

How to Find Funding for the Book Processing Charge of your Open Access Book?

A Comprehensive
Step-by-Step Guide

Terminology and Definition of Open Access Book Publishing

Who is this step-by-step guide for?

This detailed and practical guide is for scholars who plan to publish an academic open access book and who plan to obtain funding from their university. Authors who do not have university funding can also benefit from this step-by-step guide.

In addition, this guide is for librarians who want to learn more about compliance, cost transparency, or the cost breakdown of book publishing charges, depository, and book peer review. For a detailed and transparent breakdown of our costs, read [“What do the open access ‘processing charges’ \(CPC, BPC\) cover with MDPI Books?”](#), page 2.

Definition: open access book

Open access books are scholarly online publications on a specific subject or scientific aspect that are freely available to read and download. Open access books can encompass a wide range of long-form academic publications, including monographs, edited books, textbooks, handbooks, or reference works.

What is a 'book processing charge'?

The book processing charge (BPC) or chapter processing charge (CPC) is a publishing fee paid by the academic author to the open access publishing house in return for the openly accessible publication of an academic book. BPCs are mostly covered by the author's institution or another funder.

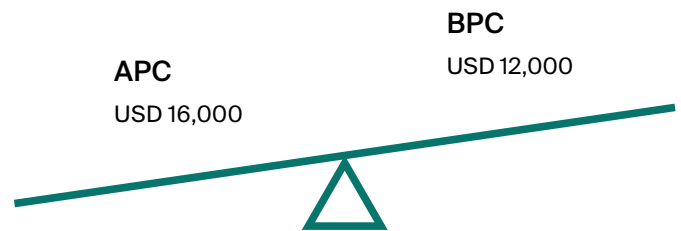
While BPCs may seem high initially, they are crucial investments. They ensure that academic standards are upheld and that scholarly work becomes more accessible for everyone. When compared to regular journal articles, the overall expenses of publishing multiple individual papers can often match or even surpass those of a BPC.

Putting APCs and BPCs into perspective— an example:

The publication of a peer-reviewed open access book with an average length of 300 pages would have a book processing charge (BPC) of USD 12,000.

The publication of 10 open access articles in journals would cost USD 16,000, with an average article processing charge (APC) of USD 1600.¹

¹Reference, page 7



How to choose a publisher for your open access book?

As with any book proposal, when choosing a publisher for your open access book, you should consider whether they publish high-quality work in your subject area. It is also important to explore topics such as licensing, fees, discoverability, and where the published books are being indexed.

Which different kinds of open access exist?

There are several types of open access (OA), including Gold OA, Green OA, Delayed OA, Hybrid OA, Bronze OA, Gratis OA, Libre OA, and Diamond OA.

At MDPI Books, we publish our books as Gold OA, with no embargo period. With Gold OA, the final published version of each book is permanently and freely available worldwide under an open access license, called the Creative Commons license, immediately upon publication by the publisher. Gold OA operates without any pay- or time-wall for the reader. Publications are usually paid for by authors/editors, their institutions, or research funds that support open access publication. Our open access books are covered by payment of a comparatively low book or chapter processing charge for accepted manuscripts.

Difference between a BPC and a CPC?

A CPC is the chapter processing charge that applies to individual chapters in an edited book. Alternatively, a BPC is the book processing charge for an open access book, such as a monograph or edited book, which is paid as a whole by the author(s) or editor(s).

What do the Open Access Book Processing Charges (BPC) Cover?

A primary challenge hindering the advancement of open access books is often related to understanding the various levels of publishing costs and how these expenses are interconnected with BPCs. Thus, we strive to be transparent in our pricing and fee structures.

Authors pay a one-time chapter processing charge (CPC) or book processing charge (BPC) to cover the costs of the following:

1. Support and guidance from our Commissioning Editor.
2. Peer-review coordination among editors, authors, and external reviewers.
3. Checks for plagiarism using the industry-standard.
4. Professional production of manuscripts in PDF and print versions.
5. Dissemination of the published manuscripts: MDPI books are freely available to be viewed or purchased via our Online Library. Your book will be added to the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and other industry relevant indexing data bases. Your open access book will also be registered with OAPEN and submitted to Web of Science's Book Citation Index (BKCI). For the up to date indexing and distribution list, please go to our website.²
6. Convenient submission via our online submission system BJAMS (MDPI Books Submission System).
7. DOI (Digital Object Identifier) assignment.
8. ISBN assignment: two ISBNs, print and online, are assigned at the book level. Metadata are delivered to Crossref.
9. Basic formatting and typesetting: regular editing of the layout and a reference check are included.
10. Standard English editing: checks grammar, spelling, punctuation, phrasing, and conformation to the MDPI house style.
11. Hosting of the book on mdpi.com/books.
12. Marketing and promotional services, including database indexing, newsletter mailing, announcements, and social media communication.

²[Reference](#), page 7

13. Custom cover design by our experienced designers in agreement with the corporate style and in coordination with the author or editor.
14. Publication of the accepted manuscript in electronic form (PDF), with full open access, under a Creative Commons license.
15. Distribution and print-on-demand service: all books can be viewed and downloaded at no cost directly from the MDPI Books website, and print copies are available for purchase.

The following optional services can be provided at an additional cost:

1. Figure editing: revise and format charts, graphs and illustrations to guarantee that books are visually pleasing. This includes figure size, resolution, colours, fonts, labelling, and file formats.
2. Extensive English editing, comprising checks of grammar, spelling, punctuation, phrasing, and conformation to the MDPI house style, as well as phrasing and clarity of expression.
3. Additional paid marketing campaigns, such as Google Ads or social media ads.
4. Book index prepared by a professional indexer.
5. Comprehensive formatting and typesetting: major adjustments to formatting, references/sources, and figure descriptions.
6. Full reformatting: the manuscript will be formatted from scratch. References/sources must be reformatted (possibly in a different style).³

³[Reference](#), page 7

Important Aspects of BPC

What does it cost to publish a book with MDPI, and when does the fee need to be paid?

For individual chapters in edited books, MDPI applies a chapter processing charge (CPC) of approximately USD 1350 for each accepted manuscript.

For monographs, MDPI applies a book processing charge (BPC) starting from USD 8800. The final price depends on the number of pages in the book, as well as the requested services. All fees must be paid after the pre-check of the submission. The full amount may be refunded if the book is not accepted for publication or is withdrawn before acceptance.

Does MDPI support authors with the search for funding options?

MDPI Books offers support with finding funding for your publication. However, open access funding models for books are not as well established yet as they are for open access journals. When looking for funding, the first step is to contact your institutional librarian, as they may guide you to funding opportunities within your institution or elsewhere. We are also happy to share with you any funding experience we may have.⁴

⁴ [Reference](#), page 7

How long does it take to publish a book with MDPI Books?

Scholarly open access book publishing requires both extensive pre-checks and peer review. The average time from the submission of the draft manuscript to publication is approximately 12 months, contingent upon several factors, including the complexity of the content and the responsiveness of the authors and editors. Below are the editorial and production steps that a scholarly author goes through with MDPI Books in order to publish their OA book.

Factors that impact the timeline for open access book publication include the following:

- Form or type of open access book;
- Quality of the submitted material;

- Collaboration and responsiveness of the author/editor;
- The topic of the open access book, i.e., how niche the topic is and how difficult it will be to find a scientific reviewer.

For further information read "[MDPI Books' Publication Process](#)", page 4.

How to choose an open access book publisher?

MDPI Books is a service provided by the open access publisher MDPI. We are a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, OASPA. The checklist "Think. Check. Submit." should be consulted for the evaluation of a trusted open access book publisher.⁵

⁵ [Reference](#), page 7

Which subjects does MDPI Books cover?

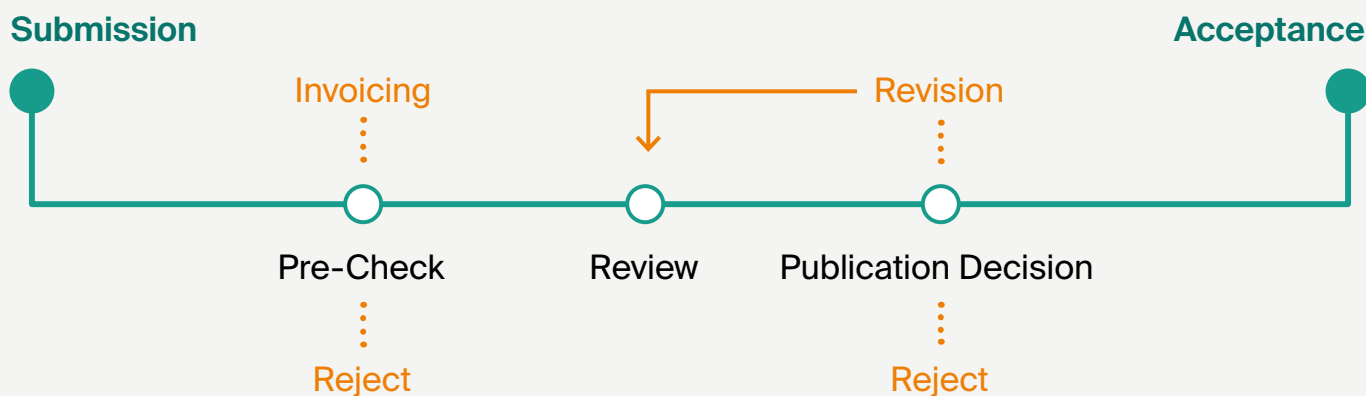
At MDPI Books, we have ten subject areas, as follows:

- Biology & Life Sciences
- Business & Economics
- Chemistry & Materials Science
- Computer Science & Mathematics
- Engineering
- Environmental & Earth Sciences
- Medicine & Pharmacology
- Physical Sciences
- Public Health & Healthcare
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

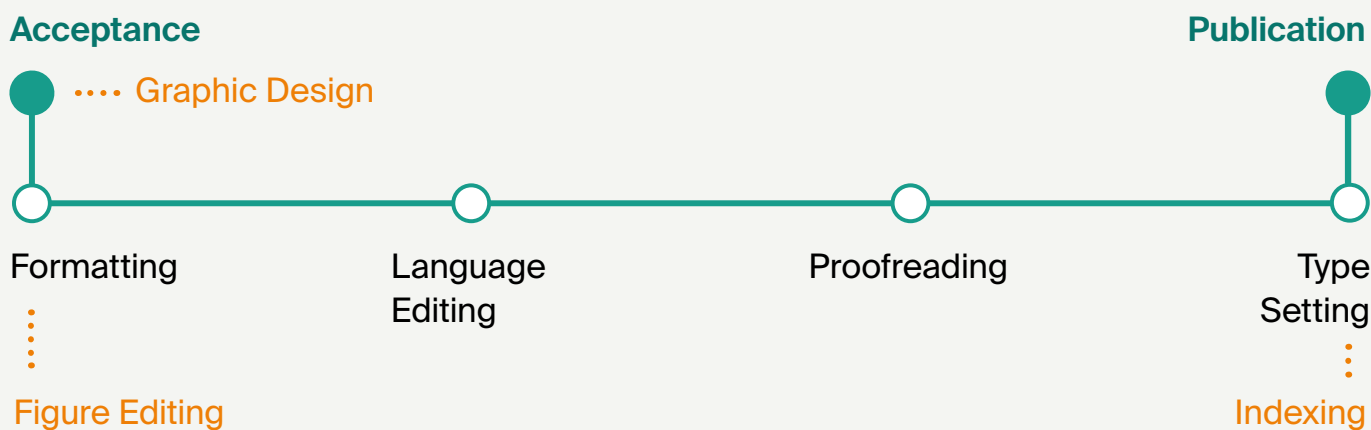
Although these ten subjects are pre-set, MDPI Books does offer the possibility of publishing open science that is niche or inter-/transdisciplinary.

MDPI Books' Publication Process

Editorial Process



Production Process



Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Book Publishing Charges Funding

Your step-by-step guide to funding your open access book. The order of these steps can vary depending on individual circumstances and preferences, but the process might look like this:

Step 1

Understand open access book publishing

Before beginning the publishing process, ensure that you have a clear understanding of open access book publishing. Open access entails making your book freely accessible online, increasing its visibility and impact. Please note that, while online access without any paywall boosts visibility, revenue from print sales may be minimal, leaving publishers reliant on alternative revenue streams such as book processing charges (BPC).⁶

More information here: ⁶ [Reference](#), page 7

Step 2

Research open access book publishers

Identify reputable book publishers specializing in open access publishing. Prioritize those with transparent pricing structures and peer review policies. For example, MDPI Books covers the cost of editing services, arranging peer review, cover design, online hosting, dissemination, and marketing within the BPC.⁷

⁷ [Reference](#), page 7

Make sure to select an open access book publisher from the pre-checked and trusted OAPEN publishers list.⁸

⁸ [Reference](#), page 7

Step 3

Review funding opportunities

Explore funding options for open access publishing. Begin by checking institutional policies, as some universities offer funds or support for scholars publishing open access content. Additionally, national research funders may provide support. We therefore advise you to check early on whether your funding body allows or even requires you to publish open access and whether they may take into account the costs of publishing an open access book in your application.

Your request may need to be linked to a funded research project. Otherwise, submit your proposal to bksubmission@mdpi.com, outlining your background as an author and the details of the proposed book and prospective publisher.

In any case, familiarize yourself with the guidelines and procedures for accessing these funds. If you are not affiliated

with a university or require additional assistance, you can contact our MDPI Books Team (bksubmission@mdpi.com) for further information on funding possibilities.

Also, refer to resources, such as oapen.org⁹, and oabooks-toolkit.org¹⁰, as well as the FAQ (frequently asked questions) page on mdpi.com/books¹¹.

⁹ [Reference](#), page 7

¹⁰ [Reference](#), page 7

¹¹ [Reference](#), page 7

Step 4

Select an open access publisher and get your book contracted

Finalize your choice of an open access publisher. Confirm their publication process, timelines, and any specific requirements. We recommend consulting "Think. Check. Submit." to identify trusted publishers.¹²

¹² [Reference](#), page 7

Work with the publisher to finalize licensing and copyright agreements, ensuring alignment with your intention to publish open access. Verify compliance with funding institution policies, such as external peer review requirements.¹³

¹³ [Reference](#), page 7

Step 5

Apply for funding

Submit a formal funding request specifying the need to cover the BPC. Emphasize the broader academic and societal benefits of making your book freely accessible. Note that some funders may require the completion of peer review procedures and the availability of documentation before submission, such as the SNSF, the Swiss National Science Foundation.

By following these steps, academic authors can navigate the process of publishing an open access book with the support of their university.

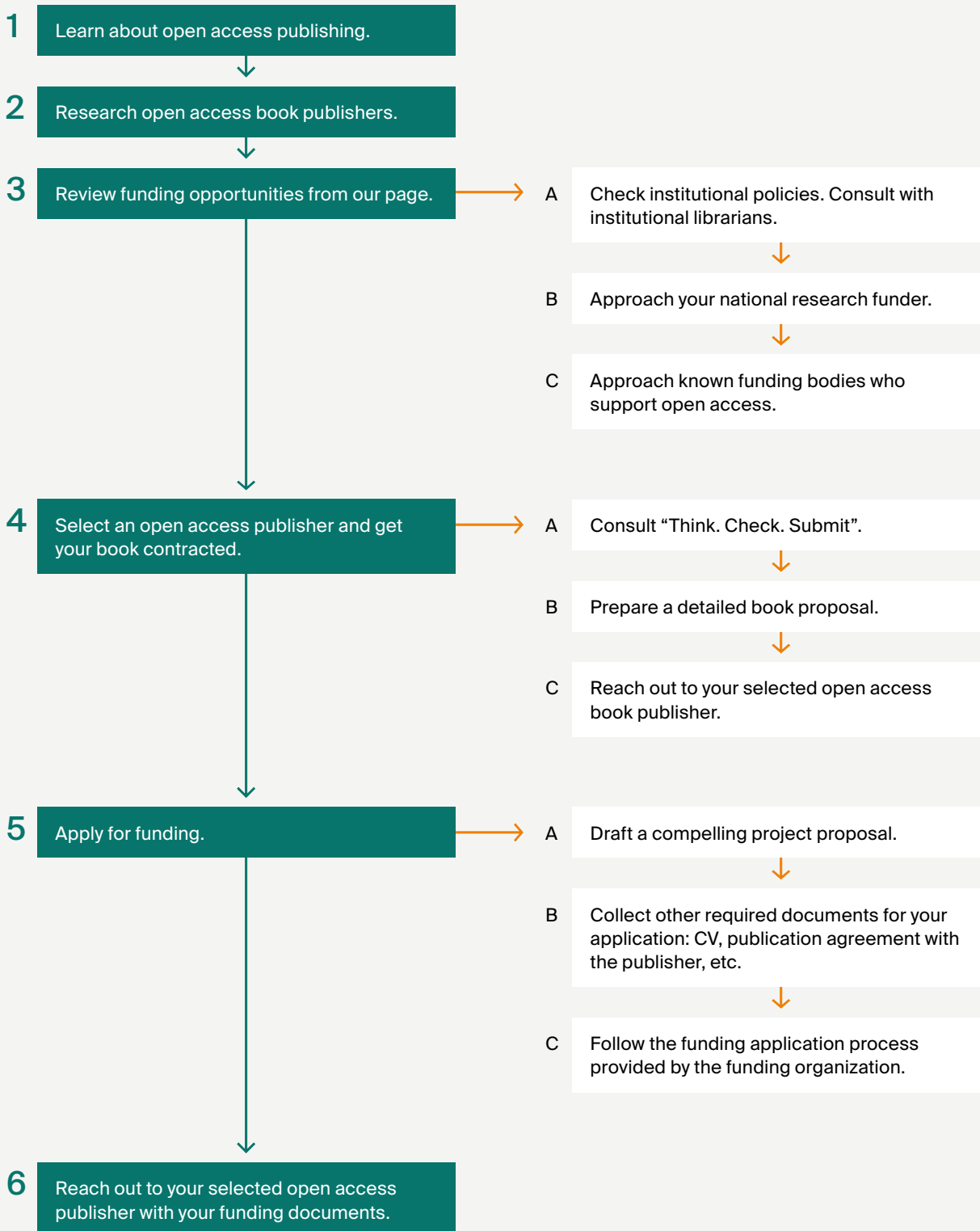
Step 6

Reach out to your selected open access publisher with your funding documents

If you are not affiliated with a university or require additional assistance, you can contact our MDPI Books Team (bksubmission@mdpi.com) for further information on funding possibilities.

How to Arrange Open Access Book Funding for Your Book Processing Charges





Step-by-Step Guide



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