Manuscripts Studies Exhibit Review Information

Manuscript Studies: A Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies includes reviews of exhibits related to the study of pre-modern manuscript books and documents from all geographical regions, with special emphasis on the role of digital technologies in advancing manuscript research.

Reviewers are chosen by the Review Editor for their expertise in the subject matter. The ideal reviewer is sympathetic but critical, without prejudice for or against the curator, the subject, or the methodology, and without personal conflicts of interest. Exhibit reviews are 1,000 to 1,500 words and follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Deadlines are usually three months from the date of assignment.

The Editors and Review Editor strive to ensure that reviews are fair to the curator or curatorial team, the institution, and the exhibit itself. Although the content of reviews does not represent the judgments of the Editors, the Editors reserve the right to reject reviews that do not meet the expected criteria and standards of professionalism, intellectual rigor, and impartiality.

An acceptable review must provide a clear description of the content of the exhibit and the curator’s method and purpose. Building on that foundation, a reviewer should offer fair critical judgment of the exhibit’s strengths and weaknesses. Footnotes, charts, illustrations, and long lists of errata are rarely appropriate in a review.

Reviews are assigned by the Review Editor, and unsolicited reviews will not be considered. The reviewer of an exhibit in the SIMS Journal should not review the same exhibit elsewhere. Scholars who wish to write a review for the SIMS Journal should contact the Review Editor at ameyh@pobox.upenn.edu.