

Manga Studies Submission Guidelines (As of Oct. 1st 2025)

1. Eligibility Criteria

Manga Studies is an open-access journal that aims to build a state-of-the-art research community where academics, students and independent researchers can study and discuss Comics in all its variations and related (sub)cultures. Authors interested in contributing to this endeavor are invited to submit their research paper without need for previous membership and/or subscription.

2. Manuscript Categories

Manga Studies covers a wide range of topics that revolve around the study of Comics as a complex and inter-connected field of visual culture which includes but is not limited to: Bande dessinée, Manga, Anime, Caricature, Illustration, etc. Each issue of the journal is organized as to provide an original take on this field of interest and as all submissions are required to fall into one of the categories bellow:

- Research Paper: An original manuscript* presenting objectively the results of a theoretical and/or empirical research on a subject related to the field (Comics, Manga, Anime, Caricature, Webtoon, Bande Dessinée, Illustration, etc.). Its purpose, methods and conclusions should be stated clearly, as well as its contribution to the academic field and the research community.
- Research Paper (Issue Special): A research paper (detailed above) covering the subject of the current issue's theme.

*Papers not previously published in any format (Book, Zine, Journal, etc.). Published dissertations/thesis may be accepted as long as they are feature added content and/or revisions of the original publication. Authors submitting such manuscripts must clearly state this in a footnote or similar location within the paper. Please note that we only accept 1(one) submission per author per volume.

3. Style Guide

All submissions should follow the *Manga Studies Style Guide* provided separately.

4. Acceptance and Publication

To better evaluate each paper's suitability for publication, the Editorial board will analyze all submissions and check if they match required academic criteria. After passing this initial screening, accepted submissions will undergo a peer-review process conducted by a team of reviewers appointed by the editorial board whose expertise corresponds to the subject matter of the work. Once the peer review process is complete, the Editorial Board will decide whether to accept or reject each submission.

Information about the peer-review process, including reviewer's identity and the criteria used to determine acceptance or rejection, will remain confidential. However, if necessary, authors may request clarification regarding the outcome of their peer review. In such cases, the editorial board will carefully examine the request and, where appropriate, provide an adequate response.

5. Submission Deadline and Publication Schedule

The submission deadline for each issue will be announced on CFP page of the *Manga Studies* website(<https://manga-studies.jp/>). The result of the peer-review process will be sent to each author by email

within three months of this deadline date. Once a work is accepted, its authors are expected to contribute during the copy-editing and typesetting process before the final version of the paper is published.

6. Submission

All submissions must be done within using the Submission Form provided by the OJS platform and listed on the *Manga Studies* website.

7. Author Profile

In order to submit a work for peer-review using the OJS platform, authors are required to write a short biography (approx. 150 words) with information about their specialization and area of interest. Information about affiliation is optional, but it must be written on a separate designated column.

8. Copyright

Research papers accepted for publication in *Manga Studies* shall be made publicly available through the Kyoto Seika University Institutional Repository (KSUIR) in accordance with the copyright policy thereof. Copyright in the work shall remain vested in the author. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the *Manga Studies* Editorial Board reserves the right, to reproduce, distribute, or otherwise make available the work, in whole or in part.

Style Guide (As of Oct. 1st 2025)

1. Language

The journal accepts submissions written in proper English or Japanese. Every submission done through the OJS Submission Form should include two versions of the same abstract, one in Japanese and one in English.

2. Manuscript Size and Structure

- Submissions in Japanese: up to 20,000 characters. Abstract up to 400 characters.
- Submissions in English: up to 10,000 words. Abstract up to 200 words.

The author may structure the text as to make clear its division in chapters and sub-chapters. Every submission should feature a title, footnotes and bibliography clearly stated. The latter should be created and formatted using the respective Referencing Tools available on the word processing software of choice (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.).

3. Submission Format

An author's submission done through the OJS Submission Form must include files abiding by the formats and structures below:

- 1) Research Text: an anonymized* .doc or .docx text file.
- 2) Figures/Tables: a .zip file containing a high resolution* .jpg copy of each figure and/or tables used in

the text and named accordingly as “fig.1.jpg” ~, “table1.jpg” ~

- 3) List of Figures/Tables: a doc. or docx. listing each figure/table caption in ascending order.

*Any information about the author’s identity such as name, affiliation and etc. **should not be included**. As for Acknowledgements, the author might include it later during the copy-editing process.

*Resolution: 300dpi.

4. Writing

Manga Studies uses the same writing guidelines as *Mechademia* (see Style Guide version below), with permission. For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the Style Sheet provided separately.

MECHADEMIA STYLE GUIDE Version 4.0 by Andrea Horbinski, 25 March 2018. Originally compiled by Christopher Bolton

5. Citations

Submissions in English should follow the MLA Style Guide explained in detail on the MLA Style Center official website(<https://style.mla.org/mla-format/>). Below are some examples of how to format the most common types of sources.

- Book

Surname, Name. *Book Title*. Publisher, Date.

Eg: Izumi, Konata. *The Ultimate Guide to Eating Chocolate Cornet*. Ryōō High School Press, 2007.

- Website Page

Surname, Name. “Page Title.” *Website*, Link. Access Date

Eg: Manga Studies. “About us.” *Manga Studies*.

<https://manga-studies.jp/index.php/journal/about-mangastudies>. Accessed 11 August 2025.

- Periodical Article

Surname, Name. “Article One.” *Periodical Title*, volume, issue, year, page.

Eg: Tenma, Umatarō. “Findings on the creation of humanoid robots.” *The Nerima University Journal of Applied Sciences*, vol.2, no.1, 1952, pp.12-56.

- Book Chapter

Surname, Name. “Chapter Title.” *Book Title*, ed. Editor Name, Publisher, Date, page.

Eg: Korosensei. “Late-Stage Capitalism Competitvity Applied to Pedagogy.” *The Role of a Mentor in Teaching Things*, ed. Kame Sennin, Capsule Books, 2020, pp.20-58.

- Translations

Surname, Name. *Book Title*. Translated by Translator Full Name, Publisher, Date.

Eg: Titor, John. *The Theory of Time Travel*. Translated by Rintaro Okabe, Future Gadget Laboratory Press, 2011.

6. Figures and Tables

Every figure and/or table included in the text should be numbered and described accordingly using the “Insert Caption” feature as to standardize their names as “fig1.”, “fig2.”, “table 1”, “table 2”, etc. When using figures or tables from another work, make sure to reference its source on the caption text.

Peer-review Process (As of Oct. 1st 2025)

1. Submission

All submissions should be done using the online submission system linked at the Manga Studies website. The author will receive a notification confirming this submission after the editorial board has screened it and assigned a team of peer-reviewers to evaluate it.

2. Peer-review

Each submission will be assigned by at least two or more reviewers, to be notified separately. The reviewers appointed by the editorial board will be granted “Reviewer” status, and allowed to access the corresponding section in the Manga Studies OJS platform.

Each reviewer will be given 4(four) weeks to review the assigned manuscript, write down their comments and submit their final grades. By the end of the reviewing process, each reviewer must grade the assigned submission in one of the following categories:

- A) Accept without revision. (include submissions needing minor corrections such as punctuation and wording)
- B) Minor revisions needed.
- C) Major revisions needed.
- D) Inappropriate.

On the occasion that a reviewer fails to match this schedule and/or grading criteria, as well as answering the notifications sent by the editorial board, the latter will reserve the right to remove him/her from the peer review process entirely. In this case, the peer review of the manuscript will be assigned to another contributor.

The Editorial Board is responsible for checking the results of the peer-review process and take the final decision of whether or not the submission fits the criteria for publication. In the case of contrasting reviews for the same submission, the Editorial Borad might contact the reviewing team once again in order to help making this decision.

This journal employs Double-bind peer review, thus the identity of both authors and reviewers should be kept anonymous. Authors are advised not to include any sort of information that might hint on their identity. Likewise, Reviewers must not disclose their role and/or information about the peer-reviewing process to other third parties.

3. Communicating Results

After the peer-review process is done, the Editorial Board is responsible for communicating the results to the author, including also comments made by reviewers, points to be revised and re-submission deadlines, when existent.

Authors graded B or C interested in submitting their updated manuscripts must do so within the following deadlines. Authors that, by any case, wish to withdrawal their submission must also notify the Editorial Board within this timespan.

- B) **Minor revisions needed:** 1 month after the notification of acceptance.
- C) **Major revisions needed:** 2 months after the notification of acceptance.

Once submitted, the revised manuscripts will be evaluated as follows:

- B) **Minor revisions needed:** The Editorial Board will check the updated manuscript and decide whether to publish it or not. The author will be notified as soon as this decision is done.
- C) **Major revisions needed:** The manuscript will enter the peer-review process (described further on point 2.) again. Once finished, reviewers must decide whether the revised manuscript fits the standards for publication or not.

Submissions graded C twice will be deemed inappropriate for publication automatically.

4. Revised Submissions

Revised submissions of papers graded B or C will be analyzed by the team of reviewers in charge of peer-review process. As for submissions graded A, the Editorial Board will be in charge of preparing them for publication. Authors whose submissions fit the peer-review standards and comply with the Editorial Board publishing criteria will be notified once the peer-review process is done.

5. Inquiries

If necessary, authors may request clarification regarding the outcome of their peer review. In such cases, the Editorial Board will carefully examine the request and, where appropriate, provide an adequate response that does not infringe with the reviewers' privacy.

6. Proofread and Typeset Proof

After the work is accepted for publication, Authors are required to collaborate with the Editorial Board only during the during the Proofreading process. The Editorial Board will be in charge of conducting the remaining typeset proof necessary for publication.

Style Sheet (As of Oct. 1st 2025)

Manga Studies uses the same romanization guidelines as *Mechademia* (see Style Guide version below), with permission.

General Style Notes

-US spelling

- All proper nouns, including publisher names, must be capitalized.
- Romanized sentences and titles must **always** be in sentence case.
- **Exceptions aside, follow the Chicago Manual of Style.**

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1. Romanization System

(A) Use the Hepburn system:

1. Long *u* = *ū*
2. Long *o* (*oo* and *ou*) = *ō*
3. Long *e* (*ei*) = *ei*
4. Long *e* (*ee*) = *ē*
5. Long *i* = *ī*
6. Long *a* = *ā*
7. The particles ,*í*, ,*ǎ*, and ,*Ö* are romanized as *wa*, *o*, and *e*, respectively, not *ha*, *wo*, and *he*.
8. Use an apostrophe (') between syllables when the first syllable ends with the letter *n* and the following syllable begins with *a*, *i*, *u*, *e*, *o*, or *y*.
 - **Example:** *ren 'ai* and *hon 'yaku*, not *renai* and *honyaku*.
9. The consonant ,*ñ* (*n*) should always be written as *n*, even when followed by “b,” “m,” or “p.”
 - **Example:**
 - × *shimbun*
 - ○ *shinbun*

(B) With the exception of direct quotations, loan words from languages such as English, French, Spanish, etc. such as ボーイズ, マガジン, デジャビュ etc. should be Romanized following the spelling used in the language they come from, and not their katakana spelling:

- **Example:**
 - × *bōizu*, *magajin*, *dejabyu*
 - ○ boys, magazine, déjàvu
-

2. Citing works [Adapted Chicago Style]

(A) Names should appear in Japanese order (Family Name, Given Name), with the exception of some performer names or pen names (e.g., Joe Hisaishi, Q Hashida, Leiji Matsumoto).

(B) In-text citations

1. **Works with a published English translation:** The Japanese transliteration comes first in italics and sentence case, followed by the original publication year and the official English title in title case and italics, enclosed in parentheses.
 - **Example:** Ichikawa Haruko's *Hōseki no kuni* (2012, *Land of the Lustrous*).
2. **Works without a published English translation:** The Japanese transliteration comes first in italics and sentence case, followed by the original publication year and an English translation provided by the author, written in sentence case and enclosed in parentheses.
 - **Example:** Azuma Hideo's *Fujōri nikki* (1978, Absurd diaries).
3. **Subsequent citations** should feature only the original Japanese title, properly italicized and in sentence case.
 - **Examples:**
 - “The way panels are structured in *Fujōri nikki* is characteristic...”
 - “The themes brought by *Hōseki no kuni* are...”

(C) Footnotes

1. **Works with a published English translation:** Feature the following in the exact order: Author name, Japanese title in italics and sentence case, followed by the official English title in parentheses, publisher, publication year in parentheses, and cited page number if applicable.
 - **Example:** Saitō Tamaki, *Sentō bishōjo no seishin bunseki* (*Beautiful Fighting Girl*) (Chikuma Shobō, 2000), 45.
2. **Works without a published English translation:** Follow the same format but with the author's English-translated title in sentence case and without italics.
 - **Example:** Shimizu Isao, *Manga no rekishi* (The history of manga) (Iwanami Shoten, 1999), 30.
3. **Book chapters:** The Japanese chapter title comes first in sentence case and quotation marks, followed by the English title or translation in parentheses (if provided). The Japanese book title in italics and sentence case follows, along with the original publication year and the English title/translation in parentheses.
 - **Example:** Saitō Tamaki, “Otaku no seishin byōri” (*The Psychopathology of the Otaku*), in *Sentō bishōjo no seishin bunseki* (*Psychoanalysis of Fighting Beauties*) (Chikuma Shobō, 2000), 45.
4. **Subsequent citations** should omit the title and be abbreviated, featuring only the author's name, publication year, and page number.
 - **Examples:**
 - Shimizu 1999, 68–70.
 - Saitō 2000, 73.

(D) Reference List (APA-style Bibliography section)

1. **Works with a published English translation:** Feature the following in order: Abbreviated author name, publication year, original Japanese title, official English title in parentheses, place of publication, and publisher name.

- **Example:** Saitō, T. (2000). *Sentō bishōjo no seishin bunseki* (Psychoanalysis of Fighting Beauties). Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō.

2. **Works without a published English translation:** Same format but with an English translation provided by the author.

- **Example:** Shimizu, I. (1999). *Manga no rekishi* (The history of manga). Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten.

3. **Book chapters:** The Japanese chapter title comes first in sentence case and quotation marks, followed by the English title or translation in parentheses (if provided). The Japanese book title in italics and sentence case follows, along with the English title or translation, page numbers, place of publication, and publisher name.

- **Example:** Saitō, T. (2000). “Otaku no seishin byōri” (*The Psychopathology of the Otaku*). In *Sentō bishōjo no seishin bunseki* (*Psychoanalysis of Fighting Beauties*), 9–32. Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō.