Useful LaTeX links
2008-02-08

Rob Donald
Dept. of Statistics
Glasgow University
rdonald@stats.gla.ac.uk

Abstract

Some useful stuff about LaTeX I have gathered over the last few months.

1 Introduction

This brief note gives some useful LaTeX links that may get you started a bit quicker. If you are coming to LaTeX from a MS Word background you need to realise that there is an amount of effort (measured in days) which you will need to put into getting your LaTeX environment up and running.

If you have a programming background it will help in that what you are really setting up is a development environment to compile your documents. The ".tex" is the source code, the ".pdf" is the executable.

- LaTeX Links
- JabRef
- LaTeX packages

2 LaTeX Links

Here are some useful links to start with. A Google search will of course find lots of others. The trick is to decide which ones to add into your JabRef.

In the item list below, note that the reference is actually an hyperlink. I don't like all the fussy colour stuff so I've used a trick to set it all to black (see line 30 in the source .tex file)

- A useful cheat sheet. (Chang, 2006)
- How to add bibliographies. (CUED, 2007)
- A much bigger manual. (WikiBooks, 2007)

3 JabRef & WinShell

JabRef (JabRefTeam, 2007) is an open source bibliography manager. It is a Java app and lives on your own machine so you are independent. You can create several different BibTex databases or keep a central one, it's a matter of style. You can also group entries and export them so that they can be passed on to fellow researchers. Visit the site for further details. I have included a small section from my master BibTeX DB with this document. Note the calling conventions using Unix style "forward slash" on line 129 of the .tex file if it is not in the same directory as your source.

WinShell (WinShellTeam, 2007) is the text editor I use to produce the .tex and subsequent .pdf files. Again a Google search will turn up lots of different editors and it's up to you what you feel most comfortable using.

4   LaTeX packages

You extend LaTeX by adding "packages" into the system. Assuming you are on a PC with MiKTeX this is handled by the menu item "Browse Packages" which will bring up the "MiKTeX Package Manager". A few useful packages I have used are:

- fancyhdr & lastpage - for adding in a footer with page x of y

- draftwatermark - this package (Callegari, 2006a) adds the "DRAFT" watermark throughout your document. It requires the everypage package by the same author (Callegari, 2006b). I believe the draftwatermark package can be customised to use something other than DRAFT.

References

Sergio Callegari. Draftwatermark tex package. 2006a. URL http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/contrib/draftwatermark/draftwatermark.pdf.

Sergio Callegari. Everypage tex package. 2006b. URL http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/contrib/everypage/everypage.pdf.

Winston Chang. Latex cheat sheet. 2006. URL http://www.stdout.org/~winston/latex/latexsheet.pdf.

CUED. Bibliographies with latex. 2007. URL http://www-h.eng.cam.ac.uk/help/tpl/textprocessing/bibliographies.html.

JabRefTeam. Jabref. 2007. URL http://jabref.sourceforge.net/index.php.

WikiBooks. Latex. 2007. URL http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/.

WinShellTeam. Win shell latex editor. 2007. URL http://www.winshell.de/.