



180
Literary
Journals

FOR
CREATIVE
WRITERS

Emily Harstone

Authors Publish

*180 Literary
Journals*

**for Creative
Writers**

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Introduction

Literary journals are print and electronic publications that publish shorter works of literary merit. Most publish short fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry, but some just focus on one genre. Historically most literary journals were print, now the majority are electronic.

Some literary journals are interested in other work, such as plays, music, videos, graphic novels, visual art, etc. Others are also interested in fiction or poetry that most journals consider to be genre work (such as science fiction, or horror).

Literary journals are a great opportunity for new authors to get their work out into the world, and for emerging authors to really establish their reputation and promote their work. Established authors often use them to promote forthcoming work or larger collections from publishers.

This book is a companion of sorts to [Submit Publish Repeat](#). That book really focuses on the whys and hows of submitting. I cover a little bit of that in the first two chapters, but if you want to know more, [Submit Publish Repeat](#) is the book for you.

This book, *180 Literary Journals for Creative Writers*, is focused on the where. It contains almost two hundred different literary journals that are interested in publishing work.

Every week, *Authors Publish* reviews a different literary journal. We have been doing this for over five years now. Initially I did all the reviews myself and around three years ago, Ella Perry took over. If you want to read her ongoing reviews, and are not a subscriber, you can [subscribe](#) (for free).

180 Literary Journals for Creative Writers does not contain complete reviews of publications, nor does it contain all the literary journals we have reviewed in the past. Instead, it is a collection of lists that group journals into particular categories.

Some of the lists in this book include new journals, approachable journals, prestigious journals, journals that publish genre writing, and those that pay. Most of these lists are updated and extended versions of ones we have done before, others are brand new.

All are as up to date as possible at the time of publication. Also, it is important to note that some journals belong in more than one category. For example, *The Threepenny Review* is very prestigious, pays, and responds within three days, so it could have been on three different lists, but I chose to place it on the respected journals list. If a journal pays we usually note that fact, even if it is not in the paying journals section.

Unlike manuscript publishers, literary journals have shorter and sometimes, less predictable windows for reading submissions. They are also more likely to close completely without formal announcement.

Also unlike manuscript publishers, literary journals' reputations (aside from the most established ones') are more likely to change. No-name journals that I submitted to years ago are now respected, established, game-changer publications. Other journals that published my work and used to have great reputations have gone under, or become less respected.

Some literary journals charge to submit, but all of the literary journals reviewed here have a free option, and most don't have a paying option at all.

I really hope seeing the range and variety of literary journals covered by this book will encourage you to increase the amount of submissions you make. The last chapter of this book is devoted to additional resources, so you can find even more literary journals open to submissions. There is also a glossary in the back.

How to Start Getting Your Work Published in Literary Journals

When I first started submitting my work to literary journals, each submission I made was a frustrating, time-consuming ordeal. I kept asking myself if each publication was the right fit for my poems. I kept wondering what would happen if my poems ended up at a journal that I thought was good, but actually turned out to be bad, even though I had no real idea what a “bad journal” really was.

I think that this period of doubt, questioning, and of time-consuming submissions is just a natural part of starting out. But I do think the more knowledge you have about submitting, the easier it is to start. Anxiety about submissions is temporary, not something you will face all the time. But first before you submit, you have to make sure your work is ready to go out.

Preparing Your Work

How do you know your work is ready? That is perhaps a question you will be asking yourself for the rest of your life. But a good place to start is that all work you submit should be edited and revised. Did you just write that poem 10 minutes ago? It probably isn't ready to submit. Did you write that poem a week ago and spend a lot of time revising and editing it, maybe getting feedback from others? It is probably ready to submit. Short stories and creative nonfiction usually takes longer to polish just because there is more potential for errors because of length.

When you submit short stories and creative nonfiction, you submit one piece at a time. Poetry doesn't work that way, generally you submit 3-5 poems at a time. [This article](#) should tell you all you need to know to get started making poetry “packets”. If you are a poet, it is also good to read the article [3 Obvious Mistakes New Poets Make](#) so you can avoid making those mistakes yourself.

I would urge you to have several pieces or several packets ready to go before you try and find literary journals to submit to. Even if you are simultaneously submitting the same piece to more than one literary journal (which most literary journals encourage, as long as you notify them if it is accepted elsewhere), having more than one short story or poetry packet lets you submit to even more places at once. Because even with simultaneous submissions being allowed, it isn't wise to submit the same piece to more than 10 places at once. Besides, I am always surprised by what poems of mine get accepted first; it is often the ones I have thought of as middling (ok, not great).

Cover Letter and Biographic Statement

The second step is to prepare a cover letter and a short biographical statement (also known as a bio). [This article](#) by the editor of the literary journal Neon is very helpful to read before writing your cover letter. My main advice in terms of a cover letter is to keep it short and sweet. Mine is two sentences. If a journal asks for more, I will edit it in.

A good bio is a hard thing to write, and I generally have more than one depending on the publication. But I always keep my bio under 50 words unless the publication explicitly states otherwise. You can read my in-depth article on the subject [here](#).

I use the same bio(s) and cover letter over and over again, and that is part of what makes me an efficient submitter.

Before you start the actual submission process you should read this article, which talks about the [3 things I wish I knew](#) when I started out.

Finding and Researching Literary Journals

The third step is to start researching publications that might be a good fit for your work, although that is really hard to figure that out. There are publications that publish poems that have a lot in common with my work tonally and thematically that have rejected my work time and time again. There are also literary journals that have published my work where my poem is entirely different from everything else in the journal. So when I evaluate a site or a journal, I don't necessarily try

and look to see if they have published anything stylistically similar to my work. Rather, I see if there is something I enjoy reading there, even if it is not in my genre, if I can find a piece like that, or I really like the cover art, I submit.

Now you might have different ways to judge a journal, and mine have changed over the years, but never submit to a journal that it would not be exciting in some way to be published in. If you look at a journal and hate the way the website looks, and think it would be embarrassing to share this link with all your friends – please don't submit! It is just that simple.

The most important part of researching is finding literary journals in the first place. There are a number of options, all imperfect. We at *Authors Publish* regularly review literary journals and compile lists of literary journals. We even have [this list for new writers](#). There is also Duotrope, which you can learn more [about here](#). Duotrope is what I started with and what I still use.

The [Poets & Writers Literary Journals listing](#) is unable to hide markets that charge a fee, but they do a good job otherwise. [The \(Submission\) Grinder](#) has a lot of potential but is not used enough to be as helpful as it could be. [The Review Review](#) does a good job at providing information about some of the options out there. [New Pages](#) has a good listing service as well.

Submittable (formerly Submishmash) started a new free listing service, which you can learn more about [here](#). [Entropy](#) also has a very good monthly list of who is open for submissions (although it is far from error free).

Submitting Your Work

Once you have found a publisher you want to submit to, read their submission guidelines carefully and follow them. You should already have all the components (short story, cover letter, bio) of your submission ready, so the submission process itself is not very time consuming. Most publishers accept electronic submissions these days, either through email, or through the submission manager Submittable, or other submission systems.

[Now don't stop with that one publisher](#). Keep submitting! But track your submissions in a Word document or an Excel file, note the name of the literary journal, the date you submitted, and the

piece (or pieces) you submitted to them and update the file when you receive an acceptance or rejection.

Once you have gotten used to the process, start to set goals for yourself; they can be monthly goals or yearly goals, but stick to them. The longer you submit, the easier the whole process gets, and I really wish you the best of luck!

Against Submission Fees

I have submitted my work to over 200 different journals in the past two years, and many more before that. When I first started submitting eight years ago, one or two journals charged writers a couple of bucks to submit their work for consideration.

This fee did not cover anything else. It did not ensure that the writer's work was considered more seriously, nor did guarantee editorial feedback. All it did was allow the writer to submit their work for consideration to be published.

Most journals back then justified this choice by saying that they were charging writers only \$2-\$3, and that it cost writers about that much to submit via post. I still took issue with that argument. After all, it is one thing to pay the post office if submitting by mail is the only way, it is another thing to pay a literary journal to open email, read it (hopefully), and more often than not, reject your work with a generic email.

I think it is very important to support literary journals. I subscribe to a large number of them, but they should not be making their money by charging authors directly without offering anything tangible in return. On that same note, I will only enter a contest that charges a fee where I am rewarded with a subscription to the magazine.

In the last four years, there has been a solid shift towards charging authors submission fees. Most magazines that charge authors are not going to pay these authors even if they accept their work. This is a real issue for me.

At first it was only the older, more established journals that were charging readers to submit electronically. It is strange because most of these journals won't even consider work submitted by mail, so paying is truly your only option.

Some journals say this is because submission services that save time for editors, like Submittable, charge the magazines to use them. Still, that does not make a huge difference. Many

journals manage to skirt this issue by selling people copies, having Kickstarters with rewards writers actually want, etc.

Lately I have even seen brand new journals with no reputation and no Submittable account charging readers to submit. This issue has gotten out of hand. But the tipping point has yet to happen, and recently I have grown less certain that it will happen. I now think there will always be more journals with free submissions than those with reading fees.

That said, in the last few years it has become more common for journals to charge more than \$3 to submit, sometimes up to \$15, which is really unfair.

One of the ways that I push against this new movement to charge to submit is by not submitting to journals that do charge. I also never review them. *Authors Publish* only publishes reviews of journals that do not charge for submissions.

Even though I no longer submit to Crazyhorse and a few other esteemed journals, there are still hundreds of prestigious journals that I can submit to without paying a premium to have my work considered.

One additional factor that complicates this whole issue is solicited submissions. Many of the more prestigious journals already solicit many of their submissions from writers and poets that they admire. These writers and poets generally do not submit through normal avenues. They never pay to have their work considered and it is, in fact, almost always accepted.

Ultimately you will have to make your own mind up about paying to submit to journals. It is your money, after all. But in the meantime, I will continue to review excellent journals that do not charge writers a fee to have their work considered.

10 Great New Literary Journals

The following is a list of 10 very new literary journals. There are many reasons to seek publication in these journals.

In my experience, the benefits can be greater than publishing in a well-established journal. When a literary journal is new, the editors tend to be a lot more passionate. I have gotten handwritten thank you cards from editors of new publications, something that has never happened when my work was published by a more established journal.

Editors of new journals tend to be more generous with their time, energy, and enthusiasm. Plus, they are genuinely grateful that you trusted their new and untested journal with your work. Several of the journals that published my work in their first issue have gone on to permanently feature my poems on their website as their ‘sample poem’, so that other submitters get a feel for the kind of work they like to read. Others have recorded podcasts of my work. My work ended up getting promoted a lot more than if it had been accepted by an older, more established journal.

With a new journal, the odds that my work would be nominated for a literary prize went up as well. I have been publishing in new journals for eight years and some of the journals that published my work when I was a new writer are now established and several have a less than 1% acceptance rate. However, when I originally submitted, they were far less competitive.

During that eight-year period, seven of those new journals went under, which is one of the major pitfalls to submitting to new journals. The other major pitfall is that you don’t know what you are getting into, particularly if your work is published in the first issue. You can’t look at past issues, online and in print, because they have none. In a way it is stepping into the unknown. In my experience though, the risk is always worth it because the reward can be much greater.

Below is a list of 10 literary journals that I very much like, that have been around for less than a year. The list is in no particular order.

Note: Not all of the journals are currently open to submissions, but most are.

The Disconnect

An electronic journal with great art, a striking web presence and an interesting premise – you have to disconnect from the internet in order to read it. Their first issue is already up and it is easy to get a feel of this well designed, thought out, and inspiring journal.

Blanket Sea

Blanket Sea is an arts and literary magazine that publishes the work of artists and writers living with chronic illness, mental illness, and disability. The work they publish doesn't need to be about those experiences explicitly, but submissions along those lines are encouraged. They accept reprints. Some of the art work they have published is particularly good.

Black Coffee & Vinyl

Black Coffee & Vinyl designed to feature writers, artists, and musicians from around the world. All the issues they will publish will revolve around a theme. The first theme issue is 'Ice Culture', the second is 'City'. The editor is Willona Sloan, a writer from Washington, DC, with a good publication record. The site is very appealing and professional looking and the themes are well defined. I also like their international focus. They pay.

armarolla

This magazine is open to submissions year round. They publish poetry, prose, visual work, as well as hybrid pieces. They are an electronic publication with good graphics and an easy to read format.

Before After/ Godwink

Having just published their first issue, it is easier to get a feel for this new literary journal that hopes to be a small press one day. They publish short fiction (less than 400 words) and longer

fiction and well as poetry and creative nonfiction. Their site is well designed and the writing they have published so far shows potential.

The Conglomerate

They publish art of all kinds including, text, images, video, audio, and they combine the work of different artists into single conglomerations. You can read their third issue [here](#). They are really doing some creative experimental and engaging things with their electronic platform.

Mantra Review

Mantra Review publishes prayers, visions and dreams, sacred narratives, histories, ritual scenarios, praises, namings, musings, and proverbs, all meant to be read aloud as mantras. They are both a print and electronic publication.

The Raffish

The Raffish is a sporadic print magazine that publishes 2-4 times each year, featuring content which chronicles the diverse human experience. They also publish additional material online. Their website is well designed, appealing, and easy to use.

Wiki-lit

This ambitious project is still in its early stages. Their hope is that over time they will be able to create a sort of Wikipedia of literature with works with common themes or words linked together.

The Sea Letter

The Sea Letter is a blog and seasonal literary journal that publishes short fiction, poetry, and chapter series. They pay for most of what they publish, except for the chapter series.

25 Literary Journals Always Open to Submissions

Most literary journals are open to submissions for a window of time each year. Sometimes it is a very long window. Sometimes it is more than one window. But it can be frustrating to visit their website and realize that they just closed to submissions. It is particularly hard during the summer, when the majority of journals are closed to submissions.

This list features only literary journals that are always open to submissions. All reviews contain links to the literary journal. The journals are listed in no particular order.

[sinkhole](#)

This magazine dubs itself as the poor person's Atlantic. They publish cultural and creative work.

[Smartish Pace](#)

Smartish Pace is a print literary journal that focuses on publishing quality poems by emerging and established poets. It takes them about 8 months to respond to most submissions.

[Apt](#)

Apt is a print and digital literary journal. They have a submission window for the print journal, but for the online version you can submit year-round.

[Prufrock](#)

This literary journal accepts global submissions but particularly prides itself in publishing the best writing by African writers.

[Black Sun Lit](#)

They publish prose, verse, essays, and translation. They are seeking very specific work.

Maudlin House

Maudlin House is an e-journal that publishes one new issue every month. They publish flash fiction, fiction, videos, art, and poems. They are not averse to publishing genre work. They are particularly interested in publishing work that explores the human condition.

BOAAT Press

This is a poetry-only journal. You can submit up to five poems at once to them.

After the Pause

They publish each issue on the electronic magazine site Issuu. They publish poetry, flash fiction, and visual art.

FLAG + VOID

This online literary journal has published some very well-known authors. They try to just feature a few authors in every issue.

Haiku Journal

Haiku Journal publishes traditional haiku poetry. Because they want every poem to “appear clean” in honor of the tradition, poems are published with an emphasis on minimalism. This means that published poems will remain untitled, though appropriately attributed to the poets.

Yemassee

Yemassee reads year-round for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Submissions are always free but you can pay \$3 for your work to be expedited.

Capra Review

Established in 2014, The Capra Review is an online journal of fiction, nonfiction, and art. They publish a wide variety of forms and styles for a broad audience.

The Fiddlehead

This esteemed Canadian poetry print journal pays its authors and is open to submissions year round. They pay.

Blue Earth Review

Blue Earth Review is published by Minnesota State University. They are a print publication and generally have excellent covers. They are highly selective and publish very little of what is submitted to them. They have a reading period for general fiction but they are always open to submissions in other categories.

DIAGRAM

DIAGRAM is an online literary journal that has over a million visitors per month. They have a reputation for publishing unusual and new work. They publish flash fiction, poetry, essays, and short stories. They also publish visual art.

Carve

Carve publishes honest fiction online and hosts the Raymond Carver Short Story Contest. While formally based in Dallas, Texas, the staff and volunteers who help the magazine thrive are from all over the world. They charge non-subscribers for online submissions, but not postal ones.

Foothill Journal

Directed by students at Claremont Graduate University, Foothill: A Journal of Poetry is a print and online poetry journal that features the work of emerging poets enrolled in graduate programs around the world. You must be a graduate student to submit to them.

The Fictional Café

The Fictional Café is an online magazine and forum for authors and artists, publishing new poetry, fiction, novel excerpts, podcasts, and artwork of all genres each month. Like a virtual coffee shop, The Fictional Café is a meeting place for authors and artists to read, share, and discuss great writing and artwork.

[jmww](#)

jmww is a literary journal publishing fiction, flash, poetry, essays, interviews, book reviews, and other miscellany on a weekly basis.

[Kingdoms in the Wild](#)

Kingdoms in the Wild, an online literary magazine launched in 2016, is seeking poetry and fiction that moves readers beyond popular issues to the underlying heart of communication, which mends all fractures. Kingdoms in the Wild accepts submissions year-round, and they publish new content frequently.

[Longleaf Review](#)

A new online journal, Longleaf Review publishes poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. They take their name and inspiration from Zora Neale Hurston's work gathering the stories of the women and men who lived and worked in the longleaf pine forests of Florida in the 1930's.

[Asymmetry Fiction](#)

They publish speculative fiction and creative nonfiction of a certain type. They are always open to submissions and offer a token payment.

[Boxcar Poetry Review](#)

Boxcar is a respected online literary journal and is always open to submissions of poetry.

[Room](#)

Canada's oldest feminist literary journal accepts submissions year round, but often has deadlines for themed issues.

[Riggwelter](#)

Riggwelter is open to submissions of poetry, short fiction, visual art (of any kind – photography, collage, traditional art, etc.) experimental/mixed media, essays and reviews.

15 Journals with Fast Response Times

It is good to start out by submitting your work to journals that have fast response times. It is rewarding to hear back from journals within a month, rather than a year later, when you have forgotten all about them.

Submitting to journals with fast response times helps keep you motivated.

All of these journals respond to submissions within a month. The response time data is based on information from [Duotrope](#) and [The \(Submission\) Grinder](#).

Thrush

Thrush is a highly respected poetry journal that responds to most submissions within 10 days.

The Aironaut

This is a journal of surrealist, absurdist, and fabulist flash fiction that responds within a week.

Radar Poetry

Radar Poetry is a wonderful electronic poetry journal that responds within two weeks to submissions.

The American Poetry Journal

They publish only poetry and respond to all submissions within a month.

McSweeney's Internet Tendency

This fictional humor website, which leans towards all things literary, responds to submissions within a week.

Moon Park Review

They publish flash fiction, prose poems, and hybrid forms and respond within two weeks.

Softblow

Softblow, an online poetry journal, responds to most submissions in less than three days.

Metaphorosis

This literary journal publishes science fiction and fantasy short stories and responds to most submissions within a week. They also pay.

The Penn Review

The Penn Review publishes original poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and visual artwork, and responds to most submissions within three days.

Red Eft Review

This electronic literary journal focuses on publishing accessible poems. Their turnaround time is a couple of days.

The Jellyfish Review

They publish flash fiction online and respond within a week.

Eunoia Review

The Eunoia Review describes itself as a publisher of “beautiful thinking”. They respond in three days or less.

Ghost Parachute

This flash fiction publisher responds to all submissions within a week.

The New Verse News

The New Verse News presents politically progressive poetry on current events and topical issues. Because of the nature of what they publish, they have fast response times and then generally publish work within a few days of accepting it.

Amaryllis

This electronic publisher of poetry responds within a week.

17 Approachable Literary Journals

If you are just starting to submit your work to literary journals, or perhaps you just want to avoid rejection, this list is for you.

All of the literary journals in this list accept around half of what is submitted to them. So the odds of your work being accepted just went up.

These are not the most prestigious journals; publication in them will in all likelihood not change your writing life in any way, but they are not a bad place to start if you are new to submitting or writing.

Make sure you read the guidelines before submitting to know if your work fits. Just because they are approachable, doesn't mean that they will accept angry poetry when they only publish nature poetry!

Not all literary journals in this list are currently open to submissions, but most are. It is also important to note that this information is subject to change. Sometimes a journal that was once easy to get into no longer is, so if you are seeing this list long after it was published, please keep that in mind. The list is in no particular order.

All of the information used to ascertain if the market is approachable or not was found through research done at the websites [Duotrope](#) and [The \(Submission\) Grinder](#).

[The Plum Tree Tavern](#)

They only publish poetry about nature and ecology. They publish a little under half of the work they receive.

[The Moon Magazine](#)

They publish poetry, nonfiction, and fiction online. Every issue is themed, but they read for several themes at once.

Scarlet Leaf Review

They publish a wide variety of poetry and prose, including genre work. They accept about 80% of what they receive.

Peacock Journal

They publish poetry, nonfiction and fiction.

50-Word Stories

As their name suggests, they publish only 50-word stories. They read submissions every month between the 1st and the 15th. They publish over 50% of what is submitted to them.

Down in the Dirt

Down in the Dirt publishes fiction and poetry. They have an acceptance rate of 70%.

Eskimo Pie

If you are a poet who really hates rejection, submit to this online literary journal. They accept almost 100% of what is submitted. They only publish poetry.

Anti-Heroin Chic

Anti-Heroin Chic publishes poetry, fiction and nonfiction. As they put it,

“Send us your observations.

Send us your heart.

Send us your honesty.”

Page & Spine

Page & Spine is an online literary journal that focuses on publishing the work of emerging authors. They accept poems, limericks, micro flash fiction (under 150 words), flash fiction (up to 1,000 words), short stories, articles, essays, and poems. They accept approximately half of the work they receive. They pay.

Mused

This is an online journal of upbeat and warm fiction, poetry, art, and essays. They accept over half of their submissions.

Literary Yard

Literary Yard is an e-journal that aims at widening literary horizons. They publish well over half of what they receive.

Quail Bell

They publish a wide variety of writing and visual art. They have a well-designed website and a rather high acceptance rate.

Califragile

This online poetry market accepts about half of they receive.

Ekphrastic Review

An Ekphrastic work is writing or art about another work of art. The Ekphrastic Review publishes fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

What Rough Beast

They publish a poem a day by a different poet exploring and responding to the US' political reality.

Spelk

This UK-based publication focuses on flash fiction.

Corvus Review

A literary journal dedicated to the strange, wonderful, and downright weird, they publish fiction, nonfiction, flash fiction, and poetry.

26 Respected Literary Journals and Magazines that Publish Creative Writing

The literary journals and magazines on this list reject the vast majority of what is submitted to them. Sometimes authors' works are rejected for years, decades even, before they receive an acceptance.

But these literary journals are respected and trusted. Most have a large readership and good distribution in libraries and bookstores. Many of these are the journals and magazines that the editors of publications like [The Best American Short Stories](#) read through to select work from. Acceptances at one of these journals and magazines can make a huge difference in your career as a writer.

The list is not in any particular order. Not all are currently open to submissions.

None of the literary journals charge readers for all submissions. So if a well-known literary journal or magazine that publishes creative work is not listed here, that may be the reason why.

There are lots of great respected and established literary journals that are not on this list and do not charge submission fees, but we didn't want to overwhelm anyone. Because of that reason, there are no publishers that focus on genre writing (like Tor.com or Shimmer) on this list.

The name of the publication links to their submission guidelines.

[The Atlantic](#)

The Atlantic is open to submissions of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction. They pay well.

[The New Yorker](#)

The most famous (and most profitable) magazine with a literary bent, The New Yorker is very

competitive to get into. However, they accept unsolicited submissions of fiction, poetry, and cartoons. They pay very well.

Poetry

This is the most famous poetry magazine there is. It is published by The Poetry Foundation. The first time you have a poem printed by them, an asterisk appears next to your name to note your appearance as a debut poet with them. They pay well.

The Sun

The Sun is a fabulous ad-free magazine that has been around for over 40 years and has published so many famous writers, I have a hard time choosing even five. They publish fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, and poetry. They only accept submissions through the mail. They even pay well.

Rattle

This prestigious print magazine also has a wonderful weekly online feature called ‘Poets Respond’, which features poems that are responses to news articles published that week. They pay.

One Story and One Teen Story

These related publications publish one story per issue; one publication is aimed at adults, the other at teens. They pay well and they have published many established, reputable, bestselling, and award-winning authors. One Teen Story only publishes writing by teenagers.

The Paris Review

This venerable print publication accepts only postal submissions. They publish poetry and fiction, as well as interviews, which they are rather famous for. They were founded in 1953 and have published many well-known writers since then. Some famous authors, including Adrienne Rich, Philip Roth, V. S. Naipaul, and Rick Moody, were first published by The Paris Review.

Granta

This print and electronic literary journal publishes great straightforward fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Granta has editions in 12 languages across 3 continents. Unfortunately in November

2017, they started charging a \$4 fee for all prose submissions but they are still open to free poetry submissions. They pay.

The Virginia Quarterly Review (VQR)

They publish poetry, short fiction, and nonfiction by award winning writers. They pay \$200 per poem, and start at \$1,000 per fiction piece.

Harper's Magazine

Harper's considers unsolicited fiction. It is the second-oldest continuously published monthly magazine in the US. They pay.

Tin House

This respected print literary journal publishes some of the best contemporary writers, and has excellent distribution. They also have a regular online publication open to shorter work.

McSweeney's Quarterly

Also known as Timothy McSweeney's Quarterly Concern, this literary journal publishes nonfiction and fiction only, and is reformatted every time it is published. Sometimes it resembles a journal, sometimes a box, sometimes something else entirely. Some of the many writers they have published include Denis Johnson, Jonathan Franzen, Joyce Carol Oates, Jonathan Lethem, and Michael Chabon. The amount they pay authors varies.

The Threepenny Review

According to Tony Kushner, "Everybody should rush right out and subscribe to The Threepenny Review." This quarterly arts magazine publishes poetry, fiction, memoir and criticism. They have very fast response times. They pay.

Waxwing

This electronic literary journal has published some of the most exciting new and established writers around. They have also published a number of poems that have gone viral, including Maggie Smith's Good Bones. They cap submissions at 300 per month, so submit early!

[The Kenyon Review](#)

They publish short fiction, essays, poetry, plays, excerpts, and translations of poetry and short prose. When you submit to their print journal, you are also submitting to their online magazine; both have a large readership. They pay.

[A Public Space](#)

They publish great writing and work, everything from novellas to excerpts. They are respected, modern, and compelling. They have an open reading period once a year.

[Jubilat](#)

This is one of the most prestigious poetry-only journals. They are print-only, and do a fabulous job.

[AGNI](#)

This is a wonderful print journal that publishes fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Known for publishing “important new writers early in their careers” (PEN), six contributors have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. They pay.

[The Missouri Review](#)

This established print journal publishes some of the best nonfiction around; they also publish poetry and fiction. They do charge for electronic submissions, but postal submissions are free. They pay.

[ZYZZYVA](#)

ZYZZYVA has some of the best distribution I have ever seen. If a bookstore sells only three different literary journals, ZYZZYVA is one of those three journals. They have published many famous poets and writers, including Haruki Murakami and Sherman Alexie.

[Field](#)

This journal of contemporary poems and poetics, based out of Oberlin College, publishes consistently impressive work. They pay.

[The Georgia Review](#)

This established literary journal publishes fiction and poetry. However they do not do free online submissions, but they do accept free submissions through the post.

[Zoetrope All-Story](#)

This magazine, published by Francis Coppola, focuses on publishing fiction and one-act plays. They are highly respected and a number of works they have published have gone on to win the Pushcart Prize.

[The Adroit Journal](#)

This online literary journal has ended up publishing some of the biggest literary writers of our times, many before they were established.

[LitMag](#)

A print journal of fiction, poetry and nonfiction, they are a newer journal that quickly gained a reputation for publishing good work and paying well. Their online posts are widely shared and they have published a large number of established and emerging writers. They started charging for submissions most of the time but still have designated free submission periods. They pay.

13 Literary Journals Open to Other Art Forms

Most literary journals publish poetry and fiction. Many also publish creative nonfiction, essays, reviews, and visual art (largely paintings, drawings, and photography). Most do not publish anything else.

However, all of the journals linked to here are interested in a variety of mediums. Some want you to submit your songs, others your short videos. These are great places to submit to if you are a writer and a singer (for example). They are also worth sharing with your non-writer friends. Do you know a great director of short films? Perhaps this list would benefit them. Most people outside of the literary community do not know about these publication options, so spread the word.

The list is in no particular order. Keep in mind that not all of these journals are open to submissions at all times.

[Abstract](#)

Abstract is seeking poetry, flash fiction (1,000 words or fewer), and creative nonfiction (essays and memoirs). They are also interested in multimedia submissions with audio and video content. And, they accept queries concerning academic articles, book reviews, craft essays, gallery reviews, art reviews, music reviews, collaborations, and interviews. They will consider submissions in any style or genre.

[Ink Brick](#)

Ink Brick is a beautiful print journal of comics poetry. Yes, you read that right. They publish comics that are poems, or poems that are comics. Either way, they are great.

Carte Blanche

This Canadian literary journal accepts submissions in the all the normal categories as well as photography, photo essays, comics (up to 30 pages in length), and audio (which can involve words, or not). They pay.

Booth

Booth publishes fiction, poetry, nonfiction, lists, and comics.

Barrelhouse

This is an established literary journal that publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, reviews, and comics. They pay their authors.

KneeJerk

They publish stories, reviews of anything (including people), and most visual art (except photographs), including comics.

Going Down Swinging

This Australian print and electronic journal publishes poetry, short stories, and also comics. They also regularly publish audio content.

Mookychick

Mookychick is an online publisher of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, photo essays, and reviews that cover just about everything. Eclectic and inclusive, they aim to connect like minds of all varieties.

Bottlecap Blog

Besides fiction and poetry, Bottlecap Blog also seeks multimedia literary submissions, including, but not limited to, comics, films, and works of visual art.

Belletrist

Belletrist is an online and print journal produced by the students at Bellevue College. They are

looking for poetry, fiction, nonfiction, playwriting, graphic literature, and art that wants to get noticed.

1001 Journal

1001 Journal is an annual print project produced by the students in the Certificate Program at the Independent Publishing Resource Center in Portland, Oregon. This handsomely designed, handmade journal houses poetry, prose, and comics.

The Cincinnati Review

In print since 2003, The Cincinnati Review is a well-established journal publishing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, reviews, translations, dramas, artwork, and micro writing.

Open: Journal of Arts & Letters

A new online platform for aesthetic endeavors, Open: Journal of Arts & Letters features a broad range of fine arts: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, mixed literary media, screen writing, playwriting, digital arts, sculpture, pottery, printmaking, painting, photography, ceramics, and textiles, as well as interviews with writers, artists, musicians, and performance artists. It is important to note that at the start of each month, all submissions are fee free, and when each category hits 100 submissions (which happens sooner in some categories than others), that category switches over to paid submissions.

25 Literary Journals that Pay Their Writers

“It is a sad fact about our culture that a poet can earn much more money writing or talking about his art than he can by practicing it.” W. H. Auden

As someone who makes their living writing about writing and publishing, I can attest to how truthful Auden’s quote is. It is hard making a living as a writer, but it is even harder making a living as a poet or an author of short fiction.

Many literary journals do not pay their writers. This is because most are projects of passion, are not for profit, or are run by an individual or a small group of people who love to write and read, but do not necessarily have a lot of money. Many of these journals are run by schools with underfunded English departments. I would say that over 75% of literary journals do not pay their writers. I have no problem with that, but it is nice to be paid occasionally.

The following literary journals all pay, so do most of the journals in the Respected Literary Journals chapter and in the Journals That Publish Genre Writing chapter.

Banshee

Banshee, a print literary journal from Ireland, is accepts submissions of poetry, fiction, flash fiction, and creative nonfiction. All authors published in the journal will receive payment, as well as two copies of the magazine. Read our full review [here](#).

Frontier

Frontier Poetry accepts submissions year-round. They accept work from both new and emerging poets who have not published more than one full-length collection of poetry. Authors of any number of chapbooks and story collections may submit. Frontier pays poets \$50 for each published poem, up to \$150. To learn more, read our full review [here](#).

The Rush

The Rush is a new online literary magazine produced by the students of Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles. They pay writers, and are seeking poetry, fiction, nonfiction, visual art, and photography in all forms and styles. They hope to publish high-velocity work that captures the rush of human experience. Any topic is fair game, but they don't accept work about graphic or gratuitous violence or sex. Read our full review [here](#).

The Malahat Review

The Malahat Review is an established and respected print magazine based out of Canada. They purchase first world serial rights and, upon acceptance, pay \$60 CAD per published page, plus a one-year subscription. Copyright reverts to the author upon publication.

Breath & Shadow

They publish only authors who have disabilities, although they define that term broadly. The pay scale is \$20 for poetry, \$30 for fiction, and \$30 for nonfiction.

Contrary

Contrary publishes short stories, flash fiction, essays, and poetry. They pay \$20 per author per issue – the length of the piece does not factor into the payment.

Baltimore Review

This respected journal pays \$40 for most pieces. They publish poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction and video.

Upstreet

A respected literary journal. They offer between \$50 and \$150 for poems, and between \$50 and \$250 for short stories or essays. If your work is accepted, you will also receive a contributor copy.

THEMA

A literary journal that pays \$25 for short stories and \$10 for flash fiction and poetry.

Qu

Qu pays \$100 per prose piece and \$50 per poem.

Bennington Review

They pay \$100 for prose of six pages and under, \$200 for prose of over six pages, and \$20 per poem, in addition to two copies of the issue the piece is published in and a copy of the subsequent issue.

Spark

Spark: A Creative Anthology offers contributors \$0.02 per word or \$20 per work for unpublished writing. They publish poetry and short stories.

Lamplight Magazine

Lamplight Magazine publishes dark fiction of varying lengths. They pay \$0.03 per word for these, up to \$150. Reprints are paid at \$0.01 per word.

Cricket Media: Five literary journals

Their flagship publication, Cricket, billed as “The New Yorker for Kids,” publishes poetry and fiction aimed at 9-14-year-olds. Read our full review [here](#). They also have other magazines called Babybug (for children 6 months to 3 years), Ladybug (3-6 years), Spider (6-9 years), and Cicada (for ages 14 and up). They pay well.

Confrontation

Confrontation is an established and respected literary journal that publishes prose and poetry. They pay \$175-250 for short stories, \$100-150 for nonfiction, and \$75-100 for poetry. They accept very few submissions.

The Wanderer

The Wanderer is an online poetry journal, launched in April 2016 as a weekly feature in Harlot Magazine. Now, as Harlot has evolved into a monthly e-zine, The Wanderer has also evolved into a new online magazine, distinct from Harlot. They pay \$25 per poem. Read our full review [here](#).

The Forge

They pay between \$25 and \$50 for nonfiction and fiction.

Grain Magazine

Published four times per year, Grain Magazine is an internationally acclaimed literary journal that publishes engaging, surprising, eclectic, and challenging writing and art by Canadian and international writers and artists. They pay \$50 a page, up to \$250. They publish everything from short stories to novellas.

Flash Fiction Online

Flash Fiction Online looks for multi-genre flash fiction. Preferred story length is 500 to 1,000 words, and they pay a flat rate of \$60 per accepted story. They also accept reprints and pay \$0.02 per word for those.

Boulevard Magazine

This respected literary journal charges for online submissions but postal submissions are free. They pay between \$25 and \$300 for work.

Ninth Letter

They pay for all work they publish in print, but usually not for the work that is published online.

40 Literary Journals That Publish Genre Writing

Most literary journals are interested in literary work, by which they mean, not genre work. The definition of genre is a category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter.

However, in the context of writing, genre can refer to poetry, prose or nonfiction in terms of form. Or it can be a subject matter classification referring to science fiction, romance, mystery, or various other established types of stories.

Most literary journals assume that you will not submit genre work to them, because many don't consider it to be literary. This leaves many genre writers with fewer options in terms of short story and poetry publication. However, there are journals that just publish genre work.

The majority of these focus on science fiction and mystery. But there are also horror, western, romance, fantasy, thriller, and other genre publishers on this list. We tried to focus on literary journals that specialize, not ones that were open to every genre in the book.

Not all of these literary journals are currently open to submissions but many are. A link to their website or our full review of the publisher is embedded in their name. The genres they accept are mentioned in the brief description.

Unlike most literary journals, the majority of these pay.

The Five-Two

Always open to submissions, this online journal publishes crime poetry.

The Copperfield Review

The Copperfield Review is a literary journal for writers of historical fiction. They pay all their authors.

The Wyrd

The Wyrd is looking for genre-bending work that blends science fiction, fantasy, mystery, horror, and literary themes. They pay their authors.

Historic Heroines

Historic Heroines is a publication focused on historical tales of female empowerment. They publish stories about fictional or real women experiencing real-life historical events. They are a paying market.

Lackington's

Lackington's is a speculative fiction magazine that focuses in on different themes in each issue. They are a paying market.

Escape Pod

This is an audio science fiction journal that pays.

PodCastle

This is a fantasy audio journal by the publishers of Escape Pod, and pays.

PseudoPod

This is a horror audio journal by the publishers of Escape Pod, and pays.

The Western Online

The Western Online is a magazine devoted to everything Old West. They're looking for historical Western fiction of 5,000 words and under, though guidelines note their sweet spot is around 3,000 words. They offer token payment.

Disturbed Digest

Disturbed Digest is a quarterly horror and dark fantasy publication accepting fiction and poetry. They offer token payment and accept reprints.

EnLighten Magazine

EnLighten Magazine is a publication for speculative poetry. They accept poetry, including straight horror, of preferably 100 lines or fewer. They offer token pay.

Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine

This paying and competitive magazine publishes short stories and novellas in the mystery genre.

Cast of Wonders

This young adult short fiction market is open to flash fiction and short stories up to 6,000 words in length. They publish primarily science fiction, fantasy, and horror. They are a paying market and they publish reprints.

Mithila Review

Mithila Review is described as “a quarterly journal of science fiction and fantasy.” They accept multi-genre submissions, though they also like to blend historical fiction into it. They pay \$50 for stories of between 4,000 to 8,000 words and \$10 for poetry, essays, and for fiction under 2,500 words.

Mystery Tribune

This online magazine publishes original mysteries as well as interviews and articles about mysteries.

The Great Escape

They publish speculative fiction (sci-fi, fantasy, paranormal etc), romance, adventure, horror and comedy, any sort of fiction with an element of escapism.

Near to the Knuckle

This literary journal focuses on regularly publishing gritty fiction about crime. They will also consider western, science fiction and maybe fantasy stories, as long as they are gritty.

Asimov's Science Fiction

Stories in Asimov's have won many Hugo and Nebula awards. They pay well.

Analog

This is a respected science fiction journal that publishes everything from short stories to novellas. They pay well.

Cowboy Jamboree

They publish short fiction and flash fiction in the western genre, though not traditional western – they describe themselves as a “Grit-lit magazine focused on the rural working class and revisionist western writing.”

Suspense Magazine

All stories must be in the suspense/thriller/mystery/horror genres.

Frontier Tales

They publish western and historical short fiction.

Apex Magazine

Apex Magazine is a beautiful publication that publishes science fiction, fantasy, and horror. They pay \$0.06 a word for everything up to 7,500 words in length.

Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine

They publish every kind of mystery short story: the psychological suspense tale, the deductive puzzle, the private eye case – the gamut of crime and detection, from the realistic to the more imaginative.

Strange Horizons

They have very low acceptance rates, pay professional rates, and most importantly, they publish very good stories in the science fiction genre.

Crimson Streets

They publish various genres (such as noir) in the pulp style. They pay.

The Dark

They have a very quick response time, sometimes within a day, but often within two weeks. They focus on publishing dark science fiction, horror, surrealism, magic realism, and fiction with elements of the fantastic mixed in. They pay.

Stinkwaves Magazine

They publish mostly action adventure, fantasy and science fiction stories aimed at young adults.

Lightspeed

Lightspeed is an established monthly electronic publisher of science fiction and fantasy writing. Many of the works that have been published there have gone on to be nominated for prestigious genre awards, including the Hugo. They pay all of their authors.

The Dark City

This crime and mystery magazine pays their authors.

Feed Your Monster

This literary journal generally focuses on the lighter side of horror. They also publish anthologies. They offer token payment.

Clarkesworld Magazine

They publish science fiction and fantasy works in print and eMagazine editions. They are highly respected. They pay professional rates.

Augur Magazine

They want “dream-touched realism, slipstream, fabulism, magical realism and, for lack of a better descriptor, “literary” speculative fiction.” They accept both young adult and adult pieces. They are a paying market.

Occult Detective Quarterly

Occult Detective Quarterly is devoted to those intrepid investigators who investigate the weird, exotic and bizarre. They publish fiction and nonfiction and they pay.

Andromeda Spaceways

They accept science fiction, fantasy and supernatural horror works up to 10,000 words in length. They accept poetry and nonfiction works as well. They pay all their authors.

Hello Horror

This is a horror literary journal which accepts fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

Aphelion Webzine

Aphelion Webzine publishes science fiction, fantasy and horror.

Mystery Weekly Magazine

This is an online magazine that publishes mystery stories on a monthly basis. Avoid excessive profanity or violence. They are a paying market.

Shimmer

Shimmer is an online journal that specializes in publishing speculative fiction. They largely publish contemporary fantasy short stories, although they are also open to science fiction and horror. They pay.

Eye to the Telescope

Eye to the Telescope is a quarterly publication for speculative poetry that has been running since 2011. Speculative poetry they publish includes fantasy, science fiction and horror. They pay.

9 Literary Journals that Publish Longer Fiction

Most literary journals are only interested in publishing short stories that are up to 3,000 words or so in length. So it can be harder for someone who wrote a longer short story to place it in a good home, unless they are publishing a collection of short stories.

The following literary journals are all open to publishing longer short stories, although the specific lengths the journals are looking for do vary. So if you have written one or several short stories exceeding 3,000 words in length, here are some good options for you.

Some of these publishers open and close to submissions, so if one of the literary journals you are most interested in submitting to is not currently accepting submissions, make sure to monitor their website. The journals are listed in no particular order.

[Conjunctions](#)

This print literary journal is based in the US. Authors living in the US must submit by mail, and those outside can submit via email. They accept longer work according to Duotrope, but on their website they do not go into the details regarding word limitations.

[The Conium Review](#)

The Conium Review publishes fiction of all lengths, from flash fiction (which must be shorter than 1,000 words) to novellas (that start at 15,000 words and can go up to 40,000). They are an annual print journal; although they have an online compendium, it has different requirements. Contributors receive copies of the issue their work appears in.

[The Seattle Review](#)

They only publish long work. They won't even consider prose that is less than 40 (double spaced) pages in length, which is unusual. They also like longer poems and linked poems.

[The Collagist](#)

The Collagist is a respected online literary journal that is published by [Dzanc Books](#). They are open to publishing fiction up to 8,000 words in length.

[Dodging the Rain](#)

Dodging the Rain is a new blogazine publishing all genres of literature and artwork. Helmed in Galway, Ireland, Dodging the Rain is founded and edited by a multinational group of graduate students based at the National University of Ireland: Galway's Masters in Writing Programme and the university's Creative Process Masters of the Arts. They are open to longer submissions, and writers interested in submitting longer work may query the editors to pitch the piece.

[A Public Space](#)

A Public Space publishes fiction, essays, poetry, as well as multi-genre work. They accept novellas and novel excerpts. No word or page limit is mentioned. They try to respond to all submissions within four months, although they mention that it is often a little longer than that.

[Alaska Quarterly Review \(AQR\)](#)

AQR is a literary journal devoted to contemporary literary art, publishing fiction, short plays, poetry, photo essays, and literary nonfiction in traditional and experimental styles. They accept short stories and novel excerpts up to 50 pages in length.

[Cecile's Writers](#)

They only publish work by intercultural writers, a term they define on their website in great length. They publish fiction up to 21,000 words in length. They also publish novel excerpts.

[Fiction](#)

This established print magazine publishes longer work, including novelettes and novellas.

Places to Find More Literary Journals

[Creative Writers Opportunities List](#)

Creative Writers Opportunities List is a Yahoo! group that regularly posts new calls for journal submissions, new calls for anthology submissions, as well as contest information, and teaching positions. You can either subscribe to the emails or regularly check the website for postings.

[Duotrope](#)

Duotrope is a comprehensive listing of literary journals and magazines that has a submission tracker and information about submission times and acceptance rates. Unfortunately, they now charge users \$5 a month or \$50 a year.

[Entropy](#)

Entropy has a very good monthly list of who is open for submissions (although it is far from error free). They also mention if a journal charges to submit or not.

[Poets & Writers](#)

Their listings are easy to navigate, but they are not very comprehensive and more importantly, do not make it clear if a journal charges writers a reading fee to submit. I do like their [in-depth search feature](#), which allows you to search by paying markets, percentage of unsolicited submissions published, and circulation, among other things.

[New Pages](#)

A website devoted to information about literary journals. They have a lot of good information, but they can be hard to navigate and are not always up-front about submission fees. They are one of the best sites to find calls for anthology submissions.

Submit Publish Repeat

This eBook from *Authors Publish* is a thorough guide to how to best submit your work for publication, including the ins and outs of how publication in literary journals really works.

The Review Review

A site that reviews literary journals. They have reviewed hundreds of literary journals, largely from a reader's standpoint. They have a good search function that makes it easy to eliminate journals that charge fees.

The (Submission) Grinder

The free alternative to Duotrope. The feedback is not at the same level and the organization leaves something to be desired, but they are free.

Glossary of Terms

These are helpful words to know in the context of writing and submitting, organized alphabetically.

Anthology

A published collection of poems or other pieces writing, usually on a theme.

Chapbook

A 10 to 20 page collection of poetry, or less commonly of fiction or creative nonfiction, by one author.

Editor

The person or people who run the literary journal and consider your work for publication.

First Publication Rights

Most publications will not publish work that has previously appeared in a different literary journal, print or online. Because of this, most publishers require First Rights. These can also be called First North American Serial Rights or First Serial Rights. No matter what they are called, it usually means that you are giving that publication the exclusive rights to publish your work first. After they publish the work, the rights revert to you, sometimes right away, sometimes after six months.

Anytime specified over six months is not standard and that should be taken into consideration because if a literary journal retains the rights for a longer period, you may not be able to include that poem or short story as part of a longer book.

Genre

A category of artistic composition, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. Genre can refer to poetry, prose or nonfiction in terms of form. Or it can be a subject matter classification referring to science fiction, mysteries, or various other established types of stories. If a journal says they are not interested in genre work, they are using it as a subject matter classification.

Literary Journal

A magazine that publishes primarily poetry, fiction, and/or creative nonfiction.

Reader

Large journals and contests generally have volunteer readers. These individuals read a large chunk of the work submitted and decide what part of that work they are going to pass on to the editors.

Manuscript

An unpublished book length work of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.

Multiple Submissions

When you submit work that belongs to different genres (for example, a piece of flash fiction and packet of poetry) to the same journal at the same time. Some journals allow multiple submissions, others do not.

Simultaneous Submissions

When you submit the same piece or pieces of writing to multiple journals at the same time. Most literary journals now allow and some even encourage simultaneous submissions.

Solicited Submissions

Submissions from authors that a publisher directly requests. Most journals publish a mix of solicited and unsolicited submissions. Editors can solicit the work of friends or of famous or emerging writers. Most of the time when your work is solicited, it is published.

Submission Manager

An online program that handles submissions electronically. The most common one is Submittable.

Unsolicited Submissions

The bulk of submissions to most journals are unsolicited. They are the submissions sent through submission managers, post, or emails to literary journals.

Bio

Emily Harstone is the pen name of an author whose work has been published internationally by a number of respected journals. She is a professional submissions adviser. You can follow her on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/emilyharstone/>

Further Reading

