

VIDEO SUMMARY

On Publishing Books and Monographs

Resource person: Office of Scholarly Communication, University of Cambridge | Scholarly communication and academic publishing specialists | Curated from Office of Scholarly Communication, Cambridge
On Publishing Books and Monographs | Publishing: Journals, Conferences and Beyond | research

A scholarly monograph usually begins with a proposal to an acquisitions editor. The proposal presents the argument, contribution, audience, competing books, chapter plan, manuscript status, and author background. A conversation with the editor can establish whether the project fits the press's list and what material is needed for formal consideration.

Presses commonly use external peer review and an internal editorial or board decision. Authors respond to reports, revise the manuscript, and agree a contract that covers delivery, rights, formats, royalties, open-access terms, and responsibilities. The completed manuscript then moves through copy-editing, permissions, image preparation, indexing, typesetting, proofs, metadata, production, and marketing.

Plan for a long, staged process. Keep permissions, citations, images, and source files organised from the beginning. Ask about accessibility, preservation, global distribution, paperback and digital editions, and open-access funding. A book proposal is an argument for the project's intellectual and publishing case, so clarity about readership and contribution matters throughout.