



Publication Policy Statement of the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Print ISSN 0126-7353 E-ISSN: 2180-4338)

Basic Information and Scope of Journal

The *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (JMBRAS) is a scholarly publication by the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (MBRAS). The predecessor of JMBRAS, the *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, first appeared in 1878; till December 2025, 329 issues have been published. All members of the Society receive copies of JMBRAS as part of their benefits.

JMBRAS features scholarly research papers, research notes, articles of general interest, and book reviews. Our primary area of coverage is the Malay Peninsula, Singapore, Borneo, and Sumatra, but we welcome submissions on the broader Malay World and the diasporic communities within it. Due to its long-standing existence, past publications provide useful references for contemporary scholars doing historical research. This time-honoured reputation should, however, not distract from the fact that our scope extends beyond history and archaeology, to society, culture and the arts, ecology and the natural world, architecture, and heritage. In short, JMBRAS publishes papers on a wide range of subjects examined from various disciplines, but with a specific geographical focus. We seek submissions of enduring value that are academically sound yet accessible to non-specialists. We do not handle manuscripts dealing with current events or contemporary politics that will fall out of date quickly.

JMBRAS publishes two issues per year, in June and December, and is indexed in [Scopus](#). Current and recent issues are available either as hard copies sold through the MBRAS office and other vendors, or digitally through [Project MUSE](#)'s 'Premium Collection'. JMBRAS is also available to institutions under the Project MUSE single-title-scheme. Past issues going back to 1878 are available in academic libraries through [JSTOR](#), which also offers [arrangements](#) for individual readers with no institutional affiliation to access its publications.

Publishing Ethics

MBRAS (as the publisher) and the JMBRAS editorial board affirm their commitment to upholding ethical academic practices based on integrity, transparency, and fairness throughout the publication process, as laid out below.

An author should only submit an original, unpublished work for consideration, taking into consideration the principle of fair use. 'Self-plagiarism,' whereby an author recycles textual material (substantively equivalent in both form and substance) from previous publications without presenting them as quotations, should be avoided.

Upon receipt of a full manuscript, an editor will conduct preliminary screening to assess if it falls within JMBRAS's scope, and if it is of sufficient scholarly standard (in terms of the



substance and coherence of arguments, substantiation of facts, and clarity of perspective). We will eliminate unsuitable manuscripts that clearly do not stand a chance of being approved by referees, in order to avoid wasting the time and resources of the authors, editors, and referees concerned.

Following the prior round of screening, the author will be notified that their manuscript will be sent out for review. In case of multiple authorship, all authors will be notified. This is to ensure that all presumed authors are informed and kept accountable for the work and its eventual published form.

All manuscripts to be published as research papers go through a double-blind peer review process by a minimum of two referees, who are solicited for their expert views in the relevant subject areas. While the author is asked to submit the names of two potential referees with relevant expertise, the editor need not use them, and reserves the right to decide on suitable referees.

Referees will receive JMBRAS's 'Guidelines for Referees' to prepare an all-rounded assessment. The referees may recommend either a rejection of the manuscript for publication, or an acceptance subject to minor or major revisions. Should two diametrically opposed reviews be received, a third referee's report may be sought. The editorial board reserves the right to make a final decision based on the scholarly merits of arguments and academic rationales. Once revisions are complete to the satisfaction of the editorial board, the author(s) will then sign a publication agreement with MBRAS.

In the event that JMBRAS's editors or MBRAS's councillors are notified of suspected plagiarism, allegations of research misconduct, or conflicts of interest, an investigation will be launched to verify the authenticity of claims. Appropriate action will be taken based on the evidence gathered, and the whistleblower will be notified of the outcomes of the investigation and action taken.

JMBRAS adheres to the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing set down by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) in 2022, which can be viewed [here](#). For issues not stated in this Publication Policy, COPE's [guidance](#) serves as the reference for the editorial board and MBRAS.

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Archiving Plan

The MBRAS secretariat keeps archive copies of past issues in print form and in electronic form. In addition, all past issues are archived with JSTOR.

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