Knowledge Unlatched
Frequently Asked Questions (Post-Pilot)

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

Between October 2013 and February 2014 Knowledge Unlatched ran a proof of concept Pilot of a model that has the potential to transform access to the knowledge and ideas contained in scholarly books, giving libraries all over the world the opportunity to act as catalysts in the shift towards Open Access. The Knowledge Unlatched Pilot was an opportunity for libraries to create a future that includes free access to high quality scholarly books for readers all over the world.

Libraries were invited to help unlatch a Pilot Collection of 28 new books from 13 recognised scholarly publishers.

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

In fact more than 250 libraries from twenty-four countries signed up for the Pilot Collection.

The Pilot was the first step in establishing what we expect to be a financially sustainable route to Open Access for large numbers of scholarly books. It gave us the opportunity to demonstrate that libraries from all over the world can work together to secure Open Access for specialist scholarly books and that doing so is cost effective and financially sustainable. It also allowed us to work with research funding bodies, librarians, scholarly communities and publishers in order to understand what might need to be fine tuned in order to scale this model.

The Collection

2. Which publishers were 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 was 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 were asked to agree to pay no more than $1,680 to unlatch the entire collection. In fact, because more than 200 libraries joined the Pilot, the cost per library of unlatching the pilot collection was less - around $1200.00. This was because the costs were shared among a greater number of libraries.

Libraries that ordered another format of any of the books in the Pilot Collection were not asked to pay an unlatching fee for that title.

The final invoice from Knowledge Unlatched sent to each library reflected both the number of libraries taking part in the Pilot and any additional format purchases made by the library.

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

Publishers 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 was ordered in any print or electronic format through the usual channels, the library was not charged for unlatching that title. Instead, the unlatching fee paid by that library was adjusted down.
Libraries were asked to indicate which titles they had ordered, or intended to order via a vendor, aggregator or platform of their choice by 31 March 2014. This information was provided via the pledging website.

Each library was then invoiced for an amount that took into account other format orders made by the library.

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

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

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

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

Discounts on the unlatching fee were not offered to consortia during the Pilot.

However, discounts on other formats that had been negotiated via consortia were not affected by a library’s decision to take part in the Pilot Collection.

9. **How is Knowledge Unlatched being funded?**

Project and startup costs for the Knowledge Unlatched Pilot were covered by grants and generous support from founding libraries. Organisations that provided support to Knowledge Unlatched during its startup phase include: 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.

10. **Were libraries asked to pay any additional charges to participate?**

Libraries were not charged for the operational costs associated with coordinating the Pilot. For subsequent collections, Knowledge Unlatched plans to 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

11. **Do books in the Pilot Collection have DRM?**

The unlatched version of titles in the Pilot Collection is a DRM-free PDF made available on an Open Access licence immediately upon unlatching 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.

12. **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.

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

All of the titles included in the Pilot Collection are being preserved via OAPEN, HathiTrust and CLOCKSS and Portico.

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

The PDF Open Access version of unlatched titles is being hosted on OAPEN and HathiTrust. MARC records will be available.

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

15. **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.

16. What are the benefits of Knowledge Unlatched 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

17. What happens next?

Now that the proof of concept Pilot has concluded Knowledge Unlatched is:

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

• **Beginning the metrics study.** Knowledge Unlatched is gathering detailed information about how titles made available on Open Access licences through its programme are being 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.

• **Developing a library role in governance.** Knowledge Unlatched member libraries are being invited to nominate and vote for representatives on a Collections Committee. Elections for the Collections Committee will take place in March 2014. Members of the first Library Steering Committee (2014-2016) are being selected based on support for and engagement with Knowledge Unlatched. From 2016 nominations will be invited from all members and elected for two-year terms.

• **Reviewing the Deductions Process.** The process of crediting libraries for prior or planned additional format purchases is being reviewed and may be adjusted to support scaling for both libraries and publishers.
● **Expanding 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.

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

Preparation for the next rounds has already begun. You can pre-register your interest in the next rounds of Knowledge Unlatched [here](#).