



GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (JMBRAS) welcomes submissions of scholarly work in anthropology, sociology, history, architecture, and archeology, as well as on culture and the arts, ecology and the natural world, and heritage. Our primary area of coverage encompasses the Malay Peninsula, Singapore, Borneo, and Sumatra, but we also welcome articles on the broader Malay World and its diasporic communities. The journal seeks material that has enduring value and does not publish articles on topics that will fall out of date quickly, such as current affairs or contemporary politics.

General information

Submissions

Submissions should be written in British English, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere.

To ensure academic integrity, each named author should make a significant contribution to the manuscript. JMBRAS does not encourage submissions listing more than three authors. Otherwise, we require details specifying the contribution of each author to the text.

All submissions must be uploaded online through our Manuscript Submission Form (<https://mbras.org.my/jmbras-manuscript-submission-form-2/>). We encourage the authors to submit manuscripts which conform to the style sheet and citation style, as laid out below. Otherwise, they will be asked to do so once the manuscript has been accepted for publication by JMBRAS.

Queries regarding submissions or technical issues should be sent to editor.jmbras@mbras.org.my.

Length

Articles should not exceed 10,000 words.

All submissions should include an abstract of around 150–200 words and 5–10 keywords.

Copyright

Authors are responsible for obtaining copyright clearance and paying fees for the use of any material under copyright. MBRAS has the exclusive right to publish articles, but permission for authors to use their articles, in whole or in part, in books, for teaching, or presentation at conferences is automatically granted upon request, provided that there is acknowledgement of prior publication in JMBRAS.

Style sheet

Format

The manuscript should be prepared using Microsoft Word. Please do not submit your manuscript as a PDF file.

Use Times New Roman, 12-point font.

The first page should be formatted as follows:

Title of Article

Name(s): (please mark the corresponding author with an asterisk)

Abstract (Explain briefly the key argument and how the conclusions are reached in approximately 150–200 words)

Keywords (Significant terms that might lead readers to your article)

The Author(s)

Biographical information (50 words maximum)

Email address

Spelling and language

British English.

Non-English words and abbreviations must be defined when first mentioned, but these do not need to be italicised.

For non-English-language references, a translated title should be provided in square brackets ([...]) following the title in the original language. For example:

Gupta, Ashin Das (1989). *Vanghap Sagar* [The Bay of Bengal]. Calcutta: Pritikxan Publication.

Tables and figures

Tables should be captioned and numbered in sequence. Similarly, all non-tabular material (e.g., line diagrams, maps, photographs) are termed as ‘figures’ and should also be captioned and numbered sequentially.

Sources for all tables and figures should appear *in captions*, not footnotes, and be also included in the list of references.

Low-resolution illustrations may be inserted in manuscripts, but if this submission is accepted for publication, we will then request high-resolution JPEG files.

Dashes

- Use an em-rule dash (—) within sentences to signal a parenthetical idea or a shift in direction.
- Use an en-rule dash (–) for ranges, including dates, page numbers, and years within a century (e.g., 19 June–15 July; pp. 26–47; 1991–93).
- Use a hyphen (-) for compound words (anti-capitalist) or compound adjectives (first-hand knowledge).

Commas

JMBRAS uses the ‘Oxford Comma’, in which the penultimate item is followed by a comma that appears before the word ‘and.’ For example, ‘the box contained shoes, gloves, shirts, and trousers.’

Miscellaneous

- i.e. and e.g. should be followed by commas; neither is italicised.
- et al.:
 - No full stop after et;
 - Full stop after al. (al. is an abbreviation for alii); and
 - Not italicised.
- Single quotation marks first; double quotation marks for quoted matter within a quotation.
- ibid. is not italicised; followed by a full stop. It is capitalised if standing alone or at the start of a sentence, but lower case otherwise.
- Initials: R.O. Winstedt; W.E. Maxwell.
- Page numbers: p. and pp. should be followed by a single space.

Citation style

JMBRAS uses a modified author–date system, with in-text citations to be placed in footnotes rather than the body text. Insert each footnote after the final punctuation mark [xxx.’¹]¹

In general, please use the following format: **author (date, page numbers for direct quotes or relevant details)**. For example:

¹ Andaya (1979), Benda (2006, 178).

² Gomez (2009).

³ Gullick (1987, 112).

⁴ *The Straits Times* (1964, July 9, 9).

Regarding individual archival documents or materials specifically (e.g., file in Arkib Negara

¹ Enter them using the “References” toolbar in the Microsoft Word Ribbon, and click the “Insert Footnote” button.

Malaysia), the details of primary or archival sources should be placed in footnotes, following the format recommended by the archive. Meanwhile, the list of references should *only* list the repositories consulted.

References

The list of references should contain all books, articles, chapters, and other relevant material cited in the text, *with the exception of archival materials*.

First, second, and third authors should be cited by their surname first, and then their first names, where available and clearly identifiable (e.g., Western, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arab).

For four or more authors, use the first author's name followed by et al.

For authors with patronymic naming conventions (e.g., Malay-Muslims, Tamils), write their names in full and in the original order.

Entries should be formatted with a hanging indent of 0.5cm.²

For consecutive titles by the same author, use three em-rule dashes (——) for subsequent occurrences.

Where possible, please provide a DOI. You may find the following tool useful: <https://apps.crossref.org/simpleTextQuery>.

Books and reports

Please use the following format: **Surname, First name (publication year). Title. Place of publication: Publisher.** For example:

Andaya, Barbara Watson (1979). *Perak, the Abode of Grace: A Study of an Eighteenth-Century Malay State*. Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press.

——— (1993). *To Live as Brothers: Southeast Sumatra in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Burgess, R.C., and Laidin bin Alang Musa (1950). *A Report on the State of Health, the Diet and the Economic Conditions of Groups of People in the Lower Income Levels in Malaya*. Malaya: Institute for Medical Research, Division of Nutrition.

Carey, Peter B.R., ed. (1980). *The Archive of Yogyakarta, Vol. I: Documents Relating to Politics and Internal Court Affairs*. Oxford: British Academy by Oxford University Press (Oriental Documents, 3).

Joyner, Randy L., Rouse, William A., and Glatthorn, Allan A. (2013). *Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation: A Step-by-step Guide*. 3rd edn. London: Sage.

Wang, Gungwu (1991). *China and the Chinese Overseas*. Singapore: Times Academic Press.

Lim, Kah Cheng, Oon, Petra, and Yuslinov Ahmad, comp. (2003). *Malaysian Women and the Law: Rights, Discriminations, and Reform*. Pulau Pinang: NCWO, Penang Branch.

² To adjust indents, right-click anywhere on the page, and then execute the following sequence: "Paragraph">"Special">"Hanging".

Theses or dissertation

Please use the following format: **Surname, First name (year). ‘Title.’ Type of thesis or dissertation, university.** For example:

Manickam, Sandra Khor (2010). ‘Taming Race: The Construction of Aborigines in Colonial Malaya. 1783-1937.’ PhD thesis, Australian National University.

Chapters

Please use the following format: **Surname, First name (publication year). ‘Article Title,’ in Book Title, ed(s). name(s) (in its conventional form) of editor(s). Place of publication: Publisher.** For example:

Sopher, David E. (2018). ‘Boat People of the Western Archipelago during the Portuguese Period,’ in *Studying Singapore before 1800*, eds. Kwa Chong Guan and Peter Borschberg. Singapore: NUS Press.

Journal articles

Please use the following format: **Surname, First name (publication year). ‘Article Title,’ Journal name, volume number, issue number: page range. DOI.** For example:

Andaya, Barbara Watson (1974). ‘The Installation of the First Sultan of Selangor in 1766,’ *JMBRAS*, 47, 1: 41–57.

Dishong, Nini Havela, et al. (2022). ‘Investigating the Geochemical Content of Ancient Laterite Bricks from Bukit Choras Archaeological Site Using X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF),’ *Journal of Sustainability Science and Management*, 17, 1: 236-258. <https://doi.org/10.46754/jssm.2022.01.016>

Farish A. Noor (2021). ‘The Uses of Magic: Local Knowledge and the “Unscientific Native” in Colonial Malaya,’ *JMBRAS*, 94, 2: 97–119. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/ras.2021.0028>.

King, Gary, and Sen, Maya (2013). ‘How Social Science Research Can Improve Teaching,’ *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 46, 3: 621–29.

Lim, Teckwyn (2021). ‘“Sixteen Naked Indians”: First Contact between the British and the Orang Asli,’ *JMBRAS*, 94, 2: 27–42. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/ras.2021.0025>.

Newspapers

Please use the following format: **Name (date), title of article, name of newspaper, URL (if available).** Where the author’s name is not available, newspapers should be treated as the ‘author.’ For example:

Ratnamala (1964, May 19). ‘Temasha menarek dan meriah... [An interesting and lively tournament ...],’ *Berita Harian*.

The Star (2022, November 14). ‘GE15: Less than 20% of candidates are female, low number “not a good look” for Malaysia.’



<https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/family/2022/11/14/ge15-thirty-per-cent-seat-target-remains-elusive-for-women>, accessed 25 August 2025.

Websites

Please use the following format: **Surname, First name of author (if available) (publication date, if available), 'title of page or article (if available),' Name of website. URL, date accessed.** For example:

'Muhammed Aziz Khan,' <https://www.forbes.com/profile/muhammed-aziz-khan/?sh=103131f58ec0>, accessed 15 February 2021.

Seow, Jun Yee (2025, August 29), 'Ethnic Chinese new villages: Malaysia's hidden heritage or controversial legacy?' *Think China*. <https://www.thinkchina.sg/society/video-ethnic-chinese-new-villages-malysias-hidden-heritage-or-controversial-legacy>, accessed 8 September 2025.