

## **Instructions to Authors**

The *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (JRASC)* publishes both popular and peer-reviewed articles on astronomy, subjects related to astronomy, and news and announcements of interest to the members of the RASC. The *Journal* is published in both paper and electronic forms and is distributed widely to libraries and institutions around the world, and to the members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC).

The *Journal* is a science-based publication written in English and French with translations into the other language provided for abstracts and other key features. Submitted articles should be written in a relaxed prose style, but conforming to proper English or French grammar and spelling rules as commonly practiced in Canada. Canadian spelling can be found in the *Oxford Dictionary of Canadian English*. Grammatical and other rules can be found in, for example, *Fowler's Modern English Usage*, the *Canadian Press Stylebook*, or Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. Those writing in French may wish to consult *Nouvelle Grammaire française, applications, 2e édition* by Grevisse, Goosse and Tasset. A *Journal* style guide for authors and an annual publication schedule is located at [www.rasc.ca/journal](http://www.rasc.ca/journal).

We have recently (Summer 2009) adopted the standard provided by the APA (American Psychological Association) as a reference style; Elements of the APA stylesheet include such in-text matters as punctuation standards, margin depth, line spacing, and heading format. See [linguistics.byu.edu/faculty/henrichsen1/apa/APA01.html](http://linguistics.byu.edu/faculty/henrichsen1/apa/APA01.html)

Authors should indicate whether their submission is intended for a professional or popular audience. Electronic submissions are **STRONGLY** encouraged for popular articles and **REQUIRED** for professional manuscripts. Documents submitted in MS Word, Latex, ASCII, or WordPerfect are acceptable, but Word documents are preferred. Popular articles submitted in hard copy must be cleanly printed with sharply detailed graphics to facilitate conversion to an electronic format.

## **Popular Articles**

Articles should be tightly written, generally two to ten pages in length, with proper grammar and punctuation. Illustrations and graphs must be sent separately, not embedded in the work. Twelve-point Times New Roman or an equivalent font is preferred for electronic submission. In general, a single-spaced Word document with one-inch margins will be about ten percent smaller when formatted for publication. Punctuation rules for poetry will remain at the discretion of the author.

Authors have to accept the fact that their work will be copy-edited prior to publication and that tight publication schedules do not often permit time for subsequent feedback. A pre-production proof will not normally be provided. Use of illustrations will be at the decision of the editor and other illustrations may be substituted if originals are not suitable for publication. All illustrative material should conform to the format described below.

Where appropriate and at the discretion of the editor, abstracts accompanying popular articles may be translated into the other language. The editorial staff of the *JRASC* will translate this material.

Figure captions should be included as the last item, after the text and bibliography. All material submitted to the *JRASC* must be free of copyright restrictions or have the permission of the copyright holder for its use; it is the responsibility of the author(s) to acquire such permission. After publication, the *Journal* will have a non-exclusive copyright to the material to permit its use and reproduction in any form in the future.

Authors may request an electronic copy of the *Journal* or a PDF extract of their published work from the editor. Printed copies of the *Journal* will not normally be provided.

### **Research Papers**

Professional articles are welcome. The Journal will consider for publication only those papers of wide interest written in a style that appeals to professionals and sophisticated amateur astronomers. Science content should not suffer in order to make a paper more palatable to non-professional readers. Authors may suggest sidebars and other explanatory material that will aid in the understanding of the manuscript. Due to space limitations, the *JRASC* usually cannot accept manuscripts more than 10 pages in length after final layout (about 12 pages of Word text). Tables are included in this total, but illustrations and graphs are not. Authors of longer submissions should contact the editor before forwarding the manuscript. All professional articles must be submitted electronically.

All professional articles are peer-reviewed. Comments will be provided to the author by the editor along with a decision on whether to publish or not. Authors may be requested to revise the material prior to publication. Final proofs are provided as a PDF file for review just prior to publication; changes beyond minor editorial corrections may delay or prevent publication. The editorial staff of the *JRASC* will translate abstracts.

Research papers are subject to a charge of \$100 CAD per printed page. At the discretion of the Editor, charges may be waived for solicited papers, for members of the RASC with no access to institutional or research funds, or for review articles of broad amateur and professional appeal. Authors will normally be provided with a few copies of the *Journal* for their own use after publication.

The *JRASC* requires non-exclusive copyright to all submitted manuscripts after publication in order to give permission to others for use of material. Authors will also retain rights to distribute and use the material exclusive of the *Journal*'s rights.

### **Manuscript Submissions:**

Research papers are expected to have the general form:

Title

Author's name(s)  
Author Affiliation  
Email Address  
Abstract  
Text  
Acknowledgments (if any)  
Appendices (if any)  
References  
Figure captions (if any)  
Figures (if any)  
Tables (if any)

### **Requirements for Illustrations and Graphs:**

Photos, line images, and other graphical images (colour and grayscale) associated with a manuscript must be submitted separately from the text, and accompanied by captions. Graphical material embedded in the text document is not acceptable and submissions will be returned to the author for correction. Authors should ensure that the contrast and brightness of submitted images is suitable for both Web and print reproduction.

All pixel-based (bitmapped) images must be submitted using the following formats:

Black-and-white images: grayscale tiff, jpeg, png, or bmp files at a resolution of 300 dots per inch or higher in their final published size. Note that most computer screens have a resolution of 72 dpi and that the illustration may have to be specifically configured for the *Journal's* resolution.

Colour images: a resolution of 300 dpi in RGB colour space. Please do not submit in LAB or other Web-based colours. Colour images are converted to black-and-white for publication in the *Journal*, but the colour is retained for the electronic copy.

Vector images: must be in either Illustrator or Freehand eps format, or supplied as a PDF file with all fonts converted to outlines. If the file cannot be submitted in the latter format, the author must supply a Mac version of the fonts. PDF conversion freeware is readily available on the Web.

Authors must ensure that they have permission for use of all borrowed material incorporated into their manuscript, and must provide proof of this permission with the submission of the manuscript to the editor.