



MHR Types of Submissions

The MHR is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, doctoral student-led journal established to showcase outstanding research and writing in the Arts and Humanities, produced by students in various stages of their university careers. We also accept submissions from early-career researchers within 3 years of receiving their doctorate.

We welcome submissions from everywhere but we are particularly keen to publish more from beyond the UK and Europe.

Articles

We accept submissions of articles based on original research, essays and dissertations. Exceptionally, we accept particularly high-quality undergraduate essays and dissertations.

Articles will, usually, relate to history and the broader field of academic humanities. We particularly encourage interdisciplinarity. They will be situated in the secondary scholarship, link an argument to the wider literature, and will engage with primary sources. Primary material (including printed editions, transcriptions, and translations) will inform your argument and be used critically as evidence. Historiographical essays or those which introduce, explore, or 'sound-out' a topic are often not best suited to be turned into an article, although we do accept historiographical summaries in a different format, along with conversational pieces (see below).

If your article is based on an essay or dissertation, it will likely need to be adjusted or redrafted to form an acceptable article. These changes can include:

- Ensuring that your essay does not just answer a question but makes a point.
- Splitting into sections with headings, and potentially removing sections
- Removing the chapter structure of a dissertation
- Cutting down a dissertation to fit the word limit
- Taking on feedback from the marker
- Extending the essay or bringing in further research

The word limit is 4,000-9,000 words, although around 7,000 words is the ideal. Your article can be much shorter, but submissions below around 4,000 words often fail to critically engage with the sources and argument in enough detail. Longer articles may be considered but the author would have demonstrated considerable justification to exceed 9,000 words.

Conversational pieces

These are short, original pieces which connect the academic humanities with current events.



The aim of these pieces is to entertain and inform, attracting a broader readership than academic papers. They are still academically informed but allow room for journalistic comment. We encourage different perspectives on current events in their historical context.

The upper word limit for these submissions is 2,000 words.

Historiographical summaries

These are summaries of main historiographical topics or broad surveys of subjects, periods, or individuals, designed as resources for undergraduate students.

Their subject matter should be that typically studied at an undergraduate level. These summaries will be useful introductions for undergraduates beginning a new topic or module, which can then be referred to throughout their studies, or act as a starting point for more detailed research. They will be based on the literature found in typical reading lists for undergraduate courses.

Such submissions will draw on and summarise established arguments and information and are not required to demonstrate original argument.

The word limit is 5,000-8,000 words.

Book reviews

We welcome submissions and suggestions of historically-oriented books published in the last five years. Ideally reviewers will contact the MHR in advance to confirm that these are appropriate. These summarise and evaluate a recently published book, looking at the argument, evidence, contents, and strengths and weaknesses.

The MHR also runs a pool of reviewers. Members are required to submit up to two book reviews per year. They are encouraged to choose a title to review, or may be assigned one, from a centralised list of titles. Reviewers may leave the pool at any time but are requested to give notice when they do so.

All book reviews will undergo the two to three stage peer review process: authors will receive comments from assistant editors with relevant subject area expertise.

The preferred word limit is around 1,500 words, but longer pieces will be accepted at the discretion of the Lead Editor for book reviews and other research outputs.

Database and web archive reviews

In addition to book reviews, the MHR also accepts reviews of online archives and databases. Details of these will be posted on the website and on social media. These must be agreed by the lead editor for book reviews and other research outputs in advance.



The word limit is around 1,000 words.

Conference papers

These are articles based on papers presented at postgraduate or early career conferences.

These are organised as part of a collaboration between the conference convenors and the MHR, where the journal will peer review and publish any acceptable papers submitted after the conference. Although there is an agreement between the conference and MHR, to maintain our high quality of work published, we will not accept substandard submissions.

The papers should be edited much like articles (see above). If you have a paper based on a different conference, you are welcome to edit it and submit it to the MHR as an article.

The word limit is around 1,500 words.

If you are unsure about the appropriateness of *any* submission, please speak to the Editor-in-Chief rather than reject it on first appraisal.