



BRILL

BRILL's Guidelines for a Book Proposal

Please include:

Aims & Scope

A 1–2 page overview of the work and how it contributes to scholarship.

Based on the nature of the project, you may use the following questions as a guide:

- Does the approach taken in the book represent a departure from, or extension of, conventional wisdom? How will this contribute to the discipline?
- What are the central questions that drive your research and what makes these questions relevant?
- How will your work be structured? And what is the rationale behind that structure?
- What is unique about your approach?
- What competing titles have been published, and how does yours differ from these?
- In short, why should your research be published?

If the book is based on your doctoral thesis, please state how it will be amended to turn it into a book. Please note that unrevised theses are not usually sent for peer review and are therefore not considered as manuscript submissions.

Table of Contents

An annotated outline, including an abstract of each chapter. If the project is an edited volume, please include the names and affiliations of the contributors. Is any of this information subject to change?

Sample

If available, include some representative material for the project such as the introduction, a sample chapter, including a brief description of special production issues such as artwork or non-Western scripts.

Length

Provide an estimate of the length of the project (word count including footnotes, number of illustrations, maps and tables). Brill is usually not able to consider manuscripts of fewer than 80,000 words.

Time Schedule

What is the proposed submission date of the completed manuscript for review. Please note that we do not usually send drafts or unrevised theses for peer review.

Market

Who is the book aimed at, what is the prospective readership? How will they use the material?

Exclusivity

An indication of whether you are submitting your proposal to a number of prospective publishers and a sentence or two explaining why you are submitting your proposal to Brill. As a rule, Brill will not start formal review rounds when your work is being considered by another publisher.

CV

A resume of your work experience and publication history.



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What Happens Next?

Each proposal receives a thorough evaluation by Brill. If we think a proposal may be suitable for one of our series, it is sent for review to the editorial board of the series. We are usually able to let you know within 4 weeks if we would like to see the completed manuscript.

Peer Review

Generally only final manuscripts are sent for peer review, in most cases to one or two readers. We endeavor to keep the review process double-blind, i.e. the reviewer does not know the name of the author and vice versa. However, complete anonymity is difficult if manuscripts refer to the author (i.e. a footnote saying "see my article, etc."), or when information about your work in progress is advertised on your personal website. With edited volumes it is also difficult to keep the identity of the contributors and editors anonymous. Sometimes, the reviewer allows us to give the author their name for further correspondence and advice.

The reviewer may make suggestions for improvement, but it is important to understand that the review is not meant for detailed advice on how to proceed with the finalization of the manuscript, or what approach to take. Decisions by Brill usually come in one of three forms:

- Negative decision: Brill has decided to decline your manuscript for publication.
- Positive decision, conditional on revision: the reviewer and/or the editorial board may offer to publish conditional on certain revisions. After revision the manuscript will be returned to the reviewer and/or the editorial board. Some advice may not be conditional but will be at the discretion of the author. Depending on the amount of revision needed a contract or letter of intent to publish may be offered.
- Positive decision: the editor will offer you a contract for publication based on the existing manuscript.

It usually takes around 3 months before we are able to send you a report.

Contract

As a general rule we only offer a contract for publication after we have received a positive recommendation following the peer-review process. In some cases the acquisition editor may decide to offer a contract on the basis of a proposal only. However, publication will then still be dependent on a positive outcome of the peer-review process. Contracts for edited volumes are signed by the editor or editors and contributors are asked to sign separate consent-to-publish forms.

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