

**MANUAL OF STYLE: A COMPILATION
OF TYPOGRAPHICAL RULES
GOVERNING THE PUBLICATIONS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, WITH
SPECIMENS OF TYPES USED AT THE
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The present work is a codification of the typographical rules employed by the University of Chicago in connection with its official printing and publications issued through the University Press. Having its genesis, nearly two decades ago, in a single sheet of fundamentals, jotted down by the first proofreader at odd moments for his own guidance; added to from year to year, as opportunity offered or new necessities arose; revised and re-revised as the scope of the work, and, it is hoped, the wisdom of the workers, increased—it emerges in its present form as the embodiment of traditions, the crystallization of usages, the blended product of the reflections of many minds.

Regulations like these, in the nature of the case, cannot be endowed with the fixity of unchanging law. They are meant for the average case, and must be applied with a certain degree of elasticity. Exceptions will constantly occur, and ample room is left for individual initiative and discretion. They point the way and survey the road, rather than remove the obstacles. Throughout this book it is assumed that no regulation contained therein is absolutely inviolable. Wherever the peculiar nature of the subject-matter, the desirability of throwing into relief a certain part of the argument, the reasonable preference

of a writer, or a typographical contingency suggests a deviation, such deviation may legitimately be made. Each case of this character must be decided largely upon its own merits. Generally it may be stated that, where no question of taste or logic is involved, deference should be shown to the expressed wishes of the author.

The nature of the work of the Press itself—and this will apply, to a greater or less extent, to any similar institution affected by local conditions—constantly calls for modification, now of this rule, now of that. It would be found impracticable, even were it desirable, to bring all its publications into rigid uniformity of "style" and appearance. Methods have been devised, systems evolved, in certain lines of work, which cannot be carried bodily over into the field of others. Thus, in the matter of literary references, for instance, general practice has established certain usages in some of the sciences which it would not be advisable to ignore. Similar differences in practice may be observed in other directions. These deviations from the general rules will be found mentioned at the appropriate places in the body of the book. On the whole, however, the rules are designed to govern all publications sent forth with the official publishing imprint, "The University of Chicago Press."

Concerning the character and contents of the book little need be added. Its origin, its primary aim, and its limitations, as outlined above, will suggest the bounds of its usefulness. It does not pretend to be exhaustive; a few things must be taken for granted, and the traditional

territory of the dictionary has only exceptionally been invaded. It does not presume to be inflexibly consistent; applicability, in the printing-office, is a better test than iron-clad consistency, and common-sense a safer guide than abstract logic. It lays no claim to perfection in any of its parts; bearing throughout the inevitable earmarks of compromise, it will not carry conviction at every point to everybody. Neither is it an advocate of any radical scheme of reform; in the present state of the agitation for changes in spelling, progressive conservatism has been thought to be more appropriate for an academic printing-office than radicalism. As it stands, this *Manual* is believed to contain a fairly comprehensive, reasonably harmonious, and wholesomely practical set of work-rules for the aid of those who have to do with questions of typographical style. For the benefit of those whose duties bring them into direct contact with the manufacturing department of the Press, specimen pages of the available types, special characters, etc., have been added.

The *Manual of Style* is now in its fourth edition. That it is recognized as possessing merit is evidenced by its adoption and use in many editorial offices, libraries, and proofrooms in the United States and Canada. This edition incorporates several new rules which it is believed will prove helpful, and at the same time seeks to elucidate some of the older rules, in the application of which difficulties may arise. Changes in literary practice, the legislation of learned societies, the recent development of the profession of the librarian, with the

attendant uniformity of practice recommended by the national association of librarians, and the added experience resulting from a daily application of these rules to a very varied list of publications, are all factors contributing to the need of periodical revision.

The work, thus remodeled, is again offered to the public, in the hope that it may continue to be useful to those whose occupations require some familiarity with the niceties of typographical form.

NEWMAN MILLER, *Director*

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