UNDERGRADUATE PUBLICATIONS

Undergraduate Journals to Consider:

- **American Journal of Undergraduate Research**: Multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed. Ten-week turnaround. Connected to Indiana University-Purdue University, but independently run. It leans toward the sciences, but publishes in all fields.

- **Columbia Undergraduate Journal of History**: One of the most prestigious. Papers have to be submitted by your professor—even being accepted as a short-list nominee is an honor and will get you listed on their website. Best papers presented by their authors at Columbia University.

- **Discussions (Case Western)**: Multidisciplinary. Author needs to be current undergrad at time of publication. Acceptance rate around 30%.


- **The Honors Review**: (Augsburg College): nationally competitive, multidisciplinary, but less science-oriented than some others. You don’t have to be part of an honors program. Needs to have an accompanying recommendation by your faculty member. Need to prepare an abstract as well.

- **Intersections**: (University of Washington, Seattle). Rolling submission. Comparative history of ideas/interdisciplinary.

- **Texas State Undergraduate Research Journal**: Our own. Pretty good odds of getting in.

- **Yale Historical Review**: 100+ page issues. Articles chosen and edited by professors and undergrad editor team.

General guideline points for submissions to the journals:

- You generally need to be a current student, work written for a classtime; sometimes need to be current undergrad at time of publication.

- Article needs to be based on primary records.

- The work needs to be original scholarship—saying something new. This means that you’ve read enough of the historiography to know where the gaps are.

- The general length is between 12-30 pages, but sometimes longer.

- The submission needs to adhere scrupulously to all standards and deadlines. Style guidelines are usually *Chicago Manual of Style*, occasionally MLA.

- The paper needs to place its argument within a solid historiographical context

- They often want emails first proposing and describing the topic.

My guidelines for creating a solid research paper:

- Start with questions, not answers.
• Topic should start rather broad, but finish narrow—best bet is to find a small aspect of your topic and make it your own—explore it thoroughly

• You first need a thorough grounding in the secondary literature, up to as recent as you can get it—you need to genuinely understand the issues and controversies of your topic.

• However—the core of your work needs to be based around primary sources. You should be investigating what resources exist for your topic, and thinking of how you might use them creatively, from fairly early on.

• Parts of your paper will lay out a narrative of events. Parts will explain the historiography of your topic. But neither of these should take over the paper. The core of the paper should be your own thoughts, and conclusions.

• With regard to the above, the best papers do not have three discrete sections, but flow seamlessly from a brief description of events, to key points of contention and interpretation, and then the main thrust of the paper—your own arguments and conclusions.

• With regard to the works of historians who have come before you—I personally prefer to not see a sea of quotation marks. I want to see you summarize the arguments of your predecessors in your own words. Remember that how competently you treat alternate explanations, particularly those you are taking issue with, is an important indicator of how careful a historian you yourself are.

• The work must have an argument at its core, even if it is only a possibility raised to be explored.