

Writing an article for *IJNA*

The *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* is part of the NAS's portfolio, and I would like to encourage more members to consider writing for it. *IJNA* is a peer-reviewed academic journal—but this does not mean that you have to be an academic in order to write for it. It just means that your article must be prepared to academic standards and conventions.

Whatever your project, the end result should be ensuring that your results are available to others, both now and in the future. The minimum is archiving, but much better is some form of publication. *IJNA* can take articles up to 12,000 words, though most tend to fall between 5000 and 7000. There is no minimum length. The latest issue has a short piece by a diving group from Edinburgh, describing some possible stone anchors they have found.

Submissions can now be accepted by email (but please do not embed images in a Word file—send them separately). I will read anything which is sent, and if it is worth considering, send it on to a reviewer who is a specialist in the field. He or she will advise me whether the content is worthy of publication, and may identify inaccuracies, or loose ends. My job is then, in collaboration with the author, to prepare the article for publication.

If you are interested, here is a checklist:

1. Is your topic relevant, and likely to be of interest to the readers of *IJNA*? If you are not a subscriber, now is the time to read the *Journal* and find out.
2. Is it original, or the first publication in English? This rule applies to major articles, but is not so strict for shorter items (particularly if an existing publication is not likely to have reached an international audience).
3. Is it written in clear, flowing text, avoiding bullet points, abbreviations, and the use of exclamation marks or colloquial words? Italics are for foreign words, book titles and ships' names, but **not** for quotations. Have you read the *Instructions to Authors* at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=1057-2414>?
4. Have you checked your work, or asked a friend to read it?
5. Illustrations are welcome, but must be archaeological (drawings are often better than photographs). Have you remembered to put scales in? Have you made sure that electronic images are of a high enough resolution? Have you included captions for the illustrations (not on them).

If all this sounds complicated, I can read a draft and give advice at an early stage, and I am sure there are others in the NAS who would be happy to help.

Paula Martin, Editor, *IJNA*, paula@arnydie.demon.co.uk