Knowledge Unlatched
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Knowledge Unlatched Pilot trying to achieve?

Knowledge Unlatched is piloting a model that has the potential to transform access to the knowledge and ideas contained in scholarly books and which enables libraries to act as catalysts in the shift towards Open Access. The Knowledge Unlatched pilot is an opportunity for libraries to create a future that includes free access to high quality scholarly books for readers all over the world.

We are now seeking support from at least 200 libraries from around the world in order to unlatch its Pilot Collection. The Pilot Collection consists of 28 new books from 13 recognised scholarly publishers.

If at least 200 libraries from around the world agree to support the Pilot Collection, publishers will be paid a pre-agreed fee in return for making the books available on a Creative Commons licence via OAPEN and HathiTrust as fully downloadable PDFs immediately upon publication.

The Pilot is the first phase in establishing what we expect to be a financially sustainable route to Open Access for large numbers of scholarly books. It is giving us the opportunity to work with research funding bodies, librarians, scholarly communities and publishers in order to fine-tune our model.

The Collection

2. Which publishers are included in the Pilot Collection?

The Pilot Collection includes titles from the following 13 publishers:

- Amsterdam University Press
- Bloomsbury Academic
- Brill
- Cambridge University Press
- De Gruyter
- Duke University Press
- Edinburgh University Press
- Liverpool University Press
- Manchester University Press
- Purdue University Press
- Rutgers University Press
- Temple University Press
- University of Michigan Press

Additional publishers are preparing to offer titles in future rounds. A full list of the publishers working with Knowledge Unlatched can be found at http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/good-for/publishers/. This list is being updated continuously.
3. How were titles chosen for the Pilot?

Titles in the Pilot Collection were selected to represent a broad range of specialist research based books, most of which are monographs, a few edited collections and some that are supplementary content for courses. The core audience for these books will be students at undergraduate and graduate levels as well as independent researchers and others outside the academy.

These titles were selected by librarians in a partner library from more than 100 submitted by publishers, with the goal of ensuring wide appeal. A Collections Committee comprised of librarians in participating institutions will advise on future selections.

4. Will an embargo period be applied to the Open Access version of Knowledge Unlatched titles?

No. If library support for the Pilot Collection is sufficient unlatched titles will be made available via OAPEN and HathiTrust on an Open Access basis as fully downloadable PDFs immediately upon publication.

Pilot Collection Pricing

5. What is the size and price of the Pilot Collection?

The Pilot Collection includes 28 new titles covering topics in the Humanities (Literature, History) and Social Sciences (Politics, Media & Communications).

Participating libraries will pay no more than $1,680 to unlatch the entire collection and may pay less.

- The cost per library for unlatching this package may be less than $1,680 if more than 200 libraries take part in the Pilot. This is because the costs will be shared among a greater number of libraries. The more libraries that participate, the lower the cost per library.

- It may also be less than $1,680 if a library orders titles included in the collection in another format.

The final invoice from Knowledge Unlatched sent to each library will reflect both the number of libraries taking part in the Pilot and any additional format purchases made by the library. Libraries will be invoiced in US dollars.

6. How will libraries avoid paying twice for titles in the Pilot Collection?

Publishers have agreed to recognise additional format purchases made by each participating library as a contribution towards the cost of unlatching the collection. If a title in the Pilot Collection is ordered in any print or electronic format through the usual channels, the library will not be charged for unlatching that title. Instead, the unlatching fee paid by that library will be adjusted down.
Libraries will be asked to indicate which titles they have ordered, or intend to order via a vendor, aggregator or platform of their choice by 31 March 2014. This information can be provided via the pledging website.

If at least 200 libraries sign up for the Pilot Collection, each library will be invoiced in early March 2014 for an amount that takes into account other format orders made by the library.

Publishers have agreed to this approach to avoid duplicate library payments for the titles included in the Pilot Collection. The process of recognising additional format purchases will be reviewed once the Pilot has concluded and may be refined in future rounds to support scaling for both libraries and publishers.

7. *Is tiered pricing an option for libraries of different sizes and types?*

Tiered pricing is not available for the Pilot Collection but can be considered as part of future models.

8. *May libraries purchase the Pilot Collection through consortia?*

If you think that the Pilot Collection might be of value to other libraries in your networks, we hope that you will encourage them to take part in the programme. We welcome enquiries from consortia about how participation in the Knowledge Unlatched programme might be negotiated on a group basis.

Discounts on other formats that have been negotiated via consortia will not be affected by your library’s decision to take part in the Pilot Collection. In fact, taking part in the Pilot is a great way for your library to ensure that the money already being spent on books is recognised as a contribution towards securing Open Access for titles purchased through other channels.

**Pledging Process**

9. *How do libraries sign up?*

Libraries can sign up for the Pilot Collection by visiting: [http://collections.knowledgeunlatched.org/register](http://collections.knowledgeunlatched.org/register).

UK libraries should sign up via Jisc Collections’ website: [https://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Catalogue/Overview/index/1704](https://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/Catalogue/Overview/index/1704).

10. *What happens if the pledging target isn’t reached?*

In order to raise enough money to unlatch the Pilot Collection at least 200 libraries from around the world must agree to take part in the project. If we are unable to secure participation from 200 libraries the Pilot Collection will not be unlatched.

Publishers would continue to sell the titles offered in the Pilot Collection in print and electronic form through their usual channels, but the titles would not become available worldwide on an Open Access basis via Knowledge Unlatched.
If the pledging target is not reached, Knowledge Unlatched will notify participating libraries and libraries will not be charged.

11. Why should libraries pay now for the Knowledge Unlatched package? Why not wait until others have unlatched the titles?

This is a project that depends on libraries working together for the benefit of the whole community. Every library pledge counts towards creating a sustainable route to Open Access for scholarly books.

Libraries have the power to dramatically widen access to high quality scholarly books. The Pilot Collection is an opportunity to ensure that existing purchases count towards making books Open Access. As more libraries join the project, the greater the cost and efficiency savings become for each library.

Participating libraries will also be able to shape future offerings through the Collections Committee and the Library Steering Committee.

Libraries that take part in the Pilot will also enjoy a membership fee waiver until January 2016, ensuring that they will be able to help shape the future of the project, for the benefit of their library and communities all over the world.

12. How is Knowledge Unlatched being funded?

Project and startup costs for the Knowledge Unlatched Pilot are covered by grants and generous support from founding libraries. Organisations that have provided support to Knowledge Unlatched during its startup phase are: the New York Public Library, the British Library Trust, Queensland University of Technology, The University of Melbourne, and The University of Western Australia as well as the Open Society Foundation and the Big Innovation Centre.

13. Are there any other charges I should know about?

Libraries will not be charged for the operational costs associated with coordinating the Pilot. For subsequent collections, Knowledge Unlatched will apply an additional levy of 5% of each Title Fee to cover operational costs of running the Knowledge Unlatched programme. From 2015 onwards the Title Fee levy will be reviewed and may be adjusted with recommendations from the Library Steering Committee.

From March 2014 onwards a modest tiered membership fee of no more than $500 is anticipated based on guidance from the Library Steering Committee. This fee will be waived until January 2016 for libraries participating in the Pilot. Libraries may terminate membership at any time.

Features

14. Will books in the Pilot Collection have DRM?

The unlatched version of tiles in the Pilot Collection will be a DRM-free PDF and will be made available on an Open Access licence immediately upon publication via the OAPEN Library and
HathiTrust Digital Library. Other formats of titles offered by publishers may carry DRM restrictions, depending on the policies of the publisher and/or the reseller.

15. **Will Knowledge Unlatched report usage statistics for its Open Access books?**

Yes. Usage data will be available from OAPEN and HathiTrust. To the extent possible Knowledge Unlatched will also provide summary reports of COUNTER compliant usage data. This will depend on the ability of or our hosting partners to comply with the latest COUNTER standards as applied to books. Although we are confident that we are at the cutting edge of developments in this area, we cannot guarantee that usage reports will be fully COUNTER compliant in the first instance.

16. **How will Knowledge Unlatched titles be preserved?**

All of the titles included in the Pilot Collection will be preserved via OAPEN, HathiTrust and CLOCKSS. Many of the publishers taking part in the Knowledge Unlatched Pilot are also members of preservation programmes such as Portico.

17. **Where will Knowledge Unlatched titles be hosted and made discoverable?**

The PDF Open Access version of unlatched titles will be hosted on OAPEN and HathiTrust.

MARC records will be available directly from OAPEN. Links to a folder with MARC records will be included in the notification of unlatching sent to libraries.

Titles in the Pilot Collection will be discoverable in the Directory of Open Access Books, WorldCat and through library discovery tools including: OCLC WorldShare Management Services and WorldCat Local, EBSCO Discovery Service, Summon (by Serials Solutions) and Primo Central (by Ex Libris).

**Benefits**

18. **Why are publishers participating in Knowledge Unlatched?**

Publishers are taking part in Knowledge Unlatched for many reasons:

- Knowledge Unlatched is an opportunity for publishers to learn about what happens when their titles are made available on an Open Access licence.
- Many publishers recognise that demand for Open Access is growing and want to be able to offer their authors Open Access options.
- Author-pays Open Access publishing (equivalent to journal APCs) is not viable for many authors. Knowledge Unlatched represents an alternative to requiring individual authors to find funding for their Open Access publication.
- The aggregation of demand for the Open Access version is attractive to publishers because it helps them to cover costs earlier in their sales cycle.
19. Are there exclusive benefits for participating libraries?

Purchasing books via Knowledge Unlatched is a fantastic way to signal your library’s support for Open Access. It is also a practical way to ensure that the ideas contained in scholarly books are available to readers and communities everywhere, even if they don’t have access to a library and can’t afford to purchase their own copy.

In addition to these very important benefits, libraries that participate in Knowledge Unlatched will enjoy a number of exclusive entitlements, including:

- Participation in Knowledge Unlatched governance;
- The ability to ensure that print and eBook purchases contribute towards making books Open Access;
- 2 years of membership fee waiver. Libraries that participate in the Pilot will not be required to pay a Knowledge Unlatched membership fee until January 2016.

20. What are the overall benefits for the academic community?

The Knowledge Unlatched model has the potential to transform access to knowledge and ideas contained in book-length scholarly publications. In the long term it will dramatically change the way publishing is funded, ensuring that the benefits of digital affordance are maximised for readers and scholars within and beyond universities.

- The Knowledge Unlatched model offers a distinct set of benefits for making new monographs Open Access.
- Humanities and Social Sciences content is not disadvantaged in relation to Sciences.
- Optimal discovery for greater use of new monographs benefits scholars.
- Publishers and libraries will gain a greater understanding of the dynamics of Open Access eBooks in terms of economics and readership.
- Existing expenditures are recognised as contributing to covering the costs of Open Access, which opens the door to variations on this model.
- Valuable content is accessible to the global community as a result of libraries’ participation.

2014 & Beyond

21. What happens after the initial Pilot?

Once the initial Pilot has concluded Knowledge Unlatched will:

- **Review the results of the Pilot.** These results will be shared with participating libraries and publishers in a formal project report.

- **Begin metrics study.** Knowledge Unlatched will gather detailed information about how titles made available on Open Access licences through its programme are used. This information will be shared with libraries as it becomes available. It will also feed into critical research on impact metrics for digital books.
• **Develop a library role in governance.** Knowledge Unlatched will adopt a two-tier approach to library governance. Knowledge Unlatched member libraries will be invited to nominate and vote for representatives on a Collections Committee. Elections for the Collections Committee will take place no later than March 2014. Members of the first Library Steering Committee (2014-2016) will be selected based on support for and engagement with Knowledge Unlatched after which nominations will be invited from all members and elected for two-year terms.

• **Review the Deductions Process.** The process of crediting libraries for prior or planned additional format purchases will be reviewed and adjusted to support scaling for both libraries and publishers.

• **Expand the offering.** The process of offering titles to libraries for unlatching will be repeated in 2014 with more books and more selection options. More publishers are signing up now with a view to participating in forthcoming collections.

22. **When will the next package of titles be available?**

More packages will be available from early 2014. Preparation for the next rounds has already begun.