

SAA Press Current Perspectives
Description and Guidelines
Minor revisions made April 2017

The Current Perspectives series is intended to provide short, up-to-date summaries/overviews of the current state of archaeological knowledge in a region, a topic of broad continental or hemispheric interest (e.g. Peopling of the Americas), or a topic of theoretical or methodological interest (e.g., the use of modeling in archaeology). The text should be a balanced, judicious review while still providing scope for the author's ideas and orientation. The intended audiences are (1) Archaeologists not expert in the topic area desiring a solid but brief overview, and (2) Students in advanced undergraduate or graduate courses, and instructors of those courses.

The books are relatively inexpensive and published in both paper and Kindle format, which means they are widely available. The current catalog is available here:

<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Publications/TheSAAPress/tabid/130/Default.aspx>

Format

Most volumes in this series are monographs. Edited volumes, with a series of stand-alone chapters, are not appropriate. Multi-authored volumes may be appropriate, as long as they are well-integrated and read as a single piece. For example:

- Several authors might contribute chapters or sections on their areas of expertise. These pieces should be organized jointly and tied together with introductory and concluding material.
- A primary author might ask others to co-author chapters or sections, with the primary author maintaining the overall integration of the volume.

Please use the SAA style guide as appropriate:

<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Publications/StyleGuide/tabid/984/Default.aspx>. For matters not in the style guide (e.g., table of contents, chapter headings) be consistent and clear.

Target length is approximately 60,000 words of text, not including references cited. References should be current and include crucial sources, but also selected judiciously.

Tables and figures are encouraged though have to be balanced against production cost. Consult with the editor about specifics.

Procedure:

- Author(s) discusses ideas with the press editors.
- Author prepares a prospectus following the guidelines below.
- Editors review the prospectus; revisions or clarification are often requested.
- If and when prospectus is deemed satisfactory, press editor invites author to prepare a manuscript, setting a mutually agreed upon due date.
- If the review-ready manuscript is submitted on time, the author will receive a \$300 honorarium. If the manuscript is late, especially if it is not close, the invitation to submit may become null and void. "Review-ready" means the manuscript is ready to be assessed by peer reviewers. It is acceptable for review-ready manuscripts to have some figures in draft

form, permissions underway, or a few references that need to be finalized. However, the manuscript must be otherwise complete and clean, not “rough.”

- Submitted manuscript is sent out for anonymous peer review.
- Based on the reviews and the editors’ own reading, author may be asked to make revisions.
- If reviews are positive and/or revisions are satisfactory, press editor informs the SAA press office and at this point a formal contract is written.
- Author submits a final manuscript.
- Manuscript is forwarded to SAA press office for copy-editing and production.
- The book is published!

Prospectus:

The prospectus for a Current Perspectives volume should include:

- A one to two page outline or summary of the planned text that provides both a sense of the substantive content and of the ideas animating the text.
- A table of contents with a one or two paragraph summary of each chapter’s purpose and contents.
- Answers to the following:
 - What is the inherent value of the proposed work?
 - What is its appeal to the broad SAA membership?
 - Are there other books on the topic? How is this one similar to/different from them in terms of orientation, coverage, anticipated audience?
 - Please list three or four potential reviewers and contact information for them.