

# THE OBSERVATORY

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## EDITORIAL

With the 2025 February issue, *The Observatory* became an on-line-only journal. However, apart from not having to worry about an issue becoming heavy enough to require more postage and the fact that colour is no longer an extra cost, not much else has changed. We do plan to introduce new features in the future, such as DOIs for individual items and references containing links to the corresponding sources, but not too many at once. The first such change will be producing the final PDF from LaTeX. While we will continue to accept formats which we have accepted in the past (*e.g.*, .doc, .docx, .txt, .pdf, .tex), it is preferable to submit items for the *Magazine* using our supported LaTeX macros available at <http://www.obsmag.org/templates/> — make sure that you use the latest versions; note that those supersede the older templates in the /old/ subdirectory and are hence preferred, but the older ones are still preferable to non-LaTeX formats. More detailed information is available at the link above and will be updated as needed, so only the most important details, which will also probably not change, are mentioned here.

If an item is essentially plain text with little or no formatting, submitting it as plain text is preferable to doing so in non-LaTeX formats, and only slightly less preferable than submitting it in LaTeX. In particular, PDF-only submissions should be avoided. PDF files are almost always created from some other format; it is preferable to submit that format, though a PDF file could be included as well. The new LaTeX templates allow the user to concentrate on content with the formatting being done behind the scenes, so LaTeX commands within the text of the submission should be used only when absolutely necessary, *e.g.*, for mathematics. We provide a range of examples intended for those unfamiliar with LaTeX (in which case all that is necessary is to place the corresponding parts of the text into the appropriate places in the template) through to experts; choose the most advanced one with which you are comfortable or which is necessary for the submission. Figures should preferably be in PDF or PostScript format and provided as separate files (included within the submission in the standard manner; see the examples). Citations should be provided using the \citep and \citet commands of the natbib package (automatically loaded by obsmag.cls) and not by hard-coding the superscripted reference numbers; references should be provided in BibTeX format; see the examples. (Note that all LaTeX and BibTeX input consists of plain-text files and can be submitted even by those with no access to LaTeX processing, though of course it is preferable to make sure that the submission processes cleanly and produces the desired output before submitting it.)

Send submissions *via* email to [submissions@obsmag.org](mailto:submissions@obsmag.org). If there is sufficient demand, perhaps other submission paths can be set up; the same goes for support in Overleaf.