

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

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Resources for American Literary Study is a scholarly periodical devoted to archival discovery and bibliographical analysis. Its subject area is the full range of works of American literature. Typical contributions include newly discovered letters and documents, checklists of primary and/or secondary writings about American authors, and biographical and compositional studies. Regular features include installments of the series “Prospects for the Study of American Literature” and a rich selection of reviews and review essays. The targeted audience of the journal is a scholarly one, from the graduate student to the senior professor.

General Submission Criteria

- All manuscripts should be in English.
- An author should not include his or her name on the manuscript; all internal identifying references and notes should be masked for the review process.
- Tables, figures, appendixes, and photos must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
- Authors need to 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 7** for further information on writing alt text.
- Submissions should be accompanied by an Abstract of up to 200 words on the first page of your manuscript.
- Submit 3 - 5 key words selected carefully to allow for maximum discoverability.
- Internal citation should be used wherever possible.
- Necessary notes should be numbered consecutively throughout the article, and note numbers in endnotes must correspond to the note numbers in the text.
- A “Works Cited” list must accompany all manuscripts.

- Please number the pages consecutively.
- 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.
- 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.
- Number pages at the bottom right. Number pages consecutively.
- 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 within the text must be bolded to distinguish them from a full heading and should not have any punctuation at the end.
- Paragraph indentation by tab only, not space bar or paragraph indent function.
- 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 New 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>, <Image 1>
 - Figures must be submitted in the original format at the size the author would like them to appear.
 - In the text, do not use the word “see” before directing the reader to any figures or tables.

- Charts and graphs should be submitted in MS-Excel or its original source file.
- Digital images should be submitted in either .tiff or .jpeg files at 300 dpi with at least 2.25 inches in width.
- If possible, all digital files (photos) should be grayscale.
- Authors need to 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 7** for more on writing alt text.

Style

- MLA style must be used for citations and notes. Please refer to the 9th edition of the *MLA Handbook*. Note: MLA format is double spaced with a hanging indent.
 - **Endnotes**
 - Endnotes are used to elaborate on information presented in the article text, e.g. bibliographic information.
 - Endnotes must be numbered consecutively throughout the article and be indicated by the superscript numerals following the punctuation.
 - The endnote numbers at the end of the article should not be superscript text and should be a number followed by a period.
 - All endnote entries must be double-spaced at the end of the article and must appear before references.
 - Automatic formatting is acceptable in endnotes.
 - **Works Cited:**
 - Please use parenthetical citations that reference a works cited list; notes and works cited should appear at the end of the text.
 - Submissions to the reviews section do not need a works cited list.
 - **Titles:** Italicize the titles of books, plays, and periodicals; short stories and poems are to be put in quotation marks.
 - For a multi-volume work, always state the complete number of volumes.
 - To indicate page and volume number, a brief reference should be inserted, within parentheses, in the text itself. Use Arabic numbers, not Roman numerals, when giving volume numbers, followed by a colon and page numbers.

- Please note that “Ibid.” and “op. cit.” are not to be used, nor are the abbreviations “p.” or “pp.”
- **Capitalization, Abbreviation, and Punctuation**
 - The MLA guidelines specify using title case capitalization - capitalize the first words, the last words, and all principal words, including those that follow hyphens in compound terms.
 - Use lowercase abbreviations to identify the parts of a work (e.g., *vol.* for *volume*, *ed.* for *editor*) except when these designations follow a period.
 - Whenever possible, use the appropriate abbreviated forms for the publisher's name (*Random* instead of *Random House*).
 - Separate author, title, and publication information with a period followed by one space.
 - Use a colon and a space to separate a title from a subtitle. Include other kinds of punctuation only if it is part of the title.
 - Use quotation marks to indicate the titles of short works appearing within larger works (e.g., "Memories of Childhood." *American Short Stories*). Also use quotation marks for titles of unpublished works and songs.

Book Reviews / Digital Resources:

Persons interested in reviewing books or digital resources should contact the Review Editor, MaryEllen Higgins at mxh68@psu.edu. Review copies of scholarly books based on archival research in American literature and invitations to review digital American literary resources should also be sent to the Review Editor.

Writing an Abstract

An abstract is a self-contained piece of writing that can be understood independently from the article. It must be kept brief 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
- Use third-person in abstracts. So, instead of, “In this article, I analyze,” use: “This article analyzes.”
- 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 (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 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.