

Publishing a Book through the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

OCTA welcomes proposals for well-written, well-researched books on the historic emigrant trails and related history. Our authors include both professional and non-professional historians, first-time and experienced authors.

The process of having a book published by OCTA is as follows. After the initial inquiry, you will be requested to submit a formal proposal to the OCTA Publications Committee. The guidelines for this proposal are given below. The proposal will be reviewed by the committee, and if we find the project to be of interest, we will respond quickly. At this stage, we will communicate with you our editorial guidelines, and ask to see the complete manuscript. If the manuscript is not yet completed, we will discuss with you how we might go forward. Following receipt of a completed manuscript, we will submit the book to one or more qualified reviewers. Our decision as to whether to publish the book will be based on this formal review process, which takes three to six months. If the decision is to publish, we will assign an editor who will work with you to meet our editorial guidelines. Since OCTA is a non-profit organization, working with volunteer labor, the process from the time of the decision to publish to the final publication date can take a year or more.

Guidelines for submitting a proposal for an OCTA Special Publication

We ask that you provide the following basic information that will enable us to present your work to others within the organization. We would like to emphasize that this is a "consideration process," and the more thoroughly you respond to the questions listed below, the easier it will be for the committee to determine whether the text is appropriate for OCTA.

- 1) A copy of your resume, including contact information, occupation, education, and previous publications (both articles and books), especially those relevant to OCTA's mission.
- 2) A summary of the proposed book, explaining the content, the theme, and the overall approach. Tell us why people will want to read it. Who is the primary audience and any secondary audience(s) for your book? How does your work relate to existing scholarship? (Include the author, title, and publisher of significant comparable books.)
- 3) Include a table of contents and an outline of the chapters. Submit one or two completed chapters, including citations and annotations.
- 4) List your sources. This need not be a full bibliography, but should be sufficient to give us an idea as to the extent of your scholarship and the originality of your research.
- 5) Give estimates of the length of the manuscript, including notes and bibliography. Indicate the number and type of illustrations to accompany the text. Please specify color and/or black-and-white photographs, line drawings, maps, charts, graphs, and any other graphic images. We note that OCTA publications are typically 250-300 pages, which prevents the cost of the books from being prohibitive to our readership,
- 6) If possible, provide us with names and addresses of one or two experts in your field of study who might be willing to review your manuscript and do so objectively.

7) Include a statement that we will have an exclusive opportunity to review your work. If this is a multiple submission (presented to other publishers as well), please explain.

Your project proposal can be sent to us as an email attachment (dlawrence@fullerton.edu), but please also send a hard copy to the following address:

Jon and Deborah Lawrence, Co-chairs
OCTA Publications Committee
338 ½ Camino Cerrito
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505