

## Guidelines for Reviews in *Dictionaries* (revised January 2026)

Reviews are by invitation only. Unsolicited reviews will not be accepted. Publishers of books or relevant reference works to be considered for review in *Dictionaries* should contact the Reviews Editor Paul Fallon, at [pfallon@umw.edu](mailto:pfallon@umw.edu). Authors wishing to have their books considered for review in *Dictionaries* should alert their publisher, not the Reviews Editor.

### CONTENT GUIDELINES

Reviews are an important part of the journal's content and appear for the benefit of DSNA's membership and for the larger academic community. We review books and reference works appearing in print or online that bear on the lexicographic interests of our readership. We strive to publish thoughtful reviews that bring elements of the expertise or viewpoint of the reviewer in an analysis and assessment of the book and its topic. The aim of our reviews is threefold:

- 1) rooted in the reviewer's knowledge of the field represented, to place the work in the context of others of its kind and provide meaningful scholarly commentary;
- 2) to draw attention to the work's strengths and weaknesses; and
- 3) to provide sufficient description, synopsis, or summary to aid a reader in deciding whether to consult or purchase the work.

Readers appreciate balanced, respectful, and informative reviews. Humor is welcome.

**Length.** There are no minimum or maximum lengths for reviews; most run 1,500–1,800 words, but some works may warrant a longer review. The following points may prove helpful in determining when enough is enough:

- 1) The primary subject of the review is the work in question.
- 2) While it is safe to assume a good deal of knowledge on the part of our readers about English-language reference works and dictionaries in general, reviews should also be accessible to the well-educated reader.
- 3) Minute detail is not necessary, except, e.g., when drawing a comparison between the treatment of a particular subject in the work under review with its treatment in a competing work, or when pointing out an error or insight that particularly illuminates the problems with or value of the work under review.

**Perceived conflicts of interest.** If you have a relationship to the author, subject matter, or publisher of your review work that would suggest to a reasonable person that your point of view might be unusually biased or particular, please indicate this in your review in a “full disclosure” statement.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

**Formatting.** Please submit your review in Microsoft Word format (.docx is preferred), double-spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman, with text left justified.

**Information about the work under review.** At the top of your review, name the publication following the format below.

*Full Title of the Work with Title Capitalization* by FirstName LastName. City: Publisher, year. Pp. Roman lowercase for number of pages in front matter + Arabic for number of pages in body of work. Price. ISBN: xxx-x-xx-xxxxxx-x.

Examples:

*Garner's Modern English Usage*, 4th ed., by Bryan A. Garner. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. Pp. lvi + 1,056. \$50.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-049148-2.

*The Word Detective: Searching for the Meaning of It All at the Oxford English Dictionary—A Memoir* by John Simpson. New York: Basic Books, 2016. Pp. xvi + 364. \$27.99. ISBN: 978-465-06069-6.

**Reviewer identification.** At the end of your review, add your name, right-justified, in italics, on its own line, and on the line below give your contact e-mail address in roman type:

*Jane Doe* jdoe423@gmail.com

**Punctuation and spelling.** *Dictionaries* follows the spelling and usage conventions of American English. Please use American spelling and punctuation.

Questions often come up about punctuation involving quotation marks. Our style is:

- Double quotation marks, with periods and commas inside the closing double quotation marks. The exception is for glosses, which follow the convention of single quotation marks with punctuation outside the quotation marks.

**Abbreviations and initialisms.** Full titles of works are in italics, as are their initialisms, e.g. *The Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE)*

If you refer to a dictionary that has been published in different editions, please specify the edition to which you refer in a clear and consistent way, as with *OED1*, *OED2*, *OED Online*, and *OED3*.

**Further style guidelines** can be found in the *Dictionaries* Style Sheet on the journal's web page at  
<https://dictionarysociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Style-Sheet-Dictionaries-June-2024.pdf>

**Biographical information.** Please also submit a brief professional biography using a maximum of 150 words, to be published in our Notes on Contributors.