

Re:Search

The Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at Illinois

Call for Proposals for Volume 2, 2014-15

Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at the University of Illinois, is seeking submissions for its Spring 2015 publication!

Students currently enrolled as undergraduates at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, from any discipline or major, may submit work to *Re:Search* that is appropriate to our vision of the journal as a site of critical analysis. We encourage students to submit literary, media, or cultural criticism. We accept revisions of papers written previously for a class, current or completed honors theses, and even projects conceived outside the classroom. The most important criterion for acceptance is that the author offers fresh, new critical analysis of a text, film or other work. We welcome an analysis of texts from any period or language, given that modern English translation is provided for any material quoted within the submission. Although theory is not the journal's primary topic, we encourage submissions that refer to, reflect on, and engage with critical theory to provide nuanced analyses. Our audience includes university students, instructors, administration, alumni, and prospective students.

Please note that students whose work is accepted by the journal will be **required to work with a faculty mentor** to revise and develop their research throughout the remainder of the Fall and the Spring semester. We recommend that you contact a faculty member prior to submitting your work. Further instructions will be provided if the proposal is accepted.

This journal is supported by the English Department and the Office of Undergraduate Research and is launched in collaboration with the Scholarly Commons of the University Library. The online version is open-access, and a limited print run also will be produced.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, we recommend attending our **Proposal Workshop at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23' in room 104 in the English Building.**

For more information, we recommend looking at these links:

Online Journal Platform

<https://ugresearchjournals.illinois.edu/index.php/ujlc>

Microsite

<http://publish.illinois.edu/undergradliterarycriticismjournal/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/litcritjournaluiuc>

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Proposal Guidelines

- Please include the tentative title of work, the name of your potential faculty mentor, and the following:
 - **Part I (required):** *Prospectus: Explaining your project*
 - Write a well-shaped paragraph (or several paragraphs) that: identifies a specific research question, explains why this question is worth studying, and specifies the texts (primary, critical, etc.) you will use.
 - Rather than seeking to prove an argument, devote this section to identifying the **questions** that invigorate your project, and demonstrate how the selected texts engage with those questions. Better proposals explain the issues at stake in this research.
 - See the section below entitled **Aims & Scope** for the journal's intellectual mission statement. Also see the section entitled **Peer Review Rubric** for the criteria that our student reviewers will consider. Additionally, we recommend reading the articles published on our platform in previous years to gain an idea of the scope of final projects.
 - Your prospectus should be a polished example of your writing. Proofread for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
 - Word count: **500-750 words**.
 - **Part II (optional):** *Excerpt from previously written or current paper*
 - If you base your proposal on a completed paper from a previous or current course, you are welcome to include an excerpt that highlights a crucial interpretive framework or a valuable observation on a selected text.
 - This section is **optional**. If you choose to include an excerpt, keep in mind that the **maximum word count** for this section is **500 words**.
- Part III (required):** *Annotated bibliography*
- Include an annotated bibliography of texts relevant to your project. There should be a **minimum of one primary source, a minimum of two secondary sources, and a maximum of five sources total**.
 - See the section entitled **Guide to Annotated Bibliography** for instructions.
 - Each entry should be **200 words** at the **maximum**. This refers to the length of the commentary; we are not counting the bibliographic citation in the word count.

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Formatting Guidelines

- All submissions must follow these formatting guidelines:
 - 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced.
 - 1” margins
 - Word format (.docx)
 - Numbered pages (in footer)
 - **Remove any self-identifying references**, such as your name, from the Word file before submitting to ensure anonymity in the review process.
 - Adhere to the word count limits. These are described in the above sections.
 - Note: Parts I, II (optional), and III should be written and submitted in the same Word document.

Submission Process

- The deadline to submit a proposal is **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5**
- Please see the section entitled **Registering as an Author** for the details of submitting your proposal to the online journal.
- Students will be notified via email if their work is accepted **in late October or early November**.

If you have any questions about the submission process or are interested in participating in the publication process for *Re:Search*, please contact the Executive Board via email uiuclitjournal@gmail.com.

Relevant Documents for Proposal Submission

I. Aims & Scope

Re:Search: The Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at Illinois is an undergraduate produced, peer-reviewed open-access online journal designed to annually publish works exclusively by undergraduate students. It seeks to create a place for undergraduate students to showcase and publish literary criticism within a greater academic discourse while nurturing a collaborative community between faculty, administration, and undergraduate students. All published work is by Illinois students; students from any discipline may submit to *Re:Search* as long as the submissions are in accordance with our vision of the journal as a site of critical analysis. We encourage undergraduate students to submit literary, media, or cultural criticism. We accept revisions of papers written

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previously for a class, current or completed honors theses, and even projects conceived outside the classroom. The most important criterion for acceptance is that the author offers fresh, new critical analysis of a text, film or other work. We welcome an analysis of texts from any period or language, given that modern English translation is provided for any material quoted within the submission. Although theory is not the journal's primary topic, we encourage submissions that refer to, reflect on, and engage with theory to provide richer and more nuanced analyses. Our audience includes university students, instructors, administration, alumni, and prospective students.

Re:Search is unique among journals of its type in supporting students throughout the research and publication process by working closely with the Illinois English Department, the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), the English Student Council (ESC), and the Scholarly Commons in the University Library. The process includes faculty mentorship, in which students work side-by-side with a faculty advisor throughout the writing process. The OUR and ESC will offer opportunities to share work-in-progress and train students in the Open Journal Systems online platform to participate in the peer-review and copy editing processes, and the Library will provide a fully-indexed platform for completed articles. This journal fosters collaboration between faculty, administration, and undergraduate students, and we hope for this to be a joint project among us all.

II. Peer Review Rubric

1. *Quality of the project's conception* – Is a central question stated clearly and interestingly? Are terms well defined, the critical context grasped, and the larger stake of the argument articulated?
2. *Originality of the project* – How does this project advance critical conversations? What distinguishes this project from other work on these texts or in this theoretical area? Does it shed new light on the text(s)?
3. *Scope of the project* – Is the project do-able in the time available, at the length proposed, and with the resources stated? If not, could it be re-scaled, or resources added?
4. *Impact of the project* – Is the question framed for specialists in a certain author, or does it engage issues that might interest readers of literature more generally?

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III. Guide to Annotated Bibliographies

Annotated bibliographies help prepare you for your research projects. They are basically citations, but include more information about the relevance of the source to your research.

Format: The works cited will be in MLA format. Following the citation will be a paragraph summarizing and analyzing the source in regard to your paper. Annotations can range from a few sentences to in-depth paragraphs.

A rough guide to annotating:

- 1) **One sentence defining the source** – Where is it from? Is it a primary source? Is it a secondary source? What are they arguing? What is the main point?
- 2) **One sentence assessing the source** – Is it useful for your research? Is it biased? Is it reliable?
- 3) **One sentence reflecting on the source** – Does it fit in with your other research? Has it helped you shape your paper and research? What else might you draw from it?

Take a look at the example at Purdue OWL:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/>. This annotation is on the long side, but a great example of what we're looking for.

IV. Proposal Submission Process through Open Journal Systems

(with thanks to Anna Trammell of the Scholarly Commons in the University Library for the construction of this section)

Authors wanting to submit an article to the journal will need to **register as an author** on the Online Journal Systems platform. This can be done from the home page of the journal, at this link: <https://ugresearchjournals.illinois.edu/index.php/ujlc/user/register>

Path: [Home](#) > [User](#) > [Register](#)>[Author](#)

Check the box labeled “Author.” Although not obvious, as it is not clearly named, the information entry form is looking for their email address, as in this example below:

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The screenshot shows the registration page of the Re:Search website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, LOGIN, REGISTER, SEARCH, CURRENT, ARCHIVES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, and EUI. Below the menu, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home > User > Register". The main heading is "Register". A sub-heading says "Fill in this form to register with this site." Underneath, there is a "Register as" section with three radio button options: "Reader: Notified by email on publication of an issue of the journal.", "Author: Able to submit items to the journal." (which is selected), and "Reviewer: Willing to conduct peer review of submissions to the journal." Below these options is a text input field for "Identify reviewing interests (substantive areas and research methods):" containing the email address "example@illinois.edu". At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Register" and "Cancel".

Once registered, Authors will be able to go to the “Login”: Home > User Home>New Submission where the author can upload and submit an article.

From here, the Author will need to complete five submission steps:

1. **Start:** Here the Author will read the copyright notice and privacy statement. They will acknowledge that they have followed journal guidelines and will be able to submit comments to the editor. Authors should also select the proper journal section for their work (please select articles).
2. **Upload Submission:** At this stage, the Author will be asked to upload their proposal. Please upload as a **Word (.docx) document**.
3. **Enter Metadata:** The Author will be asked to enter their name, the title of their work, and an abstract. Please insert the title of your work in the appropriate field. For the abstract field, insert “Proposal Submission.” There is also a section for submitting references, though the journal would prefer to include these in the actual uploaded document.
4. **Upload Supplementary Files:** Authors may upload additional files for their work such as graphs or tables. However, please consult the Executive Board at uiuclitjournal@gmail.com if you wish to include images in your proposal submission.
5. **Confirmation:** Authors confirm and complete submission.