



# Guide to Open Access Books for Springer Authors

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## Introduction

This is your guide to better understanding open access (OA). Many researchers can find OA confusing, so this guide will help answer questions such as:

- What are the benefits of publishing an OA book?
- How does it work?
- How can I get funding?
- What services will I get from Springer?

Visit our website for a more [detailed summary of our OA book publishing options](#).

## Why trust Springer?

Springer 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 Dr Roseli Pellens, one main advantage of publishing an open access book is to reach a wider audience. As her research spans multiple disciplines, she hoped for readers from a wide community all over the world.

It was also critical that the research was read as widely as possible, “because we were dealing with a subject that is quite pressing,” with an opportunity to influence biodiversity strategies internationally.

Since 2016, this title has received over 116,000 chapter downloads, 20 citations and 80 online mentions. She was surprised that her book became recommended reading for university courses but it made sense to her:

“Teachers can recommend specific chapters or pages which students can easily access, rather than having to buy the whole book,” she said. The ease of downloading her book is very important for her as these are the people that she wants to reach.



**Dr Roseli Pellens,**  
Permanent Research Fellow

Institut de Systématique,  
Evolution, Biodiversité

Co-editor of *Biodiversity Conservation and Phylogenetic Systematics: Preserving our evolutionary heritage in an extinction crisis*

[See more author testimonials](#)

# Open access books at Springer Nature

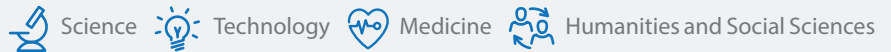
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Springer Nature publishes OA books and chapters under its Springer and Palgrave Macmillan imprints. We helped to pioneer OA book publishing, first piloting OA publication for books in 2011. We publish OA books across a wide range of areas in:



**About our authors:**  
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2,500+ books ▶ 200+ funding partners



**Including:**  
European Commission, Asian Development Bank, European Research Council, FWF, IEA, IMISCOE, Simula, The Wellcome Trust



▶ 300+ million chapter downloads since 2013  
▶ 130k average chapter downloads per open access book



▶ Readers come from 150+ countries

## Contact

Contact our free funding support service to discover and apply for OA book funding:  
[oafundingpolicy@springernature.com](mailto:oafundingpolicy@springernature.com)

For information on submitting an OA book proposal visit:  
[springernature.com/oabooks](http://springernature.com/oabooks)

## 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 book types accepted:
  - monographs
  - edited volumes/collections
  - proceedings
  - protocols
  - textbooks
  - short form books (SpringerBriefs)

# Part 1: About open access

## 1. What is open access?

Springer offers OA options for 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 processing charge (BPC) or chapter processing charge (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 Springer?

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

### For increased readership

Springer 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 seven times more downloads, 50% more citations, and ten 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

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 your traditional academic community.

### To have an impact on science, 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.

For Dr Roseli Pellens, permanent researcher at the Paris Museum of Natural History and author of *Biodiversity Conservation and Phylogenetic Systematics*, it was critical that the research was read as widely as possible, "because we were dealing with a subject that is quite pressing," with an opportunity to influence biodiversity strategies internationally. The book was downloaded more than 70,000 times in its first year since publication.

**\*Read more:** [The OA effect: How does open access affect the usage of scholarly books?](#)

**Read more** in Section 5 (Rights and licensing)



*"Readership was much bigger compared to our other traditional books. It is also because the topic is for a very wide audience, many people were interested in it and it is very easy to access, so a lot of things were in favour of that project."*

**Dr Sascha Friesike**, Assistant Professor, KIN Research Group, VU Amsterdam, HIIG Berlin

**Read more:** Section 5 (Rights and licensing) and Section 3 (Funding)

Source: [The OA effect: How does open access affect the usage of scholarly books?](#)

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 Springer the best choice for my book?

Springer publishes OA books and chapters across a wide range of areas within science, technology, medicine, 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 OA books publishing

One of the reasons we're able to offer such innovative and comprehensive support for our OA book authors is because Springer has been at the forefront of OA books publishing. We were one of the first major publishers to launch an OA book programme, back in August 2012.

### High quality standards

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

### Different book types accepted

Springer accepts monographs, contributed volumes, proceedings, protocols, handbooks, textbooks, and short-form books (SpringerBriefs). We also offer you the option to publish individual chapters OA within otherwise non-OA contributed volumes, proceedings, protocols, and handbooks.

### Print availability

Print copies are available on demand 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 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, 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.

More information on our book author services can be found [here](#)

[SpringerLink](#) gives authors an insight into how your OA 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 OA 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 OA books](#) targeting more directly how to find funding.

### Take advantage of our OA funding and policy support service

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

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Leibniz Association
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Wellcome Trust
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

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](mailto:oafundingpolicy@springernature.com)

### Get a handle on OA books policy basics

There are at least 35 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.

A blue rectangular button with rounded corners containing the word "Funding" in white text.



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

Springer Nature publishes OA books in collaboration with learned societies and research institutions around the world. Among our partners are: [Max Planck Society](#), and [LYRISIS](#).

Organisations can best disseminate their excellent research to the broadest possible audience when they work with Springer Nature, thanks to our position as the world's leading OA publisher.

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 organization

We would be happy to help your organization or research group develop a personalised OA books publishing plan—just get [in touch](#) to learn more.

More information about our current partnerships and partnership opportunities can be found [here](#)



## 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—OA books: How does it work?



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 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 BPC or 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.

[Current prices can be found on our website](#)

**Read more:** Section 3 (funding)

VAT/local taxes are added where applicable. If you need a price for a book type or book size not listed on our website 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 manuscript 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 MySpringer account for our authors when the production process begins. You will receive an email inviting you to access Book Tracking on MySpringer and learn more about further benefits such as our 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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- Prices for hybrid OA books (traditional books containing one or more OA chapters) are based on our standard book pricing, and adjusted downward to reflect the proportion of OA content.
- Special pricing is available for bulk orders. For more information, please contact your editor.

Formats

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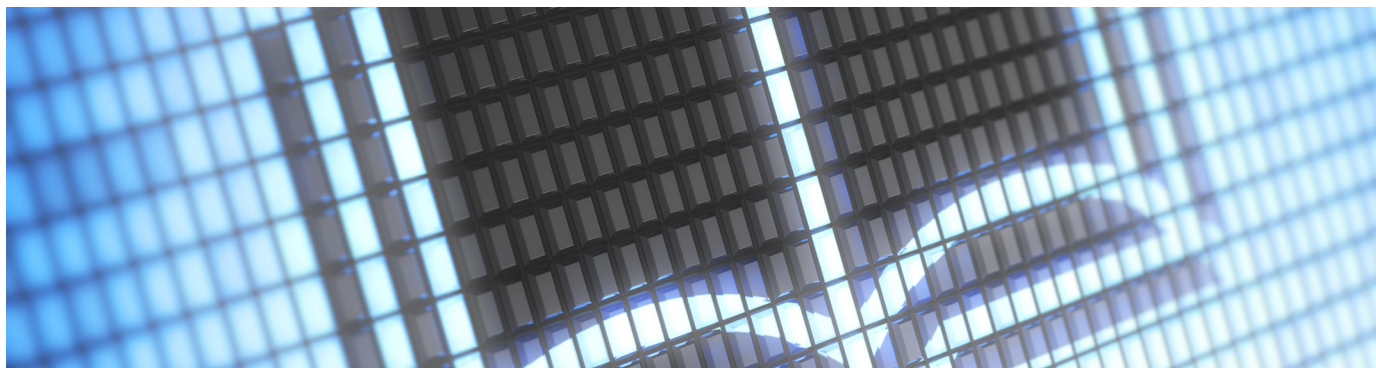
The Evolving Guide on How the Internet is Changing Research, Collaboration and Scholarly Publishing

Editors: **Bartling, Sönke, Friesike, Sascha** (Eds.)

Free Preview

Closes the gap between those who are online already and who are not

Source: [Springer](#)



## 6. Marketing and promotion

### Getting your OA book the widest possible audience

Working with a global publisher that also understands local needs means getting your book the right worldwide audience.

This means marketing focused 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. We were 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](#).

### 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 network 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 [marketing webpage](#). 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?

### Authors chose OA for their books for wider research dissemination. But: How do you measure this?

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.



## Useful contacts and links

### Online resources:

- [Springer books](#)
- [Funding support service](#)
- [SpringerLink](#)
- [Information for book authors](#)

### Contact:

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

Contact

# About Springer Nature and open access books

Springer publishes OA books and chapters across a wide range of areas within science, technology, medicine, the humanities and social sciences. All Springer 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](#).

Springer's notable OA books list includes author Gerard t'Hooft, winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize in Physics, co-author Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and winner of the 2016 ACM A.M. Turing Award, as well as the IMISCOE Research Series book *Contested Childhoods*, which was selected by Choice magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2017.

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

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