



Clips and Tearsheets... how to send them?

by
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Clips and tearsheets refer to original articles published in newspapers and magazines that have been clipped (torn) out and kept. Periodical publishers usually send three to six copies of a print magazine to contributors along with the payment cheque. They do this so freelancers have several copies in the original to send to other editors as examples of their work when they query.

With 88% of all print magazines and all e-zines accepting queries via email these days, how do writers send editors their print or electronic clips? Well, the short answer is—we can't send originals via email! The long answer is that there are ways to get around this dilemma.

Firstly, don't even think about sending attachments with your e-query! Why? Attachments are the means by which electronic viruses are carried and multiply, so editors rarely risk opening them, especially from someone they don't know. Another reason is that the editor may not use a word processing program that is compatible with yours.

So how can we send our clips? Writers have a variety of options. If you have clips only in print, the most obvious, is to offer in the e-query to snail-mail them. However, I have found that I am rarely asked to do so. If you have a website and you own the e-rights to a particular article, get the text up on your site and send the editor the URL as the next best way. For all my e-articles that have been published, I put the website address where they can be found into the email – the article may be on my own website if the e-rights have reverted to me or, if the piece is still under licence to another e-publisher, I include their URL where it can be seen. Several editors have followed hyperlinks to see my work and I've found that this method works well.