

How to Write a *JMLA* Book Review

The book review section provides critical appraisals of new books and serials that will assist readers of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* in selecting works for their own professional use or for addition to their library collections. Reviewers are chosen based on their knowledge of and experience in areas relevant to the library and information world.

Content

Reviews should contain a brief overview of scope and content, so that readers can determine the book's interest to them. Reviewing each chapter of a book in detail is not necessary. For a research or historical work, please comment on its significance in relation to the focus area as well as to the field as a whole. For an applied or descriptive work, be sure to comment on its usefulness. In both cases, compare the book with similar publications in its area and indicate its potential audiences, where relevant. When quoting the text, indicate page numbers in parentheses at the end of the quote. See [Reference Style](#) in the *JMLA* Author Guidelines and [References](#) in the MLA Style Manual for further information.

Reviews must be submitted as an email attachment. Reviews should be double-spaced and normally should not exceed two to three pages in length (four pages is the maximum). Reviews exceeding four pages, double-spaced, eleven-point type may be edited for length. The number of photos, figures, illustrations, and tables is limited to one per review. Detailed information about requirements for figures can be found in the [JMLA Author Guidelines](#).

The following elements must be included in the bibliographic information at the beginning of the review:

- Author (last name, first name and/or initials)
- Title (bold)
- "Edited by," with name(s) (not inverted)
- Edition
- Place of publication
- Publisher
- Date
- Series title (in parentheses)
- Number of pages
- Price
- ISBN

Examples:

- Flaherty, Mary Grace. **The Library Staff Development Handbook**. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield; 2017. 154 p. \$43.00. ISBN: 978-1-4422-7036-7.

- **Developing Librarian Competencies for the Digital Age.** Edited by Jeffrey G. Coghill, AHIP, and Roger G. Russell Jr. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Medical Library Association; 2017. 180 p. \$41.00. ISBN: 978-1-4422-6444-1.

If the book is printed on acid-free or alkaline paper, please add the infinity symbol at the end of the citation.

At the end of the review, include:

- reviewer's full name
- abbreviations of any advanced academic degrees, professional degrees, or certifications (e.g., MLS, PhD, MD, RN, AHIP)
- email address
- institutional affiliation, city, and state

Examples:

- *Richard Nollan, email@ut.edu, Library of the Health Sciences, University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN*
- *Carolyn M. Brown, brown@emory.edu, Health Sciences Center Library, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA*

Reviewers will find helpful suggestions in chapter 10, "The Book Review," of *Why Not Say It Clearly: A Guide to Scientific Writing* by Lester King (Little, Brown, 1978), and chapter 7, "Editorial Review of Manuscripts," of the *CBE Style Manual*, fifth edition (Council of Biology Editors, 1983).

The editor may make minor editorial changes if these will not affect the reviewer's meaning and will discuss substantive changes with reviewers.

Please refer to the [JMLA Author Guidelines](#) and the [MLA Style Manual](#) for further information and guidance.

Submission of Reviews

Deadlines are based on the production schedule for the *JMLA*, and adherence to them is necessary to ensure timely publication of your review.

Please upload your review to the [JMLA online system](#). You may send the review directly to the book review editor:

[Melanie J. Norton](#)

Book Review Editor

Journal of the Medical Library Association

Please note that reviews not adhering to *JMLA* guidelines—including word count, reference style, and inclusion of the copyright and disclosure forms—will be returned to the submitting authors.

Submission of Books for Review

Please submit items for review to MLA headquarters at 225 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 650, Chicago, IL 60606.