



Guide to Open Access Books for Authors

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now!**

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Introduction

We've written this guide to help you understand more about open access – a topic which can often be confusing. We will answer questions such as:

- What are the benefits of publishing an open access book?
- How does it work?
- How can I get funding?
- What services will Palgrave Macmillan provide to me?

If you want to start off with a summary of our open access book publishing options, please take a look at this flyer: [Open Access Book and Chapter Publishing at Palgrave Macmillan](#).

Who are we?

Palgrave Macmillan is part of Springer Nature, a global publisher that serves and supports the research community. Springer Nature was formed in 2015 through the merger of Nature Publishing Group, Palgrave Macmillan, Macmillan Education and Springer Science+Business Media.

Why I published an open access book

For **Professor Owen Davies**, the main advantage of publishing an open access book is that it can be read as widely as possible.

"I wanted my research to be easily accessible, easy for others to share, and for readers to download," said Prof. Davies.

His experience has also shown higher usage and downloads through 5,000 chapter downloads and 250 online mentions in less than a year, as well as reaching a wider audience.



Prof. Owen Davies, Historian
University of Hertfordshire

Co-author of *Executing Magic in the Modern Era: Criminal Bodies and the Gallows in Popular Medicine*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

OA books at Springer Nature

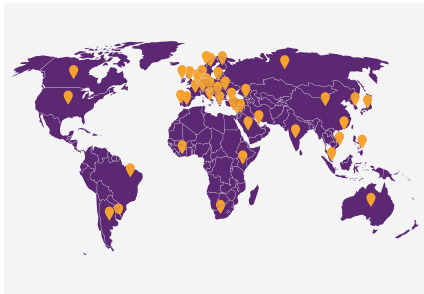
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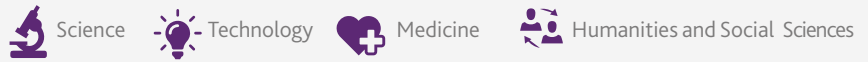
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1,200+ leading authors and
editors across 60+ countries



Springer Nature publishes open access (OA) books and chapters under its Springer, Palgrave Macmillan and Apress imprints. We helped to pioneer OA book publishing, first piloting OA publication for books in 2011. We publish OA books across a wide range of areas in:



1000+ books



400+ chapters



200+ funding partners



Including: European Commission, European Research Council, FWF, IEA, IMISCOE, Simula, The Wellcome Trust.



• 100+ million chapter downloads since 2013



• 58.7 k average chapter downloads per open access book

• Readers come from 200+ countries

Contact

Contact our free funding support service to discover and apply for OA book funding:
oafundingpolicy@springernature.com

For information on submitting an OA book proposal visit:

palgrave.com/open

Benefits of publishing an OA book with Springer Nature

- Increased visibility
- Maximised discoverability
- Global readership
- CC BY 4.0 licence for maximum reuse
- Author retains copyright
- Rigorous peer review
- Access to your book's usage metrics
- Free for readers (PDF, ePub, HTML, MOBI)
- Various formats accepted:
 - monographs
 - edited volumes/collections
 - proceedings
 - protocols
 - short-form books (SpringerBriefs, Palgrave Pivots)
 - textbooks
 - major reference works
 - chapters

Part 1: About open access

1. What is open access?

Palgrave Macmillan offers open access (OA) options for peer-reviewed books and chapters. OA refers to immediate, free and unrestricted online access to research outputs such as journal articles and books. This means that OA content is open to all, with no embargo period or access fees, and sharing and re-use of the work is typically permitted.

A Book or Chapter Processing Charge (BPC/CPC) covers all the costs of commissioning, managing peer review, copyediting and proofreading, production, dissemination, and promotion, including online hosting and indexing.

2. Why should I publish an open access book or chapter with Palgrave Macmillan?

There are many reasons why authors choose to publish their research OA with us.

For increased readership

Palgrave Macmillan's OA books are freely and immediately available online from our official platform, SpringerLink, upon publication and are clearly identified as 'open access'. Anyone worldwide can download OA research, which ensures your work is visible to the widest possible audience. SpringerLink receives around 285 million visits each year from 127 million unique visitors. In a Springer Nature white paper* we found that publishing an OA book with us can lead to 10 times more downloads, 2.4 times more citations, and 10 times more online mentions on average than publishing a book through the traditional non-OA route.

In addition to SpringerLink, your OA book or chapter will be hosted and indexed by our partner platforms and indexers to enhance the visibility and discoverability of your work.

To reach a wider audience

Open access books can have a more geographically diverse readership, reaching 61% more countries on average than non-open access books.*

OA can encourage a wider readership for scholarly books, especially in regions where readers would not be able to afford a print edition of the book.

Publishing an OA book can also facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration as well as help with raising a greater understanding of the research outside the traditional academic community.

To have an impact on society and culture

Do you want your work to have an impact on the research community and on policy makers?

Publishing a peer-reviewed OA book means that the research can travel further and faster.

Maureen Mackintosh, Professor of Economics at the Open University who published the Palgrave Macmillan monograph *Making Medicines in Africa*, was acutely aware of the benefits OA could offer: "We absolutely wanted it to be accessible specifically in Africa." As a title with a number of authors from low-income countries, her co-authors were familiar with the considerable challenge of accessing information. They particularly wanted to make their content available to manufacturers. Prof. Mackintosh described the impact of publishing open access as "transformational", saying "it can completely change what policymakers can do."

***Read more: Diversifying readership through open access: A usage analysis for open access books**

Read more in Section 5 (Rights and licensing) and Section 3 (Funding)



"I work with issues that have to do with inequality, so for me publishing a book that wasn't open access on the impact of international development would be quite unethical, because I know that people in Uganda would not be able to read the book. For me it was an absolute critical component to the ethics of publishing."

- Helen Louise Ackers, Chair in Global Social Justice, University of Salford

Source: The OA Effect white paper

Read more: [Section 5 \(Rights and licensing\)](#) and [Section 3 \(Funding\)](#)

Best
Choice

To comply with funder mandates

Your research grant or governmental policies may require that your research be made available on an OA basis.

We offer the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (CC BY) licence by default, to ensure maximum reuse and redistribution as long as the original author is attributed; this licence is preferred by many funders. Other Creative Commons licences are available on request.

Why is Palgrave Macmillan the best choice for my book?

Palgrave Macmillan publishes OA books and chapters across a wide range of areas in the humanities and social sciences.

In addition to the benefits of publishing an OA book mentioned in [Section 2](#), we have a flexible offering to suit all needs.

Leaders in open access books publishing

One of the reasons we're able to offer such innovative and comprehensive support for our OA book authors is because Palgrave Macmillan has been at the forefront of OA books publishing. We were one of the first major publishers to offer an OA option for the humanities and social sciences, and the first major publisher to offer the CC BY licence for OA books.

High quality standards

Palgrave Macmillan OA books adhere to the same high-level quality peer-review, production and publishing processes followed by traditional Palgrave Macmillan books.

Different book types accepted

We accept monographs, edited collections, proceedings, handbooks, textbooks, major reference works and short-form books (Palgrave Pivots). We also offer you the option to publish individual chapters OA within otherwise non-OA edited collections, and proceedings.

Print availability

Print copies are available on demand at a reduced price for those who wish to purchase the research in hard copy.

Freely and immediately available for readers

Readers can access the research free of charge in PDF, ePub, HTML and MOBI (Amazon) formats from SpringerLink and through other platforms and indexers we partner with.

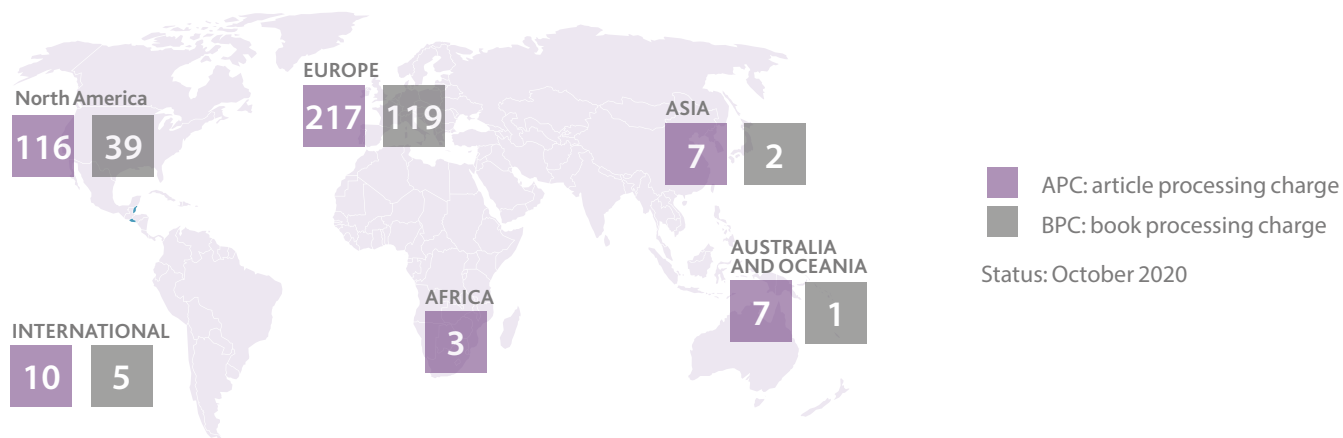
Access to Springer Nature author services such as the Funding and Policy Support Service, MyPalgrave, and usage statistics on SpringerLink

Springer Nature offers a free OA [funding and policy support service](#) to make it easier for our authors to discover and apply for BPC funding.

[MyPalgrave for authors](#) allows you to track the progress of your book in the publication process, as well as download your book performance report.

[SpringerLink](#) gives authors an insight into how your open access book is being used and talked about, by providing an overview of how many downloads, citations and Altmetric mentions your book has received.

3. How can I find funding for open access? And what do I need to know about complying with open access mandates and policies?



Start with a checklist

Our handy [Checklist for Funding and Policy Advice on Open Access Books](#) addresses what you need to do and questions you should ask at each stage of the research publishing process when it comes to funding, from pre- to post-publication. We also have a separate set of FAQs on [Funding for Open Access Books](#) targeting more directly how to find funding.

Take advantage of our Open Access Funding and Policy Support Service

There are an increasing number of funders supporting OA books. Some major funders include:

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- Swedish Research Council
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Wellcome Trust
- Research Councils UK (RCUK)

You can find a full list of research funders and institutions worldwide that fund OA books and chapters in the [Funder Index](#).

Our support team is also available to answer questions and provide consultation on potential funding and any policy queries. Please contact them at oafundingpolicy@springernature.com

Get a handle on open access books policy basics

There are at least 20 funders that require the books or chapters they fund to be made available OA, and more that encourage grantees to make these outputs openly accessible.

Our [FAQs for complying with funder OA book policies](#) are useful for answering any questions you might have about OA policies and mandates and getting an overview of common funder and publisher practices. We've also created an [overview of our own OA book policies](#), which includes information about OA licensing, copyright, self-archiving, manuscript deposition, compliance with funder mandates, and retrospective OA.

Funding



4. How can I collaborate on an open access book series?

Springer Nature publishes OA books in collaboration with learned societies and research institutions around the world. Among our partners are: UNESCO, CERN, **Simula Research Laboratory**, and **International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion network (IMISCOE)**.

We believe that by combining our partners' excellent research with Springer Nature's position as the leading OA publisher worldwide, we can help organisations reach the broadest possible audience.

Our publishing partners, just like individual authors, benefit from a wide range of services, including editorial support, technical knowledge, global dissemination and marketing and PR services.

We work together with our partners in order to understand their specific needs and prepare tailored proposals for them. We are open to many possible scenarios:

- we can publish your books as stand-alone projects
- we can include them in existing Springer Nature series
- or we can create an individual series of OA books, under the aegis of your organisation.

We would be happy to help your organisation or research group develop a personalised OA books publishing plan – just **get in touch** to learn more.

Part 2: Publishing process

5. What is the publishing process for open access books and chapters?

We are proud to provide our authors with a robust support system at each stage of the process of publishing an OA book, from proposal to dissemination and promotion.

From submission to publication



How does it work?

The proposal and peer review process

In the same manner as for non-OA book projects, authors interested in discussing a potential project or submitting a book proposal should begin by contacting a publishing editor in the appropriate subject area. It is best to mention your interest in OA to your editor as early as possible to ensure the maximum level of support. However, we also understand that opportunities for funding and collaborating on OA publications can occur at any time, so if you've already signed a project with us and want to discuss the possibility of converting it to OA before it publishes, please don't hesitate to ask.

OA books and chapters are subject to the same rigorous review as non-OA books to ensure their quality.

The contracting and payment process

Your editor will be able to provide you with a quote for the book processing charge (BPC) or chapter processing charge (CPC) and discuss Creative Commons licensing options (our default licence is CC BY). Once they've been agreed upon, these fee and licensing details will be included in the book contract.

The BPC/CPC covers all the costs of commissioning, managing peer-review, copyediting and proofreading, production, dissemination, and promotion, including online hosting and indexing.

*These prices are correct as of January 2021

Type	€ EUR	\$ USD	£ GBP
Monographs and edited collections (up to 400 pages)	13,000	15,000	11,000
Proceedings (up to 400 pages)	11,050	12,750	9,350
Palgrave Pivots (mid-length format)	7,000	8,000	6,000
Chapters in non-open access books (up to 40 pages)	2,170	2,750	1,870

Read more: [Section 3 \(funding\)](#)

VAT/local taxes are added where applicable. For other book types such as books longer than 400 pages, textbooks, or reference works, please [get in touch with a commissioning editor](#).

Due to the free nature of the content, no advances or royalties are offered for OA books or chapters.

BPCs are typically covered by the author's institution or an outside funding source. More information on potential funding resources can be found in [Section 3](#). The payee (whether author or funder) is typically invoiced for the fee at the time of final manuscript delivery. If there is a reason you or your funder needs to be invoiced at a different stage of the process (such as a limited timeframe for use of funds) please notify your editor and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

The production process

We encourage you to review our [book proposal guidelines](#) as you prepare your manuscript for submission.

OA books and chapters are copyedited, proofread and produced to the same high-quality standard as non-OA books and the timeline for production is typically the same.

We create a [MyPalgrave](#) account for our authors when the production process begins. You will receive an email inviting you to access Book Tracking on MyPalgrave and learn more about further benefits such as the author discount.

All our OA books are made available in PDF, HTML, ePub, and MOBI (Amazon) formats.

The following print formats and pricing are also offered:

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Formats

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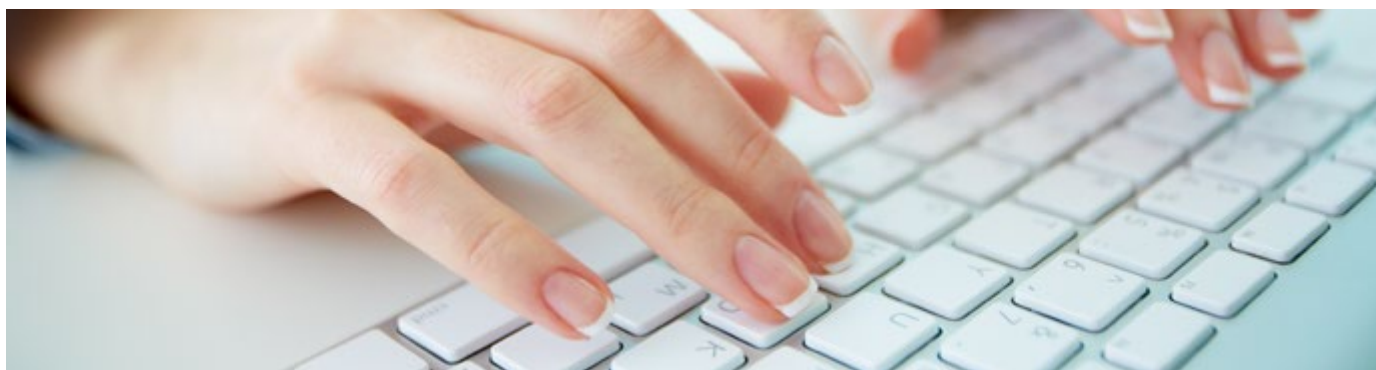
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✓ Hardcover **£20.00**

Source: Palgrave



6. Marketing and promotion

What we do to promote your open access book

When you publish with Palgrave Macmillan, you can be confident that your book will reach the largest number of readers possible. We understand local needs and will make sure your publication gets the attention it deserves.

You can expect:

- High-performing digital marketing campaigns such as eNewsletters, banner advertising and themed campaigns
- Innovative social media campaigns to our followers across sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and LinkedIn;
- Representation at major disciplinary conferences internationally

We focus our marketing on distinct target groups, addressing their specific needs, including:

- Researchers, scientists, physicians, professionals, and students
- University, institutional and corporate libraries
- Booksellers, online retailers, library suppliers, and all other trade partners.

Each group is served by a dedicated team, ensuring the best market coverage for your book on a truly global basis.

We collaborate with ORCID to provide our book and chapter authors, book editors and proceedings contributors with unique digital identifiers, ensuring the recognition of their work. Our sister imprint Springer was the first publisher to implement the ORCID identifier in the book workflow process, ultimately providing authors with a digital identifier that distinguishes them from every other researcher. You can find out more [here](#).

A comprehensive [Author's Guide to Marketing and Promotion](#) can be found on our website with more information about how we promote your book online, how we work together with libraries and what other services we provide to authors.

How can I help to promote my open access book?

A 2017 Springer Nature [survey](#) of more than 3,000 researchers revealed that over 95% of respondents use some form of social media or scholarly collaboration networks for professional purposes. Using your own networks and social media for promotion could help to increase the impact of your research.

Plus, as your book or chapter is OA, you can easily share the link to your research, enabling easier access for readers.



Learn more by reading our [Author FAQ](#) on self-promotion. In addition to social media, our website also gives you tips on how you can promote your work through other channels such as creating your own online profile, presenting at conferences, and participating in forums and online communities to name a few.

7. Why should, and how can, I assess the impact of my open access book?

We know that one reason for publishing or funding an OA book is for wider dissemination of research. In order to help measure this authors can check the global impact of their research through the number of downloads, citations and online mentions.

These metrics also help you:

- answer questions from your funder about the broader impact of your work
- demonstrate the engagement surrounding your research
- uncover new audiences and potential collaborators
- find out where your work gets the most attention and from there establish ongoing relationships with key bloggers, policy makers or media outlets
- benchmark your work against other titles or peers in your field.

You can also log into [MyPalgrave](#) to download your book performance report.



Useful contacts and links

Online resources:

- [Palgrave Macmillan open access books](#)
- [Funding support service](#)
- [SpringerLink](#)
- [Information for book authors](#)

Contact:

- [An editor](#)
- [The OA books team](#)

Contact

About Springer Nature and open access books

Palgrave Macmillan publishes OA books and chapters across a wide range of areas within the humanities and social sciences. All of our OA books and chapters are freely available online at SpringerLink and listed in the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB).

Browse our OA books [list here](#).

Palgrave Macmillan was one of the first publishers to offer an OA option for the humanities and social sciences, and the first major publisher to offer CC BY for OA books. Our notable OA titles include the first Wellcome Trust-funded OA monograph *Fungal Disease in Britain and the United States 1850-2000* as well as other titles: *The Academic Book of the Future*, *Digital Kenya* and *European Citizenship After Brexit*.

Publishing an OA book with us can lead to 10 times more downloads, 2.4 times more citations, and 10 times more online mentions on average than publishing a book through the non-OA route.

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