Abbreviating First Names

Jean-Michel HUFFLEN

DISC — University of Franche-Comté

BachoT_EX, 2nd May 2016

Contents

Advertisement

Why this talk?

Rules. . . less or more common

American first and middle names

Conclusion

MlBibTeX 1.4

Announced one year ago.

MlBibTeX 1.4

Announced one year ago.

Will be able to deal with more encodings, e.g., UTF-8.

MlBibTEX 1.4

Announced one year ago.

Will be able to deal with more encodings, e.g., UTF-8.

Unfinished part $\Longrightarrow$ output routines.

MlBibTeX 1.4

Announced one year ago.

Will be able to deal with more encodings, e.g., UTF-8.

Unfinished part $\Longrightarrow$ output routines.

Ready very soon!

New syntax for person names

`AUTHOR = {Clive Eric Cussler, abbr => Cl.}`

New syntax for person names

```
AUTHOR = {Clive Eric Cussler, abbr => Cl.}
```

Such a specification of a non-standard abbreviation is needed, unless you like *dirty tricks*!

A question

Do you know how to produce this effect with $\mathrm{B{\scriptstyle IB}T_{\scriptstyle E}X}$?

A question

Do you know how to produce this effect with $\text{B\scriptsize IB}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$? (or biber)?

A question

Do you know how to produce this effect with $\mathrm{B\scriptstyle IB}T_{\!E}X$? (or biber)?

```
AUTHOR = {{\relax Cl}{ive Eric} Cussler}
```

Abbreviating first names

Most frequently: retain only the first letter, followed by a period.

Abbreviating first names

Most frequently: retain only the first letter, followed by a period.

Abbreviations of multiple components of a first name should be separated by spaces:

J.␣B.␣Ludwichowski

Abbreviating first names

Most frequently: retain only the first letter, followed by a period.

Abbreviations of multiple components of a first name should be separated by spaces:

$$\texttt{J.\textvisiblespace B.\textvisiblespace Ludwichowski}$$

unless these components are separated by hyphens ⟸ French

Abbreviating first names

Most frequently: retain only the first letter, followed by a period.

Abbreviations of multiple components of a first name should be separated by spaces:

$$\texttt{J.}\textvisiblespace\texttt{B.}\textvisiblespace\texttt{Ludwichowski}$$

unless these components are separated by hyphens $\Longleftarrow$ French

$$\texttt{J.-M. Hufflen}$$

OK?

Even for these simple cases, many people mistakenly abbreviate first (and middle) names.

OK?

Even for these simple cases, many people mistakenly abbreviate first (and middle) names.

Non-standard cases $\implies$ some rules, yes, but. . .

OK?

Even for these simple cases, many people mistakenly abbreviate first (and middle) names.

Non-standard cases $\implies$ some rules, yes, but. . .

Imagination takes power!

Agreement

Digraphs should not be cut:

Charles Gounod $\rightarrow$ Ch. Gounod

Agreement

Digraphs should not be cut:

Charles Gounod $\rightarrow$ Ch. Gounod

but what about 'Thomas' as a German first name? Is there a digraph?

Agreement

Digraphs should not be cut:

$$\text{Charles Gounod} \rightarrow \text{Ch. Gounod}$$

but what about 'Thomas' as a German first name? Is there a digraph?

Jawohl! 'Th' etymologically for [θ].

Agreement

Digraphs should not be cut:

$$\texttt{Charles Gounod} \rightarrow \texttt{Ch. Gounod}$$

but what about 'Thomas' as a German first name? Is there a digraph?

Jawohl! 'Th' etymologically for [θ].

Nein! The initial is 'T', 'h' is silent.

Particular cases

In French, German (and English) $\Longrightarrow$ 'l' and 'r' after 'C':

Particular cases

In French, German (and English) $\implies$ 'l' and 'r' after 'C':

Clive Barker $\rightarrow$ Cl. Barker

Particular cases

In French, German (and English) $\implies$ 'l' and 'r' after 'C':

Clive Barker $\rightarrow$ Cl. Barker

But:

Clive Staples Lewis $\rightarrow$ C. S. Lewis

More particular cases

The same rule after 'Ch' in German:

$$\text{Christian} \rightarrow \text{Chr.}$$

More particular cases

The same rule after 'Ch' in German:

Christian $\rightarrow$ Chr.

Christina $\rightarrow$ Ch.

More particular cases

The same rule after 'Ch' in German:

$$\text{Christian} \rightarrow \text{Chr.}$$
$$\text{Christina} \rightarrow \text{Ch.}$$
$$\text{Jesus Christ} \rightarrow \text{J. C.}$$

Abbreviations with one letter. . .

Or two. . . or three. . . Why not four?

Abbreviations with one letter. . .

Or two. . . or three. . . Why not four?

A French typography manual recommends:

$$\text{Stanislas} \rightarrow \text{Stan}.$$

American names

First name, *middle name*, *last name*.

Also: *particle* and *lineage* (*von* and *Junior* w.r.t. $\rm B\scriptstyle IB\textstyle T_{\!E}\!X$'s terminology), but out of scope here.

What to do with middle names?

Abbreviate them like first names:

Edgar Rice Burroughs → E. R. Burroughs

What to do with middle names?

Abbreviate them like first names:

Edgar Rice Burroughs → E. R. Burroughs

Retain them: Henry Rider Haggard → H. Rider Haggard

What to do with middle names?

Abbreviate them like first names:

    Edgar Rice Burroughs → E. R. Burroughs

Retain them: Henry Rider Haggard → H. Rider Haggard

Drop them out: Clive Eric Cussler → Cl. Cussler

What a program can do?

Recognise initial digraphs or trigraphs:

What a program can do?

Recognise initial digraphs or trigraphs:

e.g., 'sz' in Polish

What a program can do?

Recognise initial digraphs or trigraphs:

e.g., 'sz' in Polish

or some particular cases that are language-dependent.

What a program can do?

Recognise initial digraphs or trigraphs:

e.g., 'sz' in Polish

or some particular cases that are language-dependent.

But we face a *linguistic* problem. *Exceptions exist!*

Solutions?

```
L[yon Sprague] de Camp
de Camp,, Lyon Sprague, L. Sprague
Lyon Sprague de Camp, abbr => L. Sprague
```

Solutions?

```
L[yon Sprague] de Camp
de Camp,, Lyon Sprague, L. Sprague
Lyon Sprague de Camp, abbr => L. Sprague
```

MlBIBTEX's solution is neither nor worse than many others.