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On the cover: Two images from the Getty Museum's exhibit *Overdrive: L.A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*. *Front cover:* Case Study House #22, The Stahl House, designed by the architect Pierre Konig, 1960. Photograph by Julius Shulman. Permission from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. *Back cover:* The LAX Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport, by Pereira & Luckman, Welton Becket & Associates, and Paul R. Williams, 1958. Pencil, watercolor, and gouache on board. Unframed: 76.5 × 101.6 cm (30 1/8 × 40 in.) From the Alan E. Leib Collection. (Image courtesy of and © Luckman Salas O'Brien.)

The Public Historian

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The Public Historian

Editorial Policy

The Public Historian, a quarterly journal sponsored by the National Council on Public History and published by the University of California Press, is the voice of the public history movement. It emphasizes original research, fresh conceptualization, and new viewpoints. The journal's contents reflect the considerable diversity of approaches to the definition and practice of public history.

The Public Historian provides practicing professionals and others the opportunity to report the results of research and case studies and to address the broad substantive and theoretical issues inherent in the practice of public history. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive look at the field, publishing articles relating to the following sectors, among others:

- Public Policy Planning and Policy Analysis
- Museum and Historic Site Administration
- Exhibition, Interpretation, and Public Engagement
- Institutional History and Archives
- Cultural Resources Management Services
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- Historic Preservation
- Contracting and Consulting
- Philanthropy and Sponsorship
- History and Civic Engagement
- Public Memory Studies
- Historical Interpretation
- History's Publics/Audience Studies
- Public History Education

The Public Historian publishes a variety of article types: research articles, essays, and reports from the field. Research articles deal with specific, often comparatively framed, public historical issues. They are based on documentary or oral historical research; in some cases, however, findings from interviews, surveys, or participant observation may supplement historical source materials. These articles should be no more than thirty pages, including footnotes. Essays are reflective commentaries on topics of interest to public historians. Their length varies, but they are ordinarily no longer than twenty-five pages. Reports from the field are intended to convey the real-world work of public historians by highlighting specific projects or activities in which the author is directly involved; these articles may describe new or ongoing projects, introduce or assess new methodologies, or bring in-the-field dilemmas (methodological, ethical, and historical) into print. Reports from the field should be no more than fifteen pages and may include footnotes to relevant material.

In its review section, *The Public Historian* assesses current publications by and of interest to public historians, including government publications, cultural resources management reports, and corporate histories, as well as selected scholarly press publications. The journal also reviews films and videos, digital and electronic media productions, exhibits, performances, and archival and manuscript collections.

The editors welcome the submission of manuscripts by all those interested in the theory, teaching, and practice of public history, both in the United States and abroad. We are looking for manuscripts that make a significant contribution to the definition, understanding, and/or professional and intellectual progress of the field of public history. We conceive of the term *public history* broadly, as involving historical research, analysis, and presentation, with some degree of explicit application to the needs of contemporary life.

Research articles, essays, and reports from the field are subject to blind peer review, and revisions will be suggested, if necessary, before the editors will accept an article for publication.

In general, only manuscripts not previously published will be accepted. Authors must agree not to publish elsewhere, without explicit written consent, an article accepted for publication in *The Public Historian*. We do not accept unsolicited reviews or essays.

The Public Historian encourages letters to the editor that expand the discussion of topics covered in the journal. If a letter specifically concerns an article or review published in *TPH*, the author or reviewer will be invited to respond. Letters responding to reviews may not exceed 250 words; letters responding to articles may not exceed 750 words. The editors reserve the right to refuse to publish any letter whose tone or content is inconsistent with the conventional standards of scholarly discourse expected in a historical journal.

Please submit manuscripts and letters to the editors electronically at the address below.

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Letter to the Editor

AS A LONGTIME WIKIPEDIA EDITOR who has himself cited *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* while writing Wikipedia's article on *Cleveland Plain Dealer* Pulitzer Prize winner Edward D. Kuekes, I appreciate Dr. Grabowski's work helping bring the *Encyclopedia* to a wider audience in online form (see John J. Grabowski, "The Past as Prologue: Public Authority and *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*" 35-2). Wikipedia can exist in a symbiotic relationship with works like the *Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia articles require solid, well-researched scholarly sources, and online works like the *Encyclopedia* make scholarly material more accessible to Wikipedia editors not trained in the techniques of proper historical research. In turn, Wikipedia can build awareness of and drive internet traffic to those sources. Although a casual reader of Wikipedia might not go to the library for a book or JSTOR for an article, they are quite willing to follow a link to *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, as Dr. Grabowski noticed when discussing the *Encyclopedia*'s site visits.

Dr. Grabowski correctly identifies timeliness as the most critical issue facing online sources competing with Wikipedia. For example, in my library, students writing about a current author, actor, or musician are sometimes frustrated at the lack of updates on certain entries in databases

like Gale's *Biography in Context* and wonder why their professors won't let them use Wikipedia. It is impossible to compete with Wikipedia purely in terms of speed, where updates frequently appear within minutes of significant events. However, Dr. Grabowski outlines how its editorial staff is rising to the challenge of keeping the *Encyclopedia* updated, and I hope other such sources approach the issue with the same thoughtfulness. As Dr. Grabowski noted, meeting these challenges will require taking on "some Wiki-like attributes" without sacrificing editorial control. Perhaps scholars could be encouraged to take "ownership" of particular articles or topics and update them without prompting from the editorial staff.

Still, challenges remain: for example, the *Encyclopedia*'s article on the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* omits mention of their more recent Pulitzer winner, Connie Schultz. And Wikipedia itself lacks an article on *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Both oversights can be corrected through the normal processes developed by both encyclopedias.

Whatever approaches are considered and attempted by the *Encyclopedia*, I am sure it will be with the same thoroughness and dedication that brought the *Encyclopedia* to the internet in the first place.

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