

Publishing Rules



Christine de Pizan, c. 1390

Submission Guidelines must be investigated for each book publisher. Although some publishers will accept unsolicited manuscripts, most will not read. These publishers require that your work be submitted by a literary agent for consideration. Read the submission guidelines on publishers' websites carefully and follow them. For publishers that accept unsolicited manuscripts, note if they want an e-submission or snail mail submission.

Here is an example from Simon & Schuster's website:

"MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

As a general policy, Simon & Schuster does not review or return unsolicited manuscripts or artwork. We suggest that prospective authors and illustrators submit their materials through a professional literary agent. We cannot recommend specific agents for your work but a directory of agents is one section of Literary Market Place, a reference work that can be found in most libraries. Literary Market Place also has a website. www.literarymarketplace.com."

A literary agent will require a query letter (a summary of your book - a sales pitch letter about your book). If the agent is interested, she or he will request your entire manuscript, or a certain number of pages or chapters.