



Curran Index Editor

The [Research Society for Victorian Periodicals](#) (RSVP) seeks a suitably qualified periodicals scholar to serve as Editor of the *Curran Index*; we also welcome applications from pairs of highly qualified scholars to serve as Co-Editors. This collaboratively sourced, ongoing, open-access project is devoted to identifying the authors of unsigned and pseudonymous articles, reviews, poetry, and fiction in the periodical press of Britain and its empire over the long 19th century. The larger purpose of the project is to enrich and expand our understanding of the press and its influence in 19th-century culture by “[piercing the veil of anonymity](#)” that continues to obscure the identities of the contributors who made up the contents of that press.

The successful candidate will have at their disposal an annual stipend of US \$5,000 (split equally if two editors are appointed) as well as an annual overall budget of up to US \$10,000 to be used for research assistance, travel, reference materials, and other costs directly related to the task of uncovering the identities, lives, and careers of anonymous contributors to 19th-century magazines and newspapers, and for the timely incorporation of those research results into the *Curran Index* database. The successful applicant will serve for a five-year term starting on 1 January 2026.

Qualifications for the Editor position include:

Essential: extensive experience with the field of Victorian periodical research; a successful track record of primary-source research into 19th-century authorship, including attribution and the use of manuscript archives; successful participation in collaborative research projects.

Preferred: digital humanities experience, including building and managing relational databases.

Responsibilities of the *Curran Index* Editor(s) include:

1) **Deepening and expanding** the *Curran Index* in innovative and challenging ways. The Editor’s role involves undertaking their own attribution research, supervising the contributions of others, and managing this collaborative online resource. They must be active in seeking out and evaluating evidence from a variety of sources—letters, diaries, reprintings, ledgers, reviews, memoirs, advertising, applications, lawsuits, scrapbooks, marginalia, and much else—in the pursuit of clues to periodical authorship, while also hiring Research Assistants to support this work. In addition, the Editor(s) will also place a high priority on expanding the biographical information in the *Curran Index*, as it uncovers the lives and careers of often obscure writers.

RSVP particularly welcomes continued expansion of the *Index* to gather information about contributors to organs of the Victorian press that have only rarely been the object of authorship research, such as the daily press, provincial and colonial newspapers, trade and reformist periodicals, and others. Applicants are encouraged to state in their application how as Editor they might connect their *Curran Index* research with their own broader research interests as well as their future research and publication plans.

2) **Recruiting and coordinating a team of volunteer associate editors and contributors** who will share their own research on the identification of contributors to the periodical press, a team that would ideally include scholars working in archives located outside of Britain.

3) **Outreach:** the Editor(s) will actively engage in publicizing the *Curran Index* and the scholarly value of recovering the identities of contributors to 19th-century periodicals. In pursuit of this goal the Editor will oversee the development of resources on the *Curran Index* site—e.g. blogs, works-in-progress, maps of authorial networks, capsule biographies, reports of surprising or significant discoveries—that will exemplify the many uses of this research. The Editor(s) will participate in RSVP's annual conference, planning a conference presentation or workshop that explores the goals, methods, and scholarly uses of authorial attribution research and the *Curran Index*.

4) **Maintaining** the database, which includes: overseeing data entry, checking entries for errors and omissions, monitoring the experience of users of the *Index* interface to identify problems and make improvements, responding to queries and attribution submissions from users, and when necessary working with the project's web-design firm.

5) **Reporting** throughout the year to the *Curran Index* Advisory Committee and submitting an annual budget for approval by the RSVP Board. The Editor also delivers a year-end report to the Board on the progress of work on the *Index* and the expenditures associated with that work.

RSVP welcomes applications from suitably qualified and experienced scholars of all ages and backgrounds. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed. **Please submit a CV and cover letter to Alison Chapman at vp@rs4vp.org by 15 October 2025.** Any questions may be addressed to her as well.

The position is funded by a grant drawn from the generous bequest left to RSVP by the estate of Eileen Curran (1927-2013).