Information for Contributors

The Journal of American Folklife (JAF), the quarterly journal of the American Folklife Society since the Society's founding in 1888, publishes scholarly articles, perspective pieces, featured and reviewed project essays, and book reviews directed to a wide professional audience.

The content of the Journal reflects a wide range of topics and points of view. As the flagship publication of the Society, the Journal reflects concerns of members in both academic and public spheres, and it publishes materials on folklore and from folklorists anywhere in the world. In its commitment to inclusion, equity, and social justice, the Journal invites contributions that critically engage topics associated with race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, ability, religion, citizenship. Content is grounded in past and current folklore scholarship, and is based on recognized disciplinary methods. Articles present significant research findings and theoretical analyses from the disciplinary perspective of folklore.

Article manuscripts should be submitted according to the guidelines outlined below and on the JAF website https://americanfolkloresociety.org/journal/. Submissions are acknowledged on receipt and are evaluated first by the JAF editorial staff, and then, if found appropriate for the journal, are sent for “double blind” review to two qualified referees. Outside reviews may take anywhere from a few weeks to several months to be completed. Authors are notified as soon as a decision has been made on whether to accept or reject a manuscript. Acceptance may be either outright or contingent on the completion of recommended changes. Rejection may be outright or with the possibility of revision and resubmission for a new evaluation. The editors reserve the right to reject or return for revision any material submitted, on the grounds of inappropriate subject matter, quality, or length. Submitted manuscripts should not have been published elsewhere and must not be under concurrent consideration by any other journal.

Book Reviews and Featured and Reviewed Project essays are generally requested by the review editors, but the editors welcome queries from anyone concerned with particular areas of folklore research or who are willing to review projects based in their particular expertise. Colleagues who wish to write an obituary should contact the editors.

Please see the Journal’s website for guidelines for article submission: https://americanfolkloresociety.org/journal/submissions/. Long Essay manuscripts are typically 8,000–14,000 words, and Short Essays are 3,000–5000 words, inclusive of abstract, notes, and bibliography. See the website for guidelines for other types of articles. Potential authors should submit a brief summary through the online submission system found here: https://jaf.press.scholastica.com/. Manuscripts should be submitted in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format (rtf). Digital images must be of sufficient quality for print reproduction. TIFF files are preferred and encouraged for optimal print reproduction, but we may accept JPG, GIF, or EPS. Resolution must be at least 300 dots per inch (DPI). Line drawings, maps, and tables should be submitted in black-and-white at a resolution of 1200 DPI. Small files may be submitted as attachments; contact the editors regarding the submission of larger files. Permissions for all photos and/or other supplemental materials are the responsibility of the author. Permission must be secured before publication can proceed. No supplemental files need be submitted until the editors have indicated acceptance of the manuscript. For questions or to submit a submission as an email attachment, please contact the editors at jaf.editors@gmail.com.

The Journal follows the 17th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017, also available online). Close examination of the most current issue of JAF provides a helpful model for correct JAF style and form. For spelling, refer to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (1986) or the latest edition of its abridgment, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. If two or more spellings are given, use the first. In all quotations from the printed text, the actual spelling in the original is used. Authors should use gender-inclusive language.