



HUMANITIES COUNCIL

POLICY STATEMENT FOR SUPPORT FOR JOURNALS

1. Support from the LAS Humanities Council should be directed toward ventures that are cross-disciplinary in nature and that offer access to humanists in different areas, as distinct from ventures which are narrowly focused in a single field or specialization. Without disputing the need for specialized publications, the Council will give priority to publications that reflect the diversity of the humanities, that are of interest and pertinence to a broad range of humanists, and that are thereby compatible with the multi-faceted nature of the Council from which the support derives.
2. The journal that seeks support in any form should bear a clear identification with the Humanities Council at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This identification is important not simply as an acknowledgment of the Council's support, but also because of its academic affiliation with the Humanities Council at Illinois, and because the journal is a representative nationally, and often internationally, of this intellectual community. Normally, requests for journal support should be endorsed by a unit executive officer who is also a member of the Humanities Council.
3. The Humanities Council will consider support only for those journals using adequate, impartial and competitive procedures for judging and selecting manuscripts for publication. Two closely related principles are involved here. First, the Council should channel support to a journal only where contributing scholars have a fair opportunity to have their work evaluated for publication within a traditional, commonly accepted system of referees, who may of course be members of the journal's editorial or advisory board; while commissioned articles may occasionally be desirable and justified, the journal should ensure that scholars within its constituent disciplines have genuine access to its pages through its selection procedures. Second, the Council should direct its support to those journals in which an editorial or advisory board is actively involved in formulating editorial policy and practices; the representation of different disciplinary interests and points of view is in keeping with the principles of cross-disciplinary focus and competitive access, and will contribute to achieving superior and more stimulating contributions.
4. The Humanities Council will consider support for those journals that will maximize the impact of that aid through efficient and cost-saving editorial and production practices.
5. The Humanities Council will entertain requests for aid only from journals that are demonstrably making serious efforts to support themselves.
6. The Humanities Council normally will not undertake permanent or long-term subsidy of a journal. Because of the limitation on resources, the Council normally will not encumber future budgets by promising or appearing to promise the continuation of support of a journal. Journal editors are expected to seek funding from all available sources, both within and without the University.
7. The Humanities Council is willing to consider requests for support of student journals under the following conditions:
 - a) The students connected with the journal and making the request are majors in the humanities or its member department and programs;
 - b) The subject matter of the journal is "humanistic" in nature;
 - c) The journal is already in existence and its viability can be documented through

such evidence as circulation figures, advertising revenues, and printing and distribution costs. Such evidence should be submitted as part of the request for subsidy;

- d) The applicants for subsidy can describe an appropriate and realistic mechanism by which the Council can evaluate the quality of the journal, and this mechanism does in fact result in favorable evaluation. Description of appropriate evaluation procedures should be submitted as part of the request.