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Law Review Submission Update

Debbie Ginsberg

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Library, dginsberg@kentlaw.iit.edu

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Law Review Submissions Information, 2013 Update

January 30, 2013

Debbie Ginsberg (dginsberg@kentlaw.iit.edu)

For more information, check our library guide: <http://libraryguides.kentlaw.edu/lawreviewsubmissions>

What Law Reviews Are Looking For

We have updated our annual survey of the top 50 law reviews. We found that, in general, law review editors prefer:

- Submission via ExpressO (although some journals have switched to Scholastica)
- Shorter articles - under 35,000 words, including footnotes
- Citations in Bluebook format (usually 19th edition)

The complete spreadsheet (available in the guide) includes journal-specific information. Note, however, that some law reviews will update their websites in the next few weeks. Check individual law review websites for current criteria.

Allen Rostron and Nancy Levit, *Information for Submitting Articles to Law Reviews & Journals*, 2012. Available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1019029>. In addition to detailed submission information for over 200 law reviews, this guide also includes information about expediting procedures. Last updated October 2012.

ExpressO

<http://law.bepress.com/expresso/>

When uploading articles in ExpressO, authors must include:

- At least one author
- Full text of the article (preferably in Word)
- At least one subject area, e.g. "Workers Compensation Law" or "Partnerships"

What's New in ExpressO

New Interface: The new interface is easier to use and has simplified the submissions process.

Word vs WordPerfect: Authors no longer have to specify if they are using Word or WordPerfect. ExpressO will convert WordPerfect files to PDF for Word-only journals.

Expediting: ExpressO now offers tools to law reviews that allow the editors to receive expedite requests only from authors whose articles meet certain criteria:

- Number of Simultaneous Requests– Law reviews can choose to accept expedite requests based on the number of other requests the author makes, capping that number at 25, 50, or 100 total requests in the ExpressO system.
- Prioritize Law Review Peers – Law reviews can create a list of peer law reviews and choose to accept expedite requests only from authors who have been accepted from that "peer" list. A journal ranked "15" may choose to not accept expedite requests if the article came from a journal ranked "40."
- Offer Certification–Automatically ensure that expedite requests come only from legitimate offers to publish (apparently, some authors have been faking acceptances when making expedite requests).

Remove accepted article: When an author accepts a law review's offer to be published in the ExpressO system, ExpressO will automatically withdraw the submission from the law reviews where it was pending, and notify all other editors who received the submission that it was withdrawn.

Scholastica

<https://www.scholasticahq.com>

What is it?

A new service for submitting law review articles. It offers several tools attractive to law reviews such as blind reviewing and detailed statistics.

Exclusive journals

A few journals will accept submissions from either Scholastica or ExpressO (although not generally both). The following will accept submissions only through Scholastica (although most of these will also accept email submissions):

- Boston College
- California
- Cardozo
- Iowa (will not accept email submissions)
- NYU (starting later in February)
- Southern California
- University of Chicago
- UC Davis (starting later in February)

Lewis & Clark will accept submissions through ExpressO, but strongly prefers Scholastica.

Cost

Scholastica costs \$5 per submission/per law review, so sending one article to 10 law reviews would cost \$50. Chicago-Kent does not currently have an institutional account.

Submissions Process

To submit an article you will need to create a Scholastica account. You will find the current list of law reviews that use Scholastica here: https://scholasticahq.com/law_reviews (but note that some may not be open for submission yet). You will also need:

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Document (does not accept WordPerfect)

You will be asked to provide demographic information such as gender and race, but your response is optional.

Hints and Tips

Faculty authors have shared a few tips that have worked for them, but note that individual editors have their own criteria and expectations.

- **Stagger your submissions throughout the submission season**
This technique has been popular for a while, but there's not much evidence that it is effective.
- **Find the "perfect time" to submit articles**
Some say the best time to submit is as soon as the board turns over, when the new editors are ready to accept new articles. Others say wait a few weeks after a new board starts because then the editors will be more seasoned.
- **Format your submission to look like a published article**
Some say this impresses editors, while others say it has no effect.

Last year, Prawfs Blawg published a series of posts about the law review submission process, featuring interviews with law review editors, data from law reviews, and detailed discussions about common suggested tips. The first post can be found at:

<http://prawfsblawg.blogs.com/prawfsblawg/2012/04/underneath-the-law-review-submission-process.html>. All of the posts can be found on the library guide.