

# The `citeright` Package

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## 1 Introduction

This package provides the command `\citeright` for aliasing the in-text citation of a reference while also specifying its appearance in the list of references. It is specifically tailored for use with the `natbib` package and is compatible with citation managers such as `BibDesk` and `JabRef`.

The creation of this package was inspired by [Meyer and Treis \(2021\)](#), who offer a general set of rules for citing Ethiopian authors that respect cultural naming conventions on the Horn of Africa. To aid the implementation of these rules, the authors also offer practical solutions that can be implemented by users of both `Zotero` and the `biblatex` package. The alternative `natbib`-based solution provided here is intended to further facilitate efforts to prevent and remedy the effects that errant citations have on authors from under-represented populations. While the focus in this document is on properly adhering to naming conventions on the Horn of Africa, the hope is that the `citeright` package is useful in the service of respecting naming conventions more generally and, in this way, assists in the decolonization of academia.

## 2 A Case Study: Ethiosemitic Naming Conventions

As explained by [Meyer and Treis \(2021, sec.2\)](#), the patronymic naming conventions in Ethiopia, as well as the Horn of Africa more generally, tend to identify individuals by their given names followed

by the given names of their father and grandfather. The authors provide the following example:

Tsehay Berhanu Abebe  
(Tsehay = female given name, Berhanu = her father’s name, Abebe = her father’s father’s name)

Citation styles that rely on the concept of a “family name” or a “surname” are, therefore, inappropriate for referencing Ethiopian authors. Additionally, abbreviating the given name of an author all but removes the necessary information for identifying that author. Thus, attempts to fit Ethiopian names into any system that relies on such conventions serves to create confusion and is an injustice to those authors (Meyer and Treis, 2021, sec.3).

It is in response to these issues that Meyer and Treis (2021, sec.4) provide a list of rules intended to preserve the structure of Ethiopian names in citations and adhere to the cultural conventions for referring to individuals. The following represent a relevant subset of the proposed rules:

- R1: The patronymic structure of Ethiopian names should be retained in citations and references.
- R2: The names of Ethiopian authors should not be abbreviated, even if a style manual calls for authors’ initials only.
- R3: In the reference list, Ethiopian authors should be sorted by their given name followed by their father’s name and (if used) grandfather’s name without a comma.
- R4: When following the author-date in-text citation, Ethiopian authors should be quoted by their given name.
- R5: If two or more works of authors with identical names are published in the same year, the father’s (and grandfather’s) name should be added in the in-text citation.

As noted, the `citeright` package has been created to facilitate adherence to these citation conventions. Ideally, this package will facilitate adherence to any set of [naming conventions](#), thereby doing justice to the authors of any works cited.

### 3 Usage

To call the package, type the command `\usepackage{citeright}` in the preamble of the document.

The `\citeright{...}{...}` command that is provided by the package takes two arguments and is used in the following format:

```
{\citeright{bibliographic citation}{in-text citation}}
```

The first argument is the author’s name as it should appear in the list of references. The second argument is the author’s name as it should appear in in-text citations.

It is important to include the additional set of curly brackets around the entire command. Doing so ensures that the entry will be alphabetically sorted in the list references according to the first letter of the bibliographic citation argument.

This command can be placed directly into the author field of citation entries in BibDesk or JabRef. The author field of the citation entry for [Nazareth 2011](#) is shown below:

```
{\citeright{Nazareth Amlesom Kifle}{Nazareth}}
```

It is also possible to directly place this command into the author field of a .bib file. A sample .bib file entry with an appropriately formatted author field, including the additional curly brackets, is provided below:

```
@phdthesis{Nazareth:2011,
  address = {Bergen},
  author = {{\citeright{Nazareth Amlesom Kifle}{Nazareth}}},
  school = {University of Bergen},
  title = {Tigrinya Applicatives in {L}exical-{F}unctional {G}rammar},
  year = {2011}}
```

It will be shown below that the `\citeright` command can also be used in the editor field of citation entries. Other entries, which do not employ `\citeright`, can be formatted in the usual way.

## 4 Examples

### 4.1 Single-Authored Works

Citing entries with the usual `natbib` commands will produce in-text citations that print the content in the second argument of the `\citeright` command. For the examples below—the first of which appeared in the previous section—this produces only the author’s given name (R4).<sup>1</sup>

```
\citet{Nazareth:2011}           → Nazareth (2011, 12, (3))
\citep[e.g.,][4, (56)]{Tsfay:2016} → (e.g., Tsfay, 2016, 4, (56))
\citealt[78, (90)]{Baye:2011}   → Baye 2011, 78, (90)
```

For the purpose of demonstration, the bibliography for this document is compiled using the `chicago.bst` bibliography style file. Checking the list of references at the end of the document will show that the entry for each of the above citations appears with the content in the first argument of the `\citeright` command. This includes each author’s complete, unaltered and unabbreviated name (R1, R2, R3), which is appropriately sorted amongst all other entries according to the author’s given name (R3).

In order to distinguish multiple in-text citations of authors who share a given name (R5), the father’s name can be added to the in-text citation argument:

```
{\citeright{Girma Awgichew Demeke}{Girma Awgichew}}
{\citeright{Girma Mengistu Desta}{Girma Mengistu}}
```

This similarly allows for the use of normal `natbib` citation commands and appropriately lists and sorts the citation in the list of references.

```
\citet[12, (3)]{GirmaAwgichew:2003} → Girma Awgichew (2003, 12, (3))
\citep[see][4, (56)]{GirmaMengistu:2021} → (see Girma Mengistu, 2021, 4, (56))
```

We can briefly observe that different naming conventions can be accommodated simultaneously by appropriately formatting the content in the arguments of `\citeright` for any given author. Naming conventions in East Asia, for instance, often list an individual’s family name before their given name. The bibliographic citation argument of the following sample author entry lists the

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<sup>1</sup>All page numbers and example numbers are fabricated and presented only for purpose of exposition.

author's name according to these conventions and presents the family name in capitalized text, which is a common transliteration practice. The in-text citation argument of the command contains only the family name of the author in uncapitalized text.

```
{\citeright{HUANG Shizhe}{Huang}}
```

Citations of this entry will be printed as specified for in-text citations, as shown immediately below, and in the list of references. These seamlessly appear alongside citations of entries specified for Ethiosemitic naming conventions.

```
\citet{Huang:2006} → Huang (2006)
```

Entries that do not make use of the `\citeright` command can still be called with the usual `natbib` commands and will be printed and sorted appropriately.

```
\citet[1, (23)]{Zyman:2023} → Zyman (2023, 1, (23))
\citep[e.g.,][45, (6)]{Abels:2003} → (e.g., Abels, 2003, 45, (6))
\citealt{Jespersen:1965} → Jespersen 1965
```

## 4.2 Multi-Authored Works

For entries with multiple authors, the separator `and` is placed between author names in the usual way. The following pair of author field entries provide relevant examples with either the first or second author being introduced by the `\citeright` command.

```
{\citeright{Kibrom Gebremedhin}{Kibrom}} and Overfelt, Jason
Leung, Tommi and {\citeright{Girma Halefom}{Girma}}
```

Such entries can also be cited using the familiar `natbib` commands. As shown below, the in-text citation for each author is formatted appropriately depending on its specification. It can also be confirmed that each author name is appropriately formatted in the list of references.

```
\citet{KibromOverfelt:2025} → Kibrom and Overfelt (2025)
\citep{LeungGirma:2017} → (Leung and Girma, 2017)
```

More complex multi-author cases are handled in a similar way. Authors are distinguished by the separator `and` while authors with specific formatting requirements are introduced with the `\citeright` command. The following author field entry illustrates:

```
{\citeright{Andargachew Mekonnen Gezmu}{Andargachew}} and
Nürnberg, Andreas and {\citeright{Tesfaye Bayu Bati}{Tesfaye}}
```

Citing such entries produces in-text citations and bibliographic references that apply the appropriate rules of the `\citeright` command only to the specified authors.

```
\citet*{Andargachewetal:2022} → Andargachew, Nürnberg, and Tesfaye (2022)
\citet{Andargachewetal:2022} → Andargachew et al. (2022)
```

It is possible at this point to observe that the `\citeright` command can also be used in the editor field of citation entries. For example, the editor field in the entry for [Girma Mengistu 2021](#) contains the following content:

`\citeright{Derib Ado}{Derib}}` and `\citeright{Almaz Wasse Gelagy}{Almaz}}` and  
Johannessen, Janne Bondi

Just as above, the editors here are distinguished by the separator `and` while those editors with specific formatting requirements are introduced with the `\citeright` command. Checking the list of references will show that each editor is listed appropriately according to its specification.

As before, entries that do not make use of the `\citeright` command can still be called with the usual `natbib` commands and will be printed and sorted appropriately.

```
\citet{FiengoLasnik:1972} → Fiengo and Lasnik 1972
\citep*{Chungetal:2011} → Chung, Ladusaw, and McCloskey (2011)
\citep{Chungetal:2011} → Chung et al. (2011)
```

## 5 Implementation

The package is implemented by adapting code provided in a [TeX–LaTeX StackExchange](https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/87168/natbib-cite-with-abbreviation) post by the user `egreg`. The original post can be accessed at:

<https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/87168/natbib-cite-with-abbreviation>

This solution makes use of tools that are provided by the `etoolbox` package, making this a required package.

The `citeright` package defines a conditional statement for defining the context of citation as either the list of references or the textual content of the document.

```
% Conditional to control citation context as the bibliography or elsewhere
\newif\ifinbibliography
\AtBeginDocument{\inbibliographyfalse}
\pretocmd{\thebibliography}{\inbibliographytrue}{-}{}
```

The `citeright` package also defines the two-place command `\citeright`. This command returns the first argument when called in the context of the list of references (the bibliographic citation) and otherwise returns the second argument (the in-text citation).

```
% Definition of \citeright{#1}{#2} command
\DeclareRobustCommand\citeright[2]{%
  \ifinbibliography #1%
  \else #2%
  \fi}
```

There are known conflicts between the `citeright` package and certain bibliography style (`.bst`) files. Future versions will attempt to implement wider compatibility.

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