**The Illinois Geographical Society  
*Illinois Geographer* Journal**

**Guidelines for Book Reviews**

**FORMAT**

***Information heading***

**Book Title**

by [or edited by] name of author(s), Publisher, Place(s) of publication,

Year, Number of pages [format: 320 pp.], cloth $price (ISBN...) or

paper $price (ISBN...)

**Sample heading:**

**What Is water? The history of a modern abstraction**

by Jamie Linton, University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, 2010, 336 pp., paper $32.95 (ISBN 978-0774817028)

***Review***

The text should be double spaced with indented paragraphs. Any cited references must be fully documented at the end of the review in standard bibliographic form. References should be kept to a minimum. The standard length of a **review should be no more than 1000 words.** Please keep citations of external sources to a minimum, with a maximum of three references allowed.

***Sign-Off***

Name of reviewer, and affiliation, set flush right: e.g.,

Paul Kingsbury

Simon Fraser University

**SUBMISSION**

Please submit book review to Mr. Keith A. Sculle, Illinois Geographer Book Review Editor via email: [ksculle@gmail.com](mailto:ksculle@gmail.com)

Please submit a Word document.

**EDITOR’S ROLE**

All reviews are subject to standard copy editing practices to ensure that the text is clear and concise. No substantial changes will be made without consultation and approval by the author(s), preferably by e-mail. The review editor is responsible for the final decision regarding publication of any reviews submitted.

**STYLE OF REVIEW**

There are two basic styles of review: descriptive and critical. The two review styles are not mutually exclusive. The purely chapter by chapter descriptive review of a summary of the book’s contents tends to be less engaging than the critical review, which offers both information, and, is analytical. The critical review typically balances the book’s strengths and weaknesses in light of the author’s stated aims. It analyses the author’s ideas, opinions and judgements, use of evidence to support them, and a consideration of how they fit with our present knowledge of the subject. Both styles might include a discussion of placing the text in its academic context, comparing it with alternative texts, discussing the author’s qualifications, or commenting on the significance of the text for the intended audience. There is no right way to review a book, but the better reviews tend to move beyond mere description.