

WPI Press Book Proposal Submission Guidelines

Interested in publishing with the WPI Press?

The proposal is an important way to establish your vision for the book and explain your goals for what you want to achieve. It allows us to assess the project's fit with our mission. This document also serves as a basis for discussions about whether the proposed project is written for the intended audience; how we can collaborate with you to reach readers; where the book falls into the market; and how the WPI Press can best use its resources to develop the project and take it where it needs to go.

Here's What to Include in Your Proposal

1. Proposed Title and Subtitle

2. Author(s)/Editor(s)

List all names, titles, institutions, countries, and contact information. This should include the corresponding author/editor.

3. Short Description of the Book's Content and Significance

Describe concisely the proposed work's content and significance. Explain the book's purpose and how it will be achieved, and highlight the work's outstanding, distinctive, or unique features. Why is the book needed? What makes it unique? Please also include the relevant themes, arguments, contribution to scholarship, and place in literature.

4. Annotated Table of Contents

The Table of Contents should be complete and detailed. Include explanatory notes as necessary to help the reviewers understand the structure and content of the manuscript.

Provide a detailed outline of the book with paragraph-length descriptions of each chapter. Show what each chapter contributes to the logic of your argument, and how the chapters relate to one another. If possible, include major headings within each chapter. We understand that the content will be conditional at this phase, but to fairly assess the project's potential, your initial presentation needs to be as detailed as possible.

5. Sample Chapters

Submit at least two substantive sample chapters. They need not be in final form, but sufficiently advanced to allow a valid assessment of your capability. The material should reflect your writing style and pedagogy in the best possible light.

6. Apparatus/Illustrative Materials

Estimate the total word count of the completed book, including the main text, footnotes, bibliography, and any appendices.

How many and what figures (drawings, half-tones, charts, etc.) do you plan to include?

Will the book include examples, cases, questions, problems, glossaries, bibliography, references, appendices, etc.?

Do you plan to provide supplementary material (solutions, answers, workbook, laboratory manual or other material) to accompany the book?

7. Tell us About the Target Audience

Tell us who are your intended readers. Be specific. Are they scholars, practitioners, students? From what disciplines and fields? Remember books are most successful when they target a clearly defined readership.

If you are aware of professional organizations or mailing lists that will be useful in promoting the book, please mention them.

8. Comparable and Competing Publications

Describe existing books in this field published in the past 3–5 years and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Explain how your work expands on existing coverage and proposed publication differs from these other books. Please discuss each book in a separate paragraph and provide the publisher and date of publication.

For works with a primarily scholarly audience, discuss your project's place in the current scholarship and its distinctive contribution. If no other books address your particular topic, justify how exploring that topic advances current scholarly discussions.

For works to be used in the classroom for a primarily student audience, examine how your project's coverage, approach, scholarship, or pedagogy provides a different perspective on how the topic is taught.

For works meant for general readers, discuss your project's unique perspective and how it can be differentiated from other titles covering this topic. Consider sharing your "elevator pitch"—two to three sentences that tell what's special about your book.

9. What is the Status of the Work?

What portion of the material is complete? When do you expect to have a finished manuscript to the WPI Press?

Do you plan to include material requiring permission (text, illustrations)? To what extent? Have you started the permissions request process?

If your work is intended for use in the classroom, have you or other instructors assigned your materials to students? If yes, please describe the process and what you learned.

For any books based on dissertations, please provide two to three paragraphs describing how the book project expands upon the research in the dissertation and refines the conclusions reached in it. We need to understand how the book will be substantially different from the dissertation.

10. Author Information

We prefer to receive book proposal submissions via email to TheWPIPress@wpi.edu

In addition to providing a current curriculum vitae, please provide your contact information, including mailing address, phone numbers, and email address.

Your proposal will receive our careful attention as it undergoes review by our editorial board, which determines the general suitability of your project for our press. This process may take several weeks. The WPI Press Editorial Board meets in March, May, September, and December. Please submit your book proposal for consideration by the first day of the preceding month (e.g., February 1 for the March meeting). We are committed to making publishing decisions as swiftly and efficiently as possible.

We ask for sole consideration of your project while it is under review or notification from you should you already have submitted this proposal to another publisher.

Thank you for your interest in the WPI Press.