

Ambix Book Reviewers' Guide

SUBSTANCE

Balance

The ideal book review provides all or most of the following, depending on the book: a concise summary of the content, overall analysis of the book's argument(s), an assessment of its strengths and weaknesses, and a brief discussion of its place in the existing literature – what fields of research it addresses, what intervention(s) it makes, who will find it useful. Summary of the content, useful though it is, should not be so extensive as to crowd out the other elements of the review. An analytic summary, structured around themes rather than the book's chapters or chronology, is often more effective.

Quotations

Direct quotations from the book under review should be used sparingly, and should always cite the page number.

Criticism

Critical assessment of the work under review should be focused on content, scope, methodology, etc. – it should not contain *ad hominem* denigration of the author(s).

Edited volumes

It is not necessary to give a detailed summary of each contribution to the volume. Again, summarising common themes rather than individual chapters may be helpful. If you feel that your review of an edited volume warrants an extension to the word limit in order to cover all aspects that may be of particular interest to our readers, please consult with the reviews editor.

FORM

Please follow this general format for book reviews, in particular for the bibliographical information of the book under review:

Title of Book: Subtitle of Book. By AN AUTHOR AND ANOTHER AUTHOR. Pp. 152, illus., index. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 2016. £7.99. ISBN: 978-0-19-871648-8.

Book review text. Book review text. Book review text. Book review text. Book review text. Book review text. Book review text.

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ANOTHER AUTHOR
Institutional Affiliation

- Note that the name(s) of the author(s) in the header and your own name at the bottom are in SMALL CAPS rather than ALL CAPS (under Format -> Font in Microsoft

Word). Feel free to leave this in standard title case and normal typeface if you can't find this option on your word processor.

- Please add your institutional affiliation.

General Points of Style – Please refer to the Ambix Style Guide for full details

Length	Book reviews should be 800–1000 words unless agreed otherwise with the editor.
Spelling	British UK spelling: e.g. -ise rather than -ize Oxford comma: eggs, bacon, and cheese
Punctuation	Double quotes throughout; single quotes within double quotes. Punctuation (commas, periods, etc.) should be placed within the quotation marks. “e.g.” and “i.e.” not followed by a comma J. A. E. Smith (not J.A.E. Smith). No double spaces after periods.
Dashes	EN dash for page and year ranges: 1618–1648, pp. 210–217. Spaced EN dashes for parenthesis: It was – as far as anyone could tell – the end of the world.
Numbers	Spell out up to one hundred.
Dates	Give in full as 25 January 1977 In the twentieth century In the 1970s Do not abbreviate the second date in a date range, and use an EN dash rather than a hyphen: 1840–1870, not 1840-70.
Footnotes	Footnotes may be used in book reviews.
References (Please refer to Ambix style guide for full details)	BOOK: Jan Golinski and Leslie B. Hunt, eds., <i>Science as Public Culture: Chemistry and Enlightenment</i> , 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992). JOURNAL: Norman Holden, “History of the Origin of the Chemical Elements,” <i>Platinum Metals Review</i> 7 (1963): 1066–69.