

Methodist History
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

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General Submission Criteria

- 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 and footnotes.
- Charts and illustrations should be submitted in digital form as separate files / documents from the article text. Authors are responsible for obtaining permissions.
- Figures must be submitted in high-resolution .jpg or .tiff files (300 dpi) at least 2.25 inches in width.
- Authors provide **alt text** to describe image content (for figures, charts, and tables) to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. Please see the **PSU Press Alt text Guide on page 6** for more on writing alt text.
- Submissions must be accompanied by an Abstract of up to 150 words.
- Submit 1–5 key words.
- 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.
- All text, including notes and works cited should be formatted in Times New Roman font, size 12 point, with double line spacing throughout.
- Length: 5,000 to 6,000 words including notes.
- 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.
- 'Style' field should read 'Normal' throughout text.
- Use 'main headings' and 'subheadings'.
- Subheads may be placed in italic to distinguish them from a full heading.
- No automated lists – all numbers or bullets must be keyed.
- When omitting part of a sentence with an ellipsis, use three periods with a space before, in between and after (" . . . and . . . "). When using a four period ellipsis, the first is a true period, and the following should be spaced as above.
- 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.
- Use single spaces following periods between sentences throughout the manuscript.
- All footnotes to be converted to endnotes, double spaced, and rendered in 12-point Times Roman.
- Tables / figures / appendixes:
 - Must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
 - An indication in the text for placement should be given, for example:
 - <Table 1>, <Figure 2>, <Appendix 1>
 - Figures must be submitted in .jpg or .tiff files at 300 dpi at least 2.25 inches in width.
 - Tables should be submitted in MS-Word. All tables may be included in one document.

- Charts and graphs should be submitted in MS-Excel or its original source file.
- If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grey scale.
- Please provide **alt text** for all tables, figures, charts, and graphics. For more information on writing alt text, see the **PSU Press Alt text Guide on page 6**. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word files.

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 *The Chicago Manual of Style, 18th Edition (CMS)*. Please check *CMS* for examples.
 - Books and journals in the text: Reference citations in the article must be enclosed in parentheses and listed chronologically.
 - In the case of works by multiple authors, please list up to three authors; for more than three, please list only the first author, followed by et al., as exemplified below:
 - (Poist and Alen 1999; Murphy 2000, 48–51; Pollan, Ward, and Burns 2007; Barnes et al. 2010).
 - All subsequent references should follow the *CMS* 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 *CMS*.

Abstracts

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 100–150 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

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.

“The debate among Watts, Koupria, and Brecker over the reliability of stylometry (PMLA 126.5, Fall 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.

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](#).

Submission Checklist

- 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 (100–150 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 most recent *Chicago Manual of Style* (18th edition) for formatting and language.
 - 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).
 - If your article includes notes, you have used shorten citations instead of ibid (See *CMS* 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 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 provided for all supplied images, tables, and charts. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** in submission guidelines and reference more information [here](#).