



Tithebarn Press

Proposal Guidance Notes

Contact Details

Within the form we prefer to keep this fairly simple, but please also submit a brief CV (this can be summarised, but please do highlight any book publications) alongside your proposal.

Theme

Rather than by subjects or series, Tithebarn Press publishes across a range of Themes. To find out more about our Themes please see www.tbarnpress.com, or speak to Simon.

Title

There are at least three things that we want a title (including subtitle) to do, which in roughly descending order of importance are:

1. Pique the interest of potential readers
2. Contain relevant keywords so that it gets picked up by search engines
3. Give prospective readers a sense of what the book is about

We'd also advise keeping the following points in mind when thinking about your title:

- Try to keep the main title (whatever comes before the colon) descriptive, and keep any more poetic elements to the subtitle. There are a number of technical reasons why this is a good idea, but primarily it's about making the book easier to find.
- Conversely, if your book focuses on, say, case studies from a select region, country, or group of countries, it is generally best to make this clear in the main title.
- Don't get too attached, it's best to think of whatever you're working with at proposal stage as a working title and be ready to change it later.

Summary

Try to keep your summary as brief as you can, while covering the main points, this rarely needs to be longer than 250 words. In essence what we want to know here is - in the simplest possible terms - what the book is about, and why you want to write it. If it helps imagine the words "**So What?**" at the top of the page while you're writing this.

Table of Contents

Clearly if you haven't already written your manuscript you probably don't know for sure what your final table of contents will look like exactly, but try to provide as accurate a picture as you can here. It's very helpful if you can provide a very brief summary of what each chapter will cover as well, not just chapter titles and headers. Bear in mind this is often the part of the proposal that reviewers will spend the most time on.

Related Titles

It's quite rare that the kinds of books we publish are in direct competition with existing books. It is very valuable, however, to have a strong sense of what you believe the closest titles to the book you are proposing to write are, how they might be similar to yours, and how your book will be different. This often helps both us and your reviewers to more clearly understand how your book will define itself, and also makes it easier for us to know how best to market and promote your book. Ideally we'd like you to come up with 3-4 titles here

If there really aren't many titles out there that are similar to yours, we'd still like to know about whatever there is, even if these are titles that are out-of-date, only quite loosely related, or take similar approaches to yours but to different topics. Keep in mind that the more your book is unlike anything else out there, the more we'll want to understand why nobody else has done anything like this before!

Readership

We ask you here to divide between a primary and secondary readership. To be clear, we would normally understand the primary, or most significant, readership of a book to be those people for whom it is most directly written. They will often not be the largest group you identify, but they should be the group with the highest likelihood of being interested.

Similarly, your secondary readership is anybody else who you anticipate are likely to be interested in the book, but not to the same extent as the primary group. This will usually be because they are less specialised, or specialise in an adjacent area. These should still be defined groups as much as possible. That might mean, for example, non-specialist readers with an amateur interest in your topic, which can be helpful, but there is little point in specifying "general readers", however much you believe this to be the case.

Manuscript Specifications

At Tithebarn Press we pride ourselves on flexibility and are open to a wide range of manuscript lengths. For guidance purposes, a typical book for us is between 60,000 and 80,000 words long (including references, index etc). If your book is likely to be a lot more or less than this, that won't be a problem, but is something we want to be aware of as early in the process as possible. Knowing this also helps reviewers to get a full sense of the book you have planned.

Similarly, we don't have hard and fast rules about either how many figures, tables or photographs your manuscript can include, or whether we can print them in colour, but this is also something that we need to plan for, as well as being information that will help us and our reviewers picture the book accurately.

Timing

It is vital to effective publishing for us to be able to reliably predict when we will be able to publish our books, so please do try to be as realistic in your estimates here as possible. If you're planning to submit parts of your manuscript to us for comment in advance of completion, please mention that here as well, and allow for our response time in projecting your final completion date.