

Dickens Studies Annual: Essays on Victorian Fiction

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

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Description

Founded in 1970, *Dickens Studies Annual: Essays on Victorian Fiction* invites submissions on all aspects of Dickens's life and career and also welcomes essays on other Victorian writers of fiction and on the history and aesthetics of Victorian fiction. The editors seek outstanding essays of the most diverse kinds, those employing innovative as well as traditional approaches. DSA has a long history of publishing articles on a range of Victorian authors as well as review essays and occasional articles exceeding typical journal length.

Submission

If you would like to submit an article, please visit <http://editorialmanager.com/dsa> and create an author profile. The online system will guide you through the steps to upload your article from submission to the editorial office.

- All manuscripts should be double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, including references.
- Manuscripts should conform to the latest MLA Handbook guidelines (currently 9th ed.), with parenthetical documentation, notes, and a list of works cited.
- As the journal uses a double-anonymous review process, please remove all references or clues to your identity as author(s) from the main text and notes.
- Submissions should include a 150- to 200-word abstract.
- Microsoft Word files are preferred though not required for submission. The preferred editions for citations from Dickens's works are the Clarendon and the Norton Critical when available, otherwise the Oxford Illustrated or the Penguin.

Please refer to Additional Submission Guidelines further down the page.

Questions or comments may be addressed to dickensstudiesannual@press.psu.edu or to The Editors, Dickens Studies Annual, Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016-4309.

Additional Submission Guidelines

The following additional details may be helpful.

1. **Review Time:** The editors try to make the waiting time as brief as possible, targeting three months and typically reaching a final decision within four months of receipt.
2. **Length:** Most of the articles accepted for publication in Dickens Studies Annual are approximately 5,000 to 15,000 words, 20 to 60 pages long in typescript. The editors are receptive to longer or shorter studies.
3. **Submission Policy:** The editors do not wish to be sent submissions that are also being considered by other journals.
4. **Format and Style:** Please prepare your manuscript in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri type, double-spaced with 1”-margins. DSA uses American rather than British spelling and punctuation. We silently make stylistic changes when necessary.

Paraphrased citations from novels should include after the page number(s) a semicolon followed by “ch.” and the chapter number or, in citing a novel that is divided into “books” (like *Our Mutual Friend*), a semicolon followed by “bk.” and the book number, a comma, and “ch.” and the chapter number: for example, “(373; bk. 2, ch.14).” However, with an author like Wilkie Collins, who often employs unusual organizing methods, authors of submissions are asked to provide only the page number(s), since giving more information would lead to cumbersome citations. (Citations to *The Moonstone*, for instance, would call for “Period” and “Narrative” designations, as well as chapter and page numbers.)

In Works Cited listings, Dickens Studies Annual considers the concluding designation “Print” unnecessary and distracting. (Entries in the Works Cited section should clearly indicate when an online source has been used.) In addition, because ellipsis marks (or ellipsis points) within a quoted passage are in most instances intended to indicate an omission made by the writer doing the quoting, DSA does not enclose such marks in square brackets. In the relatively rare cases in which the ellipsis marks were provided by the original author of the passage and intended to designate a pause, this fact can be revealed in the parenthetical documentation accompanying the quoted passage: “(34; ch. 2; ellipsis in original).”

5. **Illustrations:** Dickens Studies Annual publishes black-and-white illustrations and charts that support or enhance an essay. Digital images should be submitted as either .tiff or .jpeg files (**not inserted into MS Word**) at 300 dpi at at least 2.25 inches in width.
6. **Permissions:** If any images are taken from sources still under copyright, you have to obtain written permission and forward it to us.
7. **Figure captions and alt text:** Please provide captions for provided figures and **alt text** for images and charts, tables, and graphs. Alt text describes image content to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide on p. 5** for more information on writing alt text.
8. **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 150–250 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. This article 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.

“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 (MLA)

- All authors and coauthors are listed in the submissions interface.
- 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** and **journal style guide has been followed**.
- Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- Manuscript and Notes and or Works Cited sections follow the most recent *MLA Style* guide (9th edition) for formatting and language.
- You have used endnotes and not footnotes.
- All references mentioned in the Works Cited list are cited in the text.
- If you only have 1 note or 1 work cited, the sections are called Note or Work Cited (not Notes or Works Cited).
- 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 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 wide.
- **Alt text has been provided** to describe all supplied images, tables, and charts. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** in submission guidelines and reference more information [here](#).
- You have saved your article in a docx file format, not as a PDF or other file format.