

Preparation of Book Reviews for *North Carolina Libraries*

North Carolina Libraries is the journal of the North Carolina Library Association. It appears online throughout the year, with a published annual compilation. The “North Carolina Books” section reviews recently published fiction, nonfiction, and reference works thematically related to North Carolina. Reviewers are librarians or subject experts recruited by the book review editor. They are not paid, but keep the books they review.

North Carolina Libraries carries book reviews as a service to its primary readers—librarians in colleges, universities, public libraries, and schools around the state. The editors want to bring books about North Carolina to the attention of Tar Heel librarians. We also want to provide librarians with information that will help them decide whether to buy a particular book.

We ask reviewers to keep those librarians in mind when they write reviews. Tell the readers of *North Carolina Libraries* what they need to know to make a decision about purchasing the book.

The book review editor selects the books to be reviewed and assigns reviewers. Unsolicited book reviews are not accepted. Individuals interesting in reviewing for *North Carolina Libraries* should call or email the book review editor whose contact information is listed below.

Guidelines

1. Read the book carefully; avoid the temptation to skim through it.
2. A standard model for a review suggests: begin with an interesting introduction; follow that with a summary of the book’s content; give some sense of the author’s purpose in writing the book; conclude with an objective judgment statement.
3. It is good to mention the author’s background and qualifications. If the book is the first by an author, say so. If it is not, mention the author’s other works. If possible, compare the book to earlier works. However, keep in mind that this is a *book review*, not a review of the scholarly literature on a particular topic.
4. For works of fiction, mention setting, point of view, plot believability, and success of character development.
5. For works of nonfiction, consider comprehensiveness, nature of source material, objectivity, timeliness, and illustrative matter. Note the presence of bibliographies, appendixes, and indexes.
6. Children’s books require special care. Tell whether a work of fiction is likely to be believable and stimulating. Judge the literary and artistic merit of the book; mention the quality of illustrative matter and its compatibility with the text. Note whether works of nonfiction are accurate, current, and free of oversimplification.
7. Conclude with a statement of suitability for various types of libraries and/or grade level.
8. Reviews should be **400-500 words in length**.

Format

At the beginning of the review, cite the author(s), editor(s), compiler(s) in order; place of publication and publisher; number of pages; price; and ISBN. Note ordering information if this differs from the publisher. Your name and institutional affiliation should appear at the end of the review.

Examples: Anthony J. Badger. *Prosperity Road: The New Deal, Tobacco and North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. 313 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 978-0-8078-1367-6.

Buck W. Yearns and John G. Barrett, eds. *North Carolina Civil War Documentary*. New ed. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. 381 pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978-0-8078-5358-0.

Examples: Jane Doe
Mayberry Public Library

John Doe
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Deadline

Please keep the deadline that is agreed upon. If a reviewer cannot review the book by that date, the book should be returned to the book review editor immediately.

Submission

Please send reviews as an email attachment to: **levon@email.unc.edu**

If email is not an option, please call Eileen McGrath at (919) 962-1172 to discuss other possibilities.

As of January 2008, the book review editor is:

Eileen McGrath

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CB#3930

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Reviews are subject to editing. The book review editor and the editorial board of *North Carolina Libraries* reserve the right to alter reviews to conform to style requirements of the journal (*Chicago Manual of Style*). If extensive modification is required, the review and a list of suggestions will be returned to the reviewer.