Information for Contributors

Journal of American Folklore, the quarterly journal of the American Folklore Society since the society’s founding in 1888, publishes scholarly articles, essays, notes, and commentaries directed to a wide audience, as well as separate sections devoted to reviews of books, exhibitions and events, sound recordings, films and videotapes, and obituaries. The contents of the journal reflect a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations. Articles present significant research findings and theoretical analyses from folklore and related fields. Essays are interpretive, speculative, or polemic. Notes are narrower in scope and focus on a single, often provocative, issue of definition, interpretation, or amplification. Commentaries briefly address topics raised in earlier articles. The views expressed in the journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the society or its officers.

Article manuscripts are acknowledged on receipt and are generally evaluated by the editor and by two anonymous referees. The review process may take only a few weeks but sometimes takes several months. Authors are notified as soon as a decision has been made to accept or reject a manuscript; rejection may be outright or with the possibility of revision and resubmission for a new evaluation. The editor reserves the right to reject or return for revision any material submitted, on the grounds of inappropriateness, subject matter, quality, or length. When a manuscript is submitted to the Journal of American Folklore it should not have been published elsewhere or be under consideration by any other journal.

Reviews and review articles are generally requested by the review editor, but the editors welcome queries from scholars concerned with particular areas of folklore research and expressions of willingness to review from scholars with particular expertise. Colleagues who wish to write an obituary should address the editor.

Each article-length manuscript must begin with a 50- to 75-word abstract that summarizes the essential points and findings of the essay.

Authors should submit three copies (original and two xerographic or additional ribbon copies; carbon copies are not acceptable) of manuscripts for editorial review. Scholars from countries where there is limited access to copying facilities may submit one copy. All manuscripts must be typed and double spaced (including abstract, notes, references, tables, figure captions, quotations, and references cited) on one side only of good-quality 8½-by-11-inch or A4 paper, unlined or erasable paper is not acceptable. Notes, references cited, tables, and captions should each begin on a new page. Leave a margin of at least one inch on all four edges of the paper; articles typed on A4 paper should have a bottom margin of at least two inches. Authors using word processors should turn right justification off. Manuscripts prepared on dot matrix printers are acceptable only if letter characters have true descenders. Number all pages consecutively, including the notes, references cited, tables, figures, and captions, in the upper-right corner. Author last names should immediately precede page numbers. The list of references cited should not include any publication not cited in the text; the list is not a bibliography. Any standard format for style, notes, and references is suitable for editorial consideration, but authors of accepted articles must submit final copy in standard JAF format.

The Journal of American Folklore generally follows the 14th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993). The journal’s style guide appears in issue No. 400. A copy of the style guide may be obtained by writing directly to the editor; please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. For spelling, refer to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (1961) 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 printed text, the actual spelling in the original is used. Authors should avoid unnecessary use of gender-specific language.

Manuscripts will not be returned unless they are accompanied by return postage.