

The `xcite` package*

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1 Description

This package implements a system for eXternal Citations. If one document needs to refer to citations in another, say `aaa.tex`, then this package may be loaded in the main file, and the command

```
\externalcitedocument{aaa}
```

given in the preamble.

Then you may use `\cite` to refer to anything which has been declared by `\bibitem` in either `aaa.tex` or the main document. You may declare any number of such external documents. Notice that `\bibitem` commands may not appear in `aaa.tex`, but rather in `aaa.bbl` if `BIBLATEX` or `Biber` are used to generate the bibliography, but this doesn't matter. The important thing is that `aaa.tex` is in final form with all citations resolved and that `aaa.aux` is readable.

If any of the external documents, or the main document, use the same citation key then an error will occur as the label will be multiply defined. To overcome this problem `\externalcitedocument` has an optional argument. If you declare

```
\externalcitedocument[A-]{aaa}
```

then all references from `aaa` are prefixed by `A-`. So for instance, if `aaa.tex` had `\bibitem{xyz}`, then this could be referenced with `\cite{A-xyz}`. The prefix need not be `A-`, it can be any string chosen to ensure that all the keys imported from external files are unique. Note however that if your style declares certain active characters (`:` in French, `"` in German) then these characters can not usually be used in `\cite`, and similarly may not be used in the optional argument to `\externalcitedocument`.

*This file has version number v1.0, last revised 2011/09/02.

[†]This package derives from `xr` by David Carlisle

2 Acknowledgment

This package is just a straightforward modification of David Carlisle's `xr` package (based on Jean-Pierre Drucbert's work). The changes consisted in renaming the main command and substituting `\newlabel` with `\biblecite`; the `XR` prefix to internal commands has been changed into `XC`.

These modifications are possible because `\newlabel` and `\biblecite` are almost the same command in disguise.

This package originated from a question in [TeX.StackExchange.com](http://tex.stackexchange.com).¹

3 The macros

```
1 <*package>
   Save the optional prefix. Start processing the first aux file.
2 \newcommand\externalcitedocument[2] [] { %
3   \makeatletter
4   \def\XC@prefix{#1}%
5   \XC@next#2.aux\relax\}

   Process the next aux file in the list and remove it from the head of the list of
files to process.
6 \def\XC@next#1\relax#2\ { %
7   \edef\XC@list{#2}%
8   \XC@loop{#1}}

   Check whether the list of aux files is empty.
9 \def\XC@aux{ %
10  \ifx\XC@list\@empty\else\expandafter\XC@explist\fi}

   Expand the list of aux files, and call \XC@next to process the first one.
11 \def\XC@explist{\expandafter\XC@next\XC@list\}

   If the aux file exists, loop through line by line, looking for \biblecite and
\@input. Otherwise process the next file in the list.
12 \def\XC@loop#1{\openin\@inputcheck#1\relax
13  \ifeof\@inputcheck
14    \PackageWarning{xc}{^^JNo file #1^^JLABELS NOT IMPORTED.^^J}%
15    \expandafter\XC@aux
16  \else
17    \PackageInfo{xc}{IMPORTING LABELS FROM #1}%
18    \expandafter\XC@read\fi}

   Read the next line of the aux file.
19 \def\XC@read{ %
20  \read\@inputcheck to\XC@line

The ... make sure that \XC@test always has sufficient arguments.
21 \expandafter\XC@test\XC@line...\XC@}
```

¹<http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/27243/>

Look at the first token of the line. If it is `\bibtex`, do the `\bibtex`. If it is `\@input`, add the filename to the list of files to process. Otherwise ignore. Go around the loop if not at end of file. Finally process the next file in the list.

```
22 \long\def\XC@test#1#2#3#4\XC@{%
23   \ifx#1\bibtex
24     \bibtex{\XC@prefix#2}{#3}%
25   \else\ifx#1\@input
26     \edef\XC@list{\XC@list#2\relax}%
27   \fi\fi
28   \ifeof\@inputcheck\expandafter\XC@aux
29   \else\expandafter\XC@read\fi}
30 \</package>
```

Change History

v1.00

General: First version 1