

## Cannot Know What's in Memory After a Reference

In other words,  
given only a `reference_t*`,  
can we safely cast to a subtype pointer?

**Absolutely not!**

Without additional information, we have  
**no way to know what's in memory  
after the `reference_t`.**

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## Separating the Bibliography by Type is Cumbersome

So ... keep a bibliography for each type?

**No. Separate lists are unattractive.**

Why bother to have a type hierarchy

- if we have to operate separately
- on every type
- for every operation?

**Instead, add dynamic type information.**

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## Record Actual Type in a New Field

```
struct reference_t {
    double_list_t link;
    char* author_list; a reference_t?
    char* title;
    int32_t year;
    int32_t type;
}; a series_t?
    a textbook_t?
    a conf_paper_t?
    a paper_t?
    a book_t?
    an arti_t?
```

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## Use `switch` to Handle Each Subtype Separately

Then, in `print_citation...`

```
void print_citation
    (reference_t* ref)
{
    switch (ref->type) {
        case TYPE_PAPER: // ...
            break;
        case TYPE_BOOK: // ...
            break;
        // ...
    }
}
```

Print in a distinct  
style for each  
subtype.

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