

UL List of Prestigious Publishers 2024

Introduction

The current list works on the basis of the numeric classification systems adopted variously by the Norwegian Publication Indicator ([NPI](#)), the Danish Bibliometric Research Indicator (BFI), and Finnish Publication Forum ([JUFO](#)), where the following numeric indicators apply:

- 3 indicates the very highest level of academic publisher with consistently high global impact
- 2 indicates a leading national or international publisher with very wide reach and strong impact
- 1 indicates important, more specialised publishers producing high quality, peer-reviewed research with significant impact

The list was compiled via a comparison of seven existing publisher lists: UL's list of prestigious publishers (2014), UCD's Output-Based Research Support Scheme (ORBSS) list, [SENSE](#), [CERES](#), and the most recent available NPI, BFI, and JUFO lists.¹ Input from the four faculties was also considered, as were AHSS's Disciplinary Research Norms and Arts Practice Outputs documents.

Given the constantly changing publishing landscape, it is recommended that this list be revised at least every two years, with metadata from each revision archived in the university research repository for the purposes of institutional memory. Previous lists should also be archived and due recognition given to the lengthy processes often involved in the production of high impact books. Publisher choices may reflect earlier rankings and reputation.

This list should not be understood as exhaustive or to constitute a definitive word on publishing choices, and faculty members should be encouraged to refer to the appended Principles for Choosing a Reputable Publisher document when considering publishers. Promotions and progression board members should be cognisant as well that publishers not on this list may represent excellent choices for particular disciplines or areas of research, e.g. foreign language scholarship. In such cases, narrative CVs and justifications of publisher choice should be given due weight. It is recommended that this list itself be phased out altogether over the next 5 years in keeping with UL's commitment to DORA and CoARA.

The List

3 – Very highest level of academic publishers with consistently high global impact

Boydell & Brewer
Brill
Cambridge University Press
Columbia University Press
Cornell University Press
De Gruyter
Harvard University Press (including Belknap Press imprint)
Johns Hopkins University Press

¹ Changes in national funding landscapes and in the use of research metrics, as per DORA and CoARA, have resulted in at least two of these lists being retired in recent years: the Danish BFI became defunct in 2021 and SENSE in 2022. Both have accordingly been consulted in archived versions.

MIT Press
Oxford University Press (including Clarendon Press imprint)
Palgrave MacMillan
Polity
Princeton University Press
Routledge
Sage
Stanford University Press
University of California Press
University of Chicago Press
Yale University Press

2 - Leading national or international publishers with very wide reach and strong impact

Allen and Unwin
Allen Lane/Penguin
Ashgate
Basic
Berg (Oxford)
Berghahn
Blackhall Publishing
Blackwell
Bloomsbury Academic
Brepols
Cork University Press
Duke University Press
Edinburgh University Press
Edward Elgar
Equinox
Fordham University Press
Franz Steiner Verlag
Gill and Macmillan
Harrassowitz
Hart
Hurst
I.B. Tauris
Indiana University Press
Intellect
Irish Academic Press
Jessica Kingsley
John Wiley
Kluwer Academic Publishers
Kluwer Law International
Lexington
LIT Verlag
Liverpool University Press
Lynne Rienner

M.E. Sharpe
Manchester University Press
Methuen
Max Niemeyer
Mohr Siebeck
New Island
Nova Science Publishers Inc.
National University of Ireland
NYU Press
Ohio State University Press
Open University Press
Pennsylvania State University Press
Peter Lang
Pluto Press
Praeger
Prentice Hall
Random House
Rodopi
Royal Irish Academy
Rowman and Littlefield
Rutgers University Press
Springer
St. Martin's Press
SUNY Press
Roundhall/Sweet and Maxwell
Syracuse University Press
Tamesis
Taylor and Francis
Texas University Press (also known as University of Texas Press)
UCD Press
UCL Press
University of Illinois Press
University of Michigan Press
University of Pennsylvania Press
University of Minnesota Press
Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht
Verso
Westview
Zed

1 - Important, more specialised publishers producing high quality, peer-reviewed research with significant impact

Anthem
Aschendorff
Barcelona Publishers
Bristol University Press

Clarus
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
Four Courts Press
Irish Manuscripts Commission
Irish Texts Society
Legenda
Longman (aka Pearson Longman)
Reaktion
Schwabe
Scribner (Simon & Schuster imprint)
TMC Asser
Toronto University Press
University of Westminster Press
Woodhead Publishing

Principles for Choosing a Book Publisher

Rationale

This document is intended to supplement – and ultimately replace – UL’s list of prestigious publishers in line with new developments and practices in research assessment, and in particular, the recommendations put forward by, among others, the [Leiden Manifesto](#), the [Declaration of Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#), the [Hong Kong Principles](#), and the [Coalition for the Reform of Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#). As one of the first Irish institutions to sign up to the latter, UL is well-positioned to lead on the implementation of reform of research assessment in Irish HEIs through the review and reconsideration of traditional research metrics, including restrictive publishers’ lists.² To this end, this document outlines a number of guidelines and principles for researchers when choosing a publisher for their book project. It also addresses a number of opportunities and pitfalls that have arisen in recent years, specifically Open Access (OA) publishing and predatory book publishing. It is intended to be used as a supportive document to help researchers make informed decisions when publishing monographs, edited books, and book chapters.

Choosing a Reputable Book Publisher³

Peer review is the principal consideration in all book publishing choices. As per CoARA’s guidelines: ‘[p]eer review is the most robust method known for assessing quality and has the advantage that it is in the hands of the research community’. When choosing a publisher, ensure that the publisher’s peer review process is clearly outlined on its website and in its literature for authors.

Reputable publishers provide substantive **editorial support** at all stages of book production, from manuscript preparation and submission to copyediting and indexing. Transparent communication about and from your editorial team is a hallmark of a good quality publisher.

Reputable publishers will outline information about **print runs** upfront, including available e-book options, either on their websites or through communication with an editor. They will not usually print-on-demand. They will also outline their **dissemination** and **promotion/marketing strategies**, all of which should be geared towards making your book as visible and as accessible to a wide, international audience as possible.

Fees for publication should be limited. An upfront publishing fee is indicative of a predatory publisher (see below). Open Access publishing fees are possible, but may be avoided in some instances via partnerships between publishers and resources such as the [OAPEN platform](#) (see below). Costs associated with imaging, reprographics, and permissions may also need to be covered directly by the author.

Academic databases such as SCOPUS and Web of Science have included an increasing number of book publishers in their indexes in recent years, and **indexing** can be a useful indicator of prestige.

² CoARA signatories ‘agree on the need to reform research assessment practices’ by relying primarily on ‘qualitative judgement supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators’. Signatories also agree ‘to regularly demonstrate progress towards reviewing, developing and evaluation criteria, tools and processes that fulfil the core Commitments’; this document helps fulfil this obligation.

³ See also the Glucksman Library Guide, [‘Publishing and Scholarly Communication: Book Publishing’](#).

Note, however, that smaller presses and those catering to non-Anglophone and locally-relevant research tend to be overlooked here.⁴

The Place of Book Publishers' Lists

Publishers' lists can provide a helpful starting point when choosing a book publisher. Note though that many prominent rankings, such as that compiled by the Research School for Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment ([SENSE](#)), have now been phased out in light of the recommendations listed above. If consulting a publishers' list, be aware of how the rankings are compiled; how often they are reviewed; and any discipline-specific tendencies they may capture or ignore.

Although there are a number of national ranking systems, such as the [Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers](#) and Spain's [Scholarly Publishers Indicators](#), there is no equivalent in Ireland.

Open Access Book Publishing

Open Access (OA) publishing has drawn increasing attention in recent years, particularly as it has become the focal point of nationally-funded research. The Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland, for instance, require funded research to be made available in OA format. Comparably, in the UK, the Research Excellence Framework is due to require OA publication of all funded research by 2027. More broadly, Ireland has committed to a national open research environment through the establishment of the National Open Research Forum (NORF) and the [National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030](#). While, therefore, OA has traditionally been associated with journal publications, opportunities for making academic books and book chapters OA are becoming increasingly available, and there are a number of directories to help locate OA book publishers. These include, for instance, [Radical OA's directory](#) of academic-led OA book publishers. Note, however, that the directory lists only academic-led publishers and excludes many university and commercial publishers.

When choosing an OA book publisher, the same care and consideration that goes into choosing a high quality publisher for a printed book should also be used. Some things to consider:

- How is the publisher funded? Is the publisher funded in a sustainable manner by academic institutions through memberships, as with, for example, Open Book Publishers, and Open Library of the Humanities?
- Is the publisher aligned to a reputable academic institutions, as with, for example DCU press or UCL press?
- Is the publisher aligned to a reputable commercial publisher?

OA book publishing sometimes requires the payment of a Book Processing Charge (BPC). These costs may be covered by an external funder if worked into the original funding application. Researchers working outside of a funded project may wish to consult Radical OA's [guide on OA funding opportunities](#), which also includes a list of publishers that do not charge BPCs.⁵

⁴ See, for instance, the Leiden Manifesto's call to '[p]rotect excellence in locally relevant research' and to '[a]ccount for variation by field'.

⁵ See also the Glucksman Library Guide, ['Open Access Publishing'](#).

Predatory Publishing

As with predatory journals, predatory book publishers charge large fees to publish, often approaching authors with unsolicited invitations to publish and promising extremely quick turnarounds. Unlike reputable presses, predatory book publishers tend not to provide clear or transparent information about their peer-review processes; their websites can be confusing and/or misleading; and they often print-on-demand. [Beall's list of predatory journals and publishers](#) is a useful resource if in doubt about a publisher's status.

Demonstrating and Assessing Quality

As per recommendations put forward by DORA, narrative CVs should be relied on to provide indicators of prestige, to evidence peer review, and to address the quality of the research.⁶ For those involved in assessing publications (via, e.g. hiring and promotions boards), the quality of the research itself rather than publication venue should be the uppermost consideration, as per DORA recommendations.⁷ Quantitative research metrics should accordingly always be paired with qualitative assessment of individual research outputs.

Quality Control

This document should be reviewed at regular, biennial intervals to ensure continued accuracy and relevance.

| Version | Document Owner | Date | Changes |
|---------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 0.1 | AHSS ADR | Summer 2023 | First draft of Principles document compiled in consultation with Faculty ADsR and Head of Research Services, Glucksman Library |
| 0.2 | AHSS ADR | 24 Oct. 2023 | First draft of Principles document revised following feedback from Faculty ADsR and Head of Research Services, Glucksman Library and presented to Faculty Management Committees/Faculty Boards |
| 0.3 | AHSS ADR | Jan./Feb. 2024 | Revised Prestigious Publishers list compiled following feedback from the OVPR and in light of feedback received from faculties; further feedback from MCs/Faculty Boards may still be required. |
| .4 | AHSS ADR | April 2024 | Imprints clarified and final amendments made based on feedback from URC. |

⁶ On building your narrative CV, see the Glucksman Library Guide, ['Narrative CVs'](#).

⁷ See number 15 of DORA's recommendations: 'When involved in committees making decisions about funding, hiring, tenure, or promotion, make assessments based on scientific content rather than publication metrics'. See also number 7 of the Leiden Manifesto: 'Base assessment of individual researchers on a qualitative judgement of their portfolio', and CoARA's 'principles for assessment criteria and processes', which include the following: 'Focus research assessment criteria on quality'.