



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# **FastTrack for Authors**

CAHNRS Communications



## What we'll cover:

- What FastTrack is
- Why we use FastTrack
- Who has roles in FastTrack
- How to submit a manuscript and the additional files needed to publish it

# What is FastTrack?



## FastTrack

**FastTrack** is an automated, web-based manuscript management and tracking system. It facilitates double-blind reviews, allows authors to track the status of their submissions, and streamlines the administrative and peer review process.

- Express Academic Services

# Why do we use FastTrack?



FastTrack allows Extension Publishing to:

- **Organize** manuscript submissions and peer review
- **Manage** the peer review process
- **Facilitate** double-blind peer review
- **Archive** files associated with published manuscripts

# Who has roles in FastTrack?



There are a few roles in FastTrack, including:

**Manager** – Lagene Taylor, Publishing Coordinator

**Reviewer** – Faculty and technical experts

**“Editor”** – Program directors

**Author** – YOU!

# How do I use FastTrack?



To get started in FastTrack, you need to:

- Create an account
  - <http://wsu.expressacademic.org>
- Log in
  - User ID
  - Password



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times out  
in **30 min.**

# Log In



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#### ATTENTION

- Publication titles are limited to **95** characters (including spaces).
- A Manuscript Proposal Form is no longer required.
- It is up to the author to confirm that the topic of the manuscript is NOT currently addressed in the Extension Publications Store (<http://pubs.wsu.edu>). Failure to do so could result in manuscript rejection.
- Manuscripts are ONLINE ONLY unless otherwise requested.
- Once accepted, check the progress of your manuscript as it moves through the edit queue: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/communications/publications-editing-queue/>

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# Submit a Manuscript



## My submissions

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- Be sure to review the [Author Guidelines](#).
- Please do not use punctuation in your filenames. This causes download errors and the files are unusable.
- Please upload your manuscript as a Word file, with low resolution images embedded within the file. We cannot accept PDF files for review.
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[Email the editor](#) for questions.

# Submit a Manuscript



## Submit a new document

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- Please upload your manuscript as a Word file, with low resolution images embedded within the file. We cannot accept PDF files for review.
- Please **DO NOT** design your document.
- Please submit straight text with embedded images. We will take care of the design after editing.
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Title:

Author(s):

Enter author names separated by commas, for example: Dr. John Smith, Dr. Ted Jones, Fred Baily.

Document type: [choose type]



## Document Details:

- Title of your manuscript
- Author names
- Document type
  - FactSheet (FS)
  - Manual (EM)
  - Curricula (EC)
  - Online Module (OM)
  - Technical Bulletin (TB)
  - PNW
  - Revision (existing pubs)
  - Video (PRV)

### Document details

Title:

Author(s): Enter author names separated by commas, for example: Dr. John Smith, Dr. Ted Jones, Fred Baily.

Document type: [choose type]

Document topic(s):

- 1.00 Agriculture
  - 1.00 Agriculture
  - 1.10 Agriculture Business
  - 1.11 Decision Aids
  - 1.12 Economic Analysis
  - 1.13 Enterprise Budgets
  - 1.14 Marketing
  - 1.15 Record Systems
  - 1.16 Risk Management
  - 1.17 Taxes and Policy

ctrl-click or cmd-click to select/multiple topics.

Document file:

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Comments to Editor:

Enter any comments or suggestions.

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You may attach additional files in the next screen, after clicking on Submit below.

### Comments to Editor:

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## Document Topics

- Choose one or many

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2 **Why is this manuscript needed?**

3 **Please recommend peer reviewers:**  
Include their full name, e-mail address, and phone number.

4 **Does this manuscript mention pesticides or herbicides?**  yes  no

**Has this manuscript been previously published in a journal, magazine, etc.?**  yes  no

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## My submissions

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1 submission(s), sorted by submissionID (ascending). Click a submission ID to view submission details.					
Submission ID▲▼	Title	Author(s)	Type▲▼	Submission date▲▼	Status▲▼ Actions
2016-1788	How to Submit a Manuscript in FastTrack	Christina L. Mangiapani	Extension Manual	19 Aug 2016, 5:23pm	Submitted
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# Additional Files



Separately add all files associated with the manuscript, such as figure images, excel spreadsheets, and the required forms packet.

Editor tasks | **My submissions** | My review assignments | User preferences

## Submission 2016-1788: How to Submit a Manuscript in FastTrack

### Submission summary

**Submission ID:** 2016-1788

**Corresponding author:** Christina Mangiapani (MangiapaniC)

**Title:** How to Submit a Manuscript in FastTrack

**Author(s):** Christina L. Mangiapani

**Type:** Extension Manual

**Submission date:** 19 Aug 2016, 5:23pm

**Assigned to editor:** —

**Status:** Submitted

**Abstract:** Extension publications authors often run into problems when trying to submit a manuscript to be published. FastTrack, an automated, web-based manuscript management system, is meant to streamline the publications process, but it can take some time to become familiar with the system. This publication intends to teach authors with a manuscript how to submit it, and associated files, in FastTrack.

**Submission file:** [How to Submit a Manuscript on FastTrack.docx](#)

**Manuscript Attachments:** none [\[add attachment\]](#)

**Submitted reviews:**

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# Additional Files



Upload files in a correct file format, and name the files appropriately and clearly (e.g., Figure 1, Table 4).

Editor tasks

**My submissions**

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## Add attachment to submission 2016-1788

### Attach a file

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**File description/contents:**

# You're DONE!



Your manuscript is ready for the peer review process.

Editor tasks My submissions My review assignments User preferences

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**Manuscript Attachments:** [Figure 1.PNG](#) (0.05 MB)

[Figure 2.PNG](#) (0.05 MB)

[\[Attach another file\]](#)

**Submitted reviews:**



## How long does it take for peer review?

- The automatic system-assigned timeframe is 14 days. This timeframe is also adjustable by the Program Directors. Peer review can take anywhere from 1 day to 30 days; it all depends on the availability of the reviewers and whether the Program Director has to reassign new reviewers.



## Do I embed images in my manuscript?

- Yes, please include low-resolution images in the uploaded manuscript. This will allow the peer reviewers to review the entire document.



## Should images be high resolution?

- High-resolution (200 dpi at 3x3 inches) images should be uploaded separately into the submission. We will use these for the graphic design.
- We request that low-resolution (72 dpi) images be embedded into your manuscript.



## Do I have to recommend peer reviewers?

- No, but it is highly recommended. It can help speed up the process if the Program Director does not have to search for peer reviewers.



## What triggers pesticide review?

- Any mention of pesticides or herbicides, by specific name or not, will trigger pesticide review.

# Remember...



- Prep all files prior to submission.
- FastTrack times out in 30 minutes.
- Embed low-resolution images in manuscript.
- Upload high-resolution images.
- Upload required forms packet.
- Email editor with questions.

# Questions?



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**Other Resources**

[communications.cahnrs.wsu.edu/getting-published/fasttrack/](https://communications.cahnrs.wsu.edu/getting-published/fasttrack/)

