



TIPS, TRICKS, & RESOURCES

You, Too, Can Write a Review:

Demystifying the Library Resource Review Process
ARLIS/NA 2019

For an expanded version of this document: <http://bit.ly/arlisna-tips>

IDENTIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

Tailor your review to fit the mission and guidelines of the review publication. For example, consider the differences in the following:

- **ARLIS/NA Reviews:** "Reviews should be written for the art and architecture librarian to use as a selection aid and for reference self-education."
- **Multimedia and Technology Reviews:** "While assessing current products and projects, these reviews are also designed to engage the membership in a conversation about how technologies and multimedia are being or can be deployed within our profession and by our constituents."
- **Notable Graphic Novels Review:** "Reviews highlight ten graphic novels deemed notable by the ARLIS/NA community and includes brief summaries, commentary on artwork, and recommendations for purchase."

PRACTICE CONCISE & PURPOSEFUL WRITING

As you write and edit your review, consider these basic "good writing" tips:

- Stick to the word count. This helps folks to quickly get a glimpse at the resource and determine if it should be added to their collection.
- Balance being vague with not over-describing something.
- Check yourself for exaggerations or broad claims.
- Check for grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Look over each sentence (maybe even reading out loud or in your head) to determine if the information provided is relevant to the mission of the review publication.

IDENTIFY KEY THEMES

To guide your writing, try creating an outline of major themes. For books, you can often refer to their sections/chapters. For multimedia and technology, look closely at the pages and features of the resource. In your outline, summarize each section/feature in one sentence, and provide a brief critique of each in one sentence. This should help you identify the most significant aspects of the resources that you want to incorporate into your final review.

GET COMPARATIVE & CRITICAL

Consider the following questions:

- How does it compare to other works/resources on the same subject?
- How does it fit in the genre or the literature on the subject?
- Does the author/creator take a new approach to the topic?
- What is the intended audience for the resource, and does it address their needs?

RESOURCES

Reviewer guidelines:

ARLIS/NA Reviews

<http://bit.ly/arlisna-reviews>

Multimedia & Technology Reviews

<http://bit.ly/arlisna-mtr>

Notable Graphic Novels Review

<http://bit.ly/arlisna-ngnr>

Sample Reviews for Workshop Activity

<http://bit.ly/review-samples>