers.

Why an option?

I think that the 'classical' use of a bibliography processor should be for 'exact' references.■

Option -inexact.

New Syntax for `-inexact` option

'ca' for '*circa*'.

YEAR = {ca1492} YEAR = {ca-429}

'?' for an unknown digit: 154?, 15??.

An unknown digit cannot be followed by an exact one.

(Show.)

Surmised and unknown authors

?? Mersenne Marin \Leftarrow surmised

?? and Mersenne Marin \Leftarrow unknown

Ordering years

An inexact year is ranked *after* the same exact year:

$$1492 < \text{ca}1492$$

A question mark is ranked *after* the digit year it can replace.■

Inexact years are sorted according to the number of occurrences of the '?' sign:

$$1599 < \text{ca}1599 < 159? < 15??$$

Ordering names

An unknown author is ranked *before* any known one:

?? < Gianluca Pignalberi

■ An author with uncertain identity is ranked *after* the same 'sure' author:

Max Dominici < ?? Max Dominici

Now

New syntax recognised, internal forms (XML trees) updated.■

Bibliography style hard-wired in Scheme (the `\bibliographystyle` command is useless).

Need of further experimentation

Available from November at:

`http://disc.univ-fcomte.fr/home/~jmhufflen/
texts/superreport/smlbibtex-1.3.tar.gz`

Conclusion

From a point of view related to software engineering, I succeeded in updating this program written using Scheme. ■

What is the point of view of people involved in classical studies?