How Bloomsbury Open Collections works

- We are asking libraries who would usually purchase our books to put their funds towards making a small collection of new Bloomsbury books available OA.
- Participating libraries also receive: 12 months’ access to ~200 backlist titles in related subjects as a benefit for their own researchers; permanent access to any frontlist titles not made OA.

Transparency

- Simple three-tier price structure for participating libraries based on FTE.
- Target funding amount is equivalent to 20 x our standard BPC (£8,000/$10,000).
- Once we achieve our target, we will stop accepting participants and funds for the pilot.

Innovating: internal collaboration and community feedback

- We created an internal working group with senior representatives across our academic, digital, and OA teams.
- Key decisions made by the group: a) to aim to convert a collection of books rather than individual titles, in order to promote a collective-action approach and ultimately support a faster transition to OA; b) to offer the private benefit of backlist access only for one year, to encourage participating libraries to continue contributing to Open Collections in future years.
- We held focus groups with librarians, and consulted with consortia and authors.
- As a result, we: a) committed to making 10 titles OA once we achieve 50% of the funding target; b) agreed that participating libraries will be consulted about subjects offered for future Open Collections; c) added a third price tier for community/FE colleges to support the widest participation possible.

Equity and inclusion: the principles behind our OA books model

- DEI is a priority for Bloomsbury. We want to ensure all our publishing is true to these principles, including open access.
- Our aim was to develop an equitable and inclusive approach to OA for books that did not involve an author-side fee and thus made OA an option for a more diverse range of authors - but would still be sustainable and scalable.
- In the pilot, eligible authors are based in and/or writing about the Global South. Global South authors are prioritised if only 50% of the funding target is reached.

Author feedback

- “We are delighted to read about your initiative and could not agree more with you regarding the need to publish more books open access if we want for academia to become more inclusive and accessible,” Tanja Kleibl, Robel Afeworki Abay, Anna-Lisa Klages and Sara Rodríguez Lugo.
- “As a Global Studies scholar, I am excited to have my work included in this important and consequential initiative. The increased visibility and accessibility it offers makes it an easy decision to make.” Stephen Wooten