

A Comprehensive Guide to Securing Funding for Your Open Access Book

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mdpi.com/books/publish-with-us/funding

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Open Access and Processing Charges

Who is this 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 guide.

In addition, this guide is for librarians who want to assess our compliance with policies and review the breakdown of our book processing charge.

What is a processing charge?

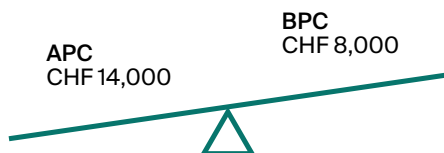
The book processing charge (BPC) or chapter processing charge (CPC) is a publishing fee paid to the open access publishing house in return for making the publication free to read and download. A BPC is generally paid as a whole by the authors, editors, their institution or another funding body.

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 CPC of CHF 1200 for each accepted manuscript.

For monographs, MDPI applies a BPC generally starting from CHF 8000. The final price depends on the number of pages in the book, as well as the requested services. All fees must be paid after pre-check of the manuscript. The CPC/BPC for chapters/books not accepted for publication will be refunded, with the exception of any processing fees already incurred by MDPI Books.

Although 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 200 pages would have a BPC of approximately CHF 8000.

In comparison, publishing 10 open access journal articles, with an average of 20 pages each at an APC of CHF 1400, would cost CHF 14,000.

Read more about APCs and BPCs:
ideals.illinois.edu/items/126624

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 indexed.

Does MDPI support authors with the search for funding options?

MDPI Books offers support 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.

mdpi.com/books/funding

What Do the Open Access Book Processing Charges (BPCs) Cover?

A primary challenge hindering the advancement of open access books is often related to costs and understanding expenses. 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 Editorial Team.
2. Convenient submission via the MDPI book submission system BJAMS: mdpibooks.jams.pub
3. Checks for plagiarism using the industry-standard.
4. Peer-review coordination among editors, authors, and external reviewers.
5. Standard formatting and typesetting: adjustments to the layout, reference check and conversion to LaTeX and XML.
6. Standard English editing: check grammar, spelling, punctuation, phrasing, and conformation to the MDPI house style.
7. Custom cover design by our experienced designers in agreement with the corporate style and in coordination with the author or editor.
8. Professional preparation of manuscripts in PDF and print.
9. Hosting of the book on mdpi.com/books, fully open access (free to view and download), under a Creative Commons license.
10. Print-on-demand hard copies available for purchase from the MDPI Books online library and distribution partners.
11. DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and ISBN assignment (print and online) at the book level. Metadata delivered to Crossref.

12. Indexing/registration with the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), Web of Science's Book Citation Index (BKCI), content aggregators and discovery services, and digital preservation.

mdpi.com/books/about/indexing-distribution

13. Marketing and promotional services, including database indexing, newsletter mailing, announcements, and social media communication

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

1. Comprehensive formatting and typesetting: major adjustments to formatting, references/sources, and figure descriptions.
2. Full reformatting: design from scratch a manuscript submitted in a format other than Word or LaTeX or a reference list submitted in a style not accepted by MDPI.

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3. Figure editing: revise and format charts, graphs and illustrations to guarantee that books are visually pleasing, and resize and adapt resolution, colors, fonts, labeling, and file formats.
4. Extensive English: comprehensive checks of grammar, spelling, punctuation, phrasing, clarity of expression, and conformation to the MDPI house style.
5. Additional paid marketing campaigns, such as Google Ads or social media ads.
6. Book index prepared by a professional indexer.

Step-by-Step Guide to Finding Funding

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

Open access entails making your book freely accessible online, increasing its visibility and impact, but revenue from print sales may be minimal, leaving publishers reliant on alternative revenue streams such as book processing charges (BPCs).

mdpi.com/books/support/faqs/open-access

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.

mdpi.com/books/support/faqs/book-chapter-processing-charges

Step 3

Review funding opportunities

Explore funding options for open access publishing. Begin by checking institutional policies as some universities and national research organizations offer funds or support for scholars publishing open access content. Check early on whether your funding body requires or allows you to publish open access and whether they take into account the publishing costs of publishing in open access. Your request may need to be linked to a funded research project.

Familiarize yourself with the guidelines and procedures for accessing these funds. Also, refer to resources, such as OAPEN and the FAQs (frequently asked questions).

oapen.org/article/6698894-funder-requirements

oabooks-toolkit.org/sitesearch?term=funding

mdpi.com/books/support/faqs/funding

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.

thinkchecksubmit.org/books-and-chapters

If submitting with MDPI, review the proposal requirements:

mdpi.com/books/publish-with-us/book-proposal

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.

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 specific 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 Editorial Team (bksubmission@mdpi.com) for further information on funding possibilities.

Guide to Arranging Funding for Your Book Processing Charge

