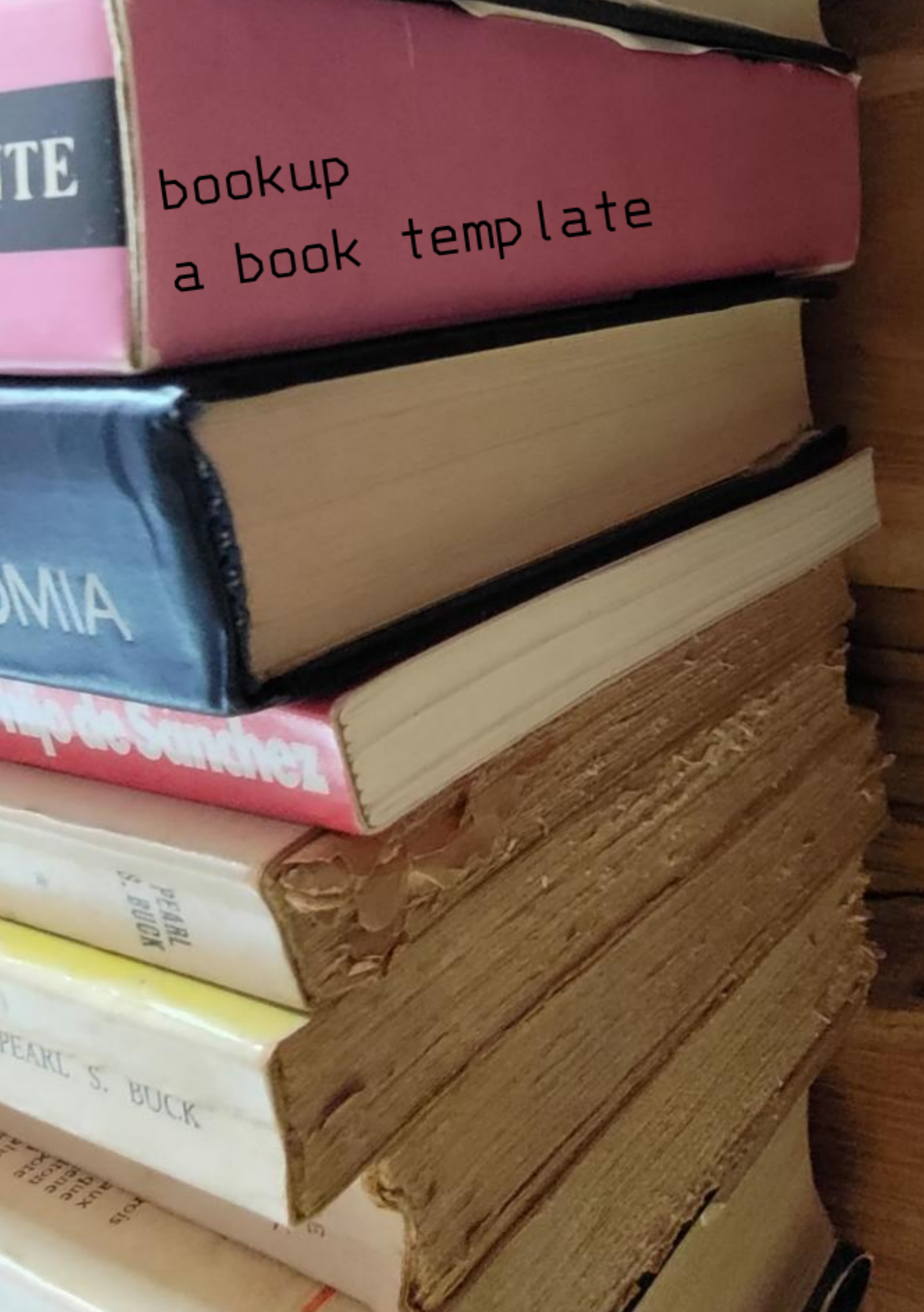
bookup
a book template
PEARL S. BUCK

Bookup

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Keywords: editing, design, book, authoring

Folder: someone's book shelve, by Silvio Rhatto.

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This is both a book template and a documentation in how to use it!

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1
Introduction

Bookup is a framework for *living books*, composed by a set of templates, scripts and workflows for book authoring in HTML, PDF and other formats[1].

[1] Rhatto (2025).

It's a modular software component based on Bookdown.

It was created to solve the problem of editing many books simultaneously: Bookup helps to keep an uniform scheme instead of having to implement and fix funcionalities across many repositories in parallel.

Bookup also allows for making these books publicly available as work-in-progress material ("living books"), as it fully integrates with Git tags for versioning, a change log to register major changes and RSS/ATOM feeds, so others can track down new book revisions.

Bookup makes book production similar to working with other codebases.

But Bookup is very opinionated. You can understand it as an specific setup of Bookdown and other software, plus conventions and heuristics tuned to a specific use case.

Bookup code is available at `https://0xacab.org/rhatto/bookup`.

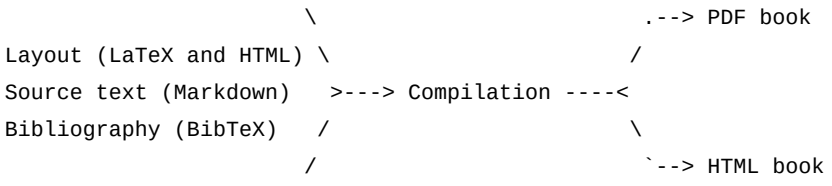
2
Features

Main Bookup features:

- Makes a book website (HTML format) already integrated with the printer and ebook-friendly version (PDF): the PDF is linked and embeded in the website.
- Builds a companion HTML notebook that can be shared along with the main book, allowing authors to keep additional notes, which is especially handy during book composition.
- Automatically archives old book versions based on Git tags during the build process.
- Automatic bibliography management with BibTeX: all `.bib` files recursivelly found in the project folder are made available during compilation.
- Adds the compilation metadata:
  - Version based on Git tag or commit.
  - Compilation date.
- Localization support: templates can be easily translated to other languages.
- RSS, Atom and Markdown changelogs.

3
Workflow

Bookup works through *compiling* files from source:



4
Folder structure

A Bookup project folder structure looks like this:

- `archive`: stores old book versions.
- `content`: the actual content:
  - `drafts`: you can leave here texts still being composed.
  - `sections`: here goes the material to be compiled in book format.
  - `notes`: keep texts here to be compiled as a notebook companion.
  - `slides`: keep the slides sources here.
- `site`: an optional website used as base; if that exists, the book will be place inside the `build/book` folder.
- `slides`: if this folder is available, it will be considered as the compiled slides folder and will be included in the `build/slides` folder.
- `build`: the compiled book (HTML, PDF and other formats):
  - `notes`: the compiled notebook.
  - `book`: the compiled book, if there's a `site` folder available, otherwise the book content will be placed in the toplevel `build` folder.
- `biblio`: bibliography (BibTeX).
- `images`: image folder.
- `vendor/bookup`: where the Bookup codebase actually resides:
  - `content`: Bookup documentation.
  - `vendor/{Fuse.js,}`: dependencies.
- `_changelog.yml`: to track changes in your book, used to build RSS and Atom feeds, as well as a ChangeLog in Markdown format.

5
Installation

Bookup installation procedure.

5.1 Vendorization

- Vendorization (bookup and bibliography repositories).

5.2 Symbolic links

- `_bookdown.yml`.

5.3 Required files

- `.gitignore`.
- `_common.yml`.
- `_book.yml`.
- `_notes.yml`.
- `_biblio.yml`.
- `_output.yml`.
- `Makefile`.
- `LICENSE`.
- `DISCLAIMER`.
- `images/cover.png`.
- `snippets/{contact,cover,keywords,project,url,volume,publisher,publisher-url}.txt`.
- `snippets/changes.md`.

5.4 Optional files

- `snippets/header.tex`.

Bibliography

Rhatto, Silvio. 2025. *Bookup*. Bookup. `https://bookup.fluxo.info`.