SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

General Submission Criteria

- All essays and book reviews submitted to the *Bulletin for Biblical Research* must conform to the guidelines of the ***The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*** (2nd ed.; 2014), which is readily available from bookstores and internet sellers.

- The journal uses a double anonymous review process; please remove all references to or clues about your identity as author(s) from the main text, footnotes, and document Properties.

- Tables, figures, appendixes, and photos must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.

- Submissions should be accompanied by an Abstract of up to 150 words to be entered on the first page of your manuscript and on the Editorial Manager submission page.

- Submit 3 - 10 key words.

- If an author does not yet have their PhD, s/he must have a letter of recommendation from their dissertation supervisor noting that the supervisor has read the article and approves of its submission for our peer review process.

- Authors are responsible for securing permissions and paying the required fees for the use of any material previously published elsewhere. Copies of permission letters should be sent to the Pennsylvania State University Press with the author's publication contract.

- Authors guarantee that the contribution does not infringe any copyright, violate any other property rights, or contain any scandalous, libelous, or unlawful matter.

- Authors guarantee that the contribution has not been published elsewhere and is not currently under consideration elsewhere.

Manuscript Format

- Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word files.

- If accepted, final papers should be submitted in a Microsoft Word file as well as in a ".pdf" file and should include abstract and key words in the format found in published BBR articles. Manuscripts that fail to conform to these guidelines will be returned to the author for revision.

- All text, including notes and works cited, should be formatted in Times New Roman font, size 12 point, with double line spacing throughout, and include page numbers.

- Paragraph indentation by tab only, not space bar or paragraph indent function.

- Number pages at the bottom right.

- No function of "Track Changes" should be in use. Please check your document for any remaining tracked changes, hidden text, or comments, and delete them.

- Subheads may be placed in italic to distinguish them from a full heading.

- Epigraphs and extracts from other texts should be set off with line spacing—do not format an indent. On the line after an epigraph, be sure to include the name of the author and the source; do not use an endnote.

- Manuscripts must be submitted with all characters/glyphs (diacritics, Greek, Hebrew, etc.) encoded according to the Unicode standard; that is, Unicode fonts must be used throughout.

- Tables / figures / appendixes:

  o Must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
  o An indication in the text for placement should be given, for example:
    ▪ <Table 1>, <Figure 2>, <Appendix 1>
  o Figures must be submitted in the original format at the size the author would like them to appear.
  o Tables should be submitted in MS-Word. All tables may be included in one document.
  o Charts and graphs should be submitted in MS-Excel or its original source file.
  o Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg files at 300 dpi at the size the images are to appear.
  o If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.
  o Please provide captions for provided images and **alt text** for images and charts, tables, and graphs. Alt text describes image and chart content for accessibility for those using

screenreaders. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on p. 7** for more information on writing alt text.

Style

- Use single spaces flowing periods between sentences throughout the manuscript.
- Ellipses:
  - When omitting part of a sentence with an ellipsis, use three periods with a space before, in between and after (" . . . and . . . ").
  - If the end of a sentence is omitted, use four periods, the first immediately following the text, and the following spaced as above.
  - Use a four-dot ellipsis if an entire sentence is omitted.
  - Do not use ellipses at the beginning or end of a quotation.
- Citations:
  - Manuscripts must consistently conform to Patrick H. Alexander, et al., eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (2nd ed.; SBL, 2014). Examples of reference citations for journal articles and books are shown below. For more examples, please check the *SBL Handbook.*
  - References citing source materials must include, in order, the following information:
    - Journal: First author's last name, first name, and Second author's first name last name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* volume no. (Year of publication): page numbers.
      - For example: Bischoff, G., S. Maertens, and W. Grimme. "Airline Pricing Strategies Versus Consumer Rights." *Transportation Journal* 14 (2011): 232–50.
    - Books: Author's last name, first name. *Title of Book*. Name of publisher. Year of publication.
      - For example: Geary, S., and K. Vitasek. *Performance-Based Logistics: A Contractor's Guide to Life Cycle Product Support Management.* Supply Chain Visions, 2008.
      - For example: Benn, Gottfried. *Primal Vision*. Ed. E. B. Ashton; trans. M. Hamburger. Bodley Head, 1961.

- All subsequent references should follow the *SBL* short title format: Author, date, page number.
    - For example: Savage and Watson, 1995, 2.
  - Manuscript references: When referring to manuscripts, the first citation must include the full manuscript information: City, Library, manuscript number, folio number.
  - For other types of citations, please check the *SBL Manual*.
- Translations
  - Include translations for all quotations in languages other than English. Translations for individual foreign words, run-in quotes, and block quotes should be in parenthesis.

Book reviews

Review articles must be headed by the following information: Name of author or editor. *Title of Publication*. Publisher, date of publication. Number of pages; ISBN number (if available in both hardcover and paperback, indicate numbers for both). Selling price(s). Example:

Mark S. Smith. *Where the Gods Are: Spatial Dimensions of Anthropomorphism in the Biblical World*. Yale University Press, 2016. Pp. xix + 221. ISBN 978-0-300-20922-8. $75.00 cloth.

- The text of the review must be double-spaced.
- The reviewer's name and employer affiliation must be indicated at the end of the review.

Notes for writing an abstract

An abstract allows readers to quickly and accurately identify the basic content of your article. It is an invaluable research guide because it is most often what potential readers use to decide whether your article is relevant for them.

Abstracts at a Glance:
- Condensed version of the article
- Highlights the major points covered
- Concisely describes the content and scope of the work
- Helps readers decide whether to read the entire article
- Provides readers with a preview of research
- Contains relevant keywords for searching and indexing

Many online databases, such as the Scholarly Publishing Collective, use both abstracts and full-text options to index articles. Therefore, abstracts should contain keywords and phrases that allow for easy and precise searching. Incorporating keywords into the abstract that a potential researcher would search for emphasizes the central topics of the work and gives prospective readers enough information to make an informed judgment about the applicability of the work.

Writing Tips

An abstract is a self-contained piece of writing that can be understood independently from the article. It must be kept brief (approximately 150–200 words) and may include these elements:

- Statement of the problem and objectives (gap in literature on this topic)
- Thesis statement or question
- Summary of employed methods, viewpoint, or research approach
- Conclusion(s) and/or implications of research

Keep in Mind . . . Depending on your rhetorical strategy, an abstract need not include your entire conclusion, as you may want to reserve this for readers of your article. The abstract should, however, clearly and concisely indicate to the reader what questions will be answered in the article. You want to cultivate anticipation, so the reader knows exactly what to expect when reading the article—if not the precise details of your conclusion(s).

Do

- Include your thesis, usually in the first 1–2 sentences
- Provide background information placing your work in the larger body of literature
- Use the same chronological structure as the original work
- Follow lucid and concise prose
- Explain the purpose of the work and methods used
- Use keywords and phrases that quickly identify the content and focus of the work
- Mimic the type and style of language found in the original article, including technical language

Do not

- Refer extensively to other works
- Add information not contained in the original work
- Define terms
- Repeat or rephrase your title
- Use first-person pronouns in abstract text (e.g., instead of "In this article, I outline," use "This article outlines")

Examples

The abstract should begin with a clear sense of the research question and thesis.

"While some recent scholars claim to have refuted the relevance of stylometric analysis for Plato studies, new technological advances reopen the question. In this article the author uses two recently completed stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus to show that advanced artificial intelligence techniques such as genetic algorithms can serve as a foundation for chronological assertions."

It is often useful to identify the theoretical or methodological school used to approach the thesis question and/or to position the article within an ongoing debate. This helps readers situate the article in the larger conversations of your discipline.

"The debate among Watts, Koupria, and Brecker over the reliability of stylometry (2009) suggests that . . ." or "Using the definition of style proposed by Markos (2014), this article argues that . . ."

Finally, briefly state the conclusion.

"Through analyzing the results of Watts and Koupria's genetic algorithmic stylometry, this article demonstrates that they provide solutions to roadblocks previously identified in stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus for the purposes of developing a reliable chronology. These solutions . . ."

PSU PRESS ALT TEXT GUIDE

Penn State University Press is committed to making its publications accessible to the widest audience possible. The inclusion of alternative text (or "alt text") will allow those using assistive technology to access the images and other graphic elements (such as tables, charts, graphs, and maps) in the digital formats of articles. Authors are encouraged to submit alt text (and where necessary, extended descriptions) for all images and other graphic elements in their manuscripts.
Note: If sufficient information about the image is included in the caption or the text, alt text may be unnecessary.

General Guidelines for Composing Alt Text
Alt text should clearly and concisely describe the content and function of an image. Please limit the description to the most important elements of the image. In most cases a one- or two-sentence description, consisting of no more than 250 characters (not including spaces), should suffice. If more than 250 characters are needed to convey the content and function of an image, please provide an extended description in addition to the alt text.

Extended Description
For more complex images and graphic elements (such as graphs, charts, and maps), please provide an extended description with the necessary information. Any visible English text in an image must be transcribed in the extended description. Please note that images requiring an extended description must also have the shorter alt text.

Formatting and Submitting Alt Text
Alt text should be submitted along with captions. The alt text for a figure should be set on a new line after the caption and should be preceded by <alt text>. An extended description, when necessary, should be treated in a similar manner, preceded by <extended description>. When drafting and formatting alt text, you should:
- capitalize acronyms so assistive technology reads them as separate letters and not words (e.g., US versus us);
- avoid complex symbols, such as brackets, quotation marks, dashes, ellipses, and mathematical symbols, as assistive technology does not treat all of these symbols consistently;
- write in complete sentences but avoid overly complex sentence structures.

For examples as well as additional information and resources, see [here](#).

Final Submission Checklist

- All authors and coauthors are listed on the transmittal form.
- At least one author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
    - E-mail address
    - Affiliation
    - ORCID number has been provided (if you have one)
- Necessary funding statements have been provided, including funding organization name, the organization's DOI, and grant numbers if you have them.
- All necessary files have been uploaded. Submission must include:
    - Abstracts (150–200 words)
    - Keywords (3–5)
    - Separate image files (tiff, jpg, include relevant captions, **not inserted into Word file**)
    - All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
    - Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided.
- Journal policies detailed in submission guidelines have been reviewed.
- Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- Manuscript and Notes and/or Works Cited sections follow *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies* (2nd ed.; SBL, 2014) for formatting and language.
- All references mentioned in the Works Cited list are cited in the text.
- You have correctly formatted magazine citations and scholarly journal article citations. Example **magazine citation**: Mead, Rebecca. "The Prophet of Dystopia." *New Yorker*, April 17, 2017. Example **journal article citation**: Gunning, Tom. "The Cinema of Attraction: Early Film, Its Spectator, and the Avant-Garde." *Wide Angle: A Film Quarterly of Theory, Criticism, and Practice* 8, no. 3–4 (1986): 63–79.
- If you only have 1 note or 1 work cited, the sections are called Note or Work Cited (not Notes or Works Cited).
- If your article includes notes, you have used shortened citations instead of ibid (See CMOS 18, 13.37).
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet and for image use). Please provide permission documentation to journal editor and/or PSU Press for images or long text excerpts under copyright.
- All figures have been provided as individual image files (**not inserted into Microsoft Word**) and are 300 dpi at a sizing of at least 2.25 inches in width.
- **Alt text has been provided** for all supplied images, tables, and charts. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** and reference more information here.