

How we work with our editors and authors

'The help I received from the publishers as an editor was invaluable, from discussing the initial contents and managing the contributors through to assembling and publishing the final manuscript.'

(Professor Jan Delcour, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)

The above quotation highlights the key theme in our relationship with our editors and authors, and that is partnership. We recognise you are busy senior professionals. We want to make the best use of your valuable time by supporting you at each key stage in developing a title:

- Content development
- Content delivery
- Content production
- Content discoverability

We aim to work with you to add value to a title to maximise its impact in its subject.

Content development

To meet their needs effectively, we believe in getting to know our customers and the issues that matter most to them. Where this is helpful to you, we will use that understanding, our own research and networks of expertise to work on contents in partnership with you. By developing contents together, we can build an even stronger title able to make an even more substantial contribution to its subject.

Content delivery

With our edited books, we believe our editors should **not** be burdened with the day-to-day hassle of managing these projects. They have more important things to do with their time. This means we will be responsible for inviting, contracting and liaising with all the chapter authors to ensure they deliver their chapters on time. As an editor, you can focus on what matters most: reviewing the technical quality of draft chapters. Where you want, we can help with peer review process e.g. by arranging separate technical reviews of more specialist chapters. In addition, we will take responsibility for such issues as checking and redrafting chapters for style (e.g. where a chapter author's first language is not English). We will also be responsible for chapter format issues such as the quality and completeness of figure and other material supplied with a chapter.

Content production

In addition to redrafting chapters for style, we will arrange to have them produced to the high standard of quality you and our readers expect. We will also publish titles in both print and electronic format to match what customers find easiest to use.

Content discoverability

We are committed to connecting content with the widest possible readership to maximise its impact. We will ensure the content we publish is cited as widely as possible and will use search engine optimisation to maximise the discoverability of content online. We will build up communities of potential users and purchasers for each title to maximise readership and will use social media to expand the potential audience further. We will ensure broad review coverage and will use an international network of agents and representatives to reach worldwide markets.

Remuneration

We offer competitive remuneration packages comprising royalties and complimentary copies of the published title you have edited.

Timelines

Editors often ask about timelines. Editors are involved in projects at two key points:

- Reviewing the proposed contents at the start
- Reviewing first drafts as they come in

We will suggest possible chapters and authors as a starting point. Assuming the contents provide a good foundation it usually takes no more than a few weeks to agree contents with an editor. If further work is needed on the contents (e.g. finding more candidate authors for chapters), we will do this. Once the contents are agreed, we will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the book (inviting, contracting and liaising with chapter authors about delivery of their first drafts).

Once we start inviting chapter authors, it typically takes 2-3 months for us to get them all contracted. We usually need to give chapter authors 5-6 months to deliver their first drafts (mainly to allow them time to complete previous writing commitments). This suggests we might start to get first drafts for an editor to review in 6 months of starting to invite chapter authors, with most probably coming in 7-9 months' time.

We also provide support to editors once first drafts start to come in for review. Allowing for the fact that some chapters may fall outside an editor's area of expertise, we can agree to arrange peer review of a number of chapters by relevant subject experts on an editor's behalf. In addition, we ask editors to concentrate only on reviewing the technical content of chapters. If chapters need reviewing for style (e.g. to improve the English), we will sort that out here. Redrafting chapters to correct the English can be particularly time-consuming, which is why we take responsibility for doing it. We want to make the best use of our editors' valuable time.

Our goal is to be an effective partner with you in developing a project together which will be a standard reference for the research community.