

Overland Journal Writer's Guidelines

Overland Journal

P.O. Box 265 Tracy, CA 95378

The *Overland Journal* is always in need of articles, and all articles received are appreciated and given careful consideration. There are three general requirements for an *OJ* article:

(1) **TOPIC:** The focus of an article must be on some aspect of the emigrant trails or the overland migration in western America;

(2) **ORIGINAL RESEARCH:** An article must reflect some form of original research or interpretation. It should not be just a compilation of information from other articles or books (i.e. secondary sources). Original research would include any one or combination of the following:

a) articles based substantially on primary written source material, both published and unpublished, such as diaries, journals, reminiscences, letters, contemporary newspapers, official reports, and other archival materials. It is understood that articles of original research often make use of and have reference to secondary sources, but the main supporting evidence should draw from primary sources. An exception to this includes articles that interpret, evaluate, or analyze secondary sources and published primary sources of published emigrant trail literature;

b) articles that are based on non-literary evidence drawn from areas of archaeology, technology, geology, geography, cartography, field research, statistics or personal interviews;

c) articles that are themselves primary sources and are supported by primary and secondary sources, such as an unpublished emigrant diary edited and annotated especially for the *Overland Journal*.

The requirements for documentation and original research are not to imply that the *OJ* is a scholarly publication primarily written for academic specialists. Quite the contrary, it is a history magazine primarily designed for the lay reader who is interested in the western overland trails and the migration experience. Nevertheless, even with this lay emphasis, there is a need for original ideas and interpretations that are convincingly documented.

Articles submitted for consideration must not be submitted to other publications concurrently;

(3) **DOCUMENTATION:** All significant evidence, references, assertions, data, and facts not commonly known must be well documented. The appropriate form of documentation will depend on the type of evidence used.

The *OJ* uses footnotes rather than endnotes. Text and notes are based for the most part on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition. However, the best reference to use when preparing a manuscript is a copy of the *OJ* itself. If you do not have a copy, please write to OCTA headquarters to obtain a sample copy.

Notes should include author of publication cited, editor if appropriate, exact title (including unusual spelling, capitalization, or punctuation), city and state of publisher, publisher's name, date of publication *of the source you used* and page numbers of text to which you have referred.

When quoting from a diary, please give the present location of the diary and whether it has been published. If it has been published, all of the above information about annotation of books would apply.

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts, both text and footnotes, should be typed and double-spaced and average approximately 20 to 35 double-spaced pages in length, or a word count of between 5,000 and 12,000 words. We also welcome shorter submissions for special use. Lengthy studies of more than 35 to 40 pages will be considered for serialization, but editorial contraction or re-writing to a more focused subject is preferred. We also ask authors to give attention to illustration materials and maps to accompany their articles, and advise the editor regarding these at the time of submission. Sending photocopies of materials with the article is helpful.

When directly quoting from another source, *please* triple check for exact accuracy of spelling, wording, and punctuation as the author wrote it. Some sources are difficult for us to obtain for verification. This is of utmost importance when quoting from a diary. When a diarist has not bothered with punctuation, we use four spaces to indicate we think this is the end of a sentence. We do not improve upon spelling, punctuation, etc.

COMPUTER DISKETTES OR USB FLASH DRIVES

We prefer receiving both a printed copy and an electronic file in Microsoft Word (PC or Mac), but WordPerfect is acceptable also. The electronic file can be sent on a CD or as an email attachment to the editor. Please label the disk with the word processing program used, short title of article, and your name and address. The mailing address for sending the printed copy is given at the end of this page

When submitting manuscripts in electronic format, please keep the copy as clean of codes, hidden or shown, as possible. Please do not embed photographs, maps, or other illustrations in the text version (see below for how to send them). Avoid any manual or automatic hyphenation of words. Do not use the paragraph return to break lines, only to end paragraphs.

If illustrations are to be sent in electronic format, first please contact the editor regarding scanning requirements, as they are specific. Also please do not send original photos or artwork until you are contacted by the editor for these. If your article is accepted for publication, all original illustrations and prints will be returned after the article is published.

Please include with your manuscript a brief biography, a few sentences about yourself that will accompany your article.

SUBMISSION OF YOUR MATERIALS If you are interested in contributing to the *Overland Journal*, please send articles to:

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