

Proposal: UC-System Participation in Big Ten Open Books

Drafted by [REDACTED] February 28, 2025



Background and Introduction

Building upon the success of the first [Big Ten Open Books' collection on Gender and Sexuality Studies](#), which was launched in August 2023, we will begin publishing four collections, of 100 books each, for the following theme areas in spring 2025:

- Indigenous North Americans (Indigenous)
- Health Disparities & Disability Culture (Disability)
- Human Environmental Impact (Environment)
- African-, Asian-, and Hispanic-American Experiences (Experiences)

The eight participating Big Ten-affiliated university presses have identified lists of titles from their previously published works (backlists) that can be converted to open access. The four collections will be published simultaneously, on a rolling basis. These next four collections expands the scope, deepens our processes, and furthers the development of a scalable and sustainable financial model for creating open access scholarly monographs.

Sustainable Budget

Developed in collaboration between librarians and publishers, the Big Ten Open Books' [transparent cost model](#) is centered on shared values and financial sustainability for both parties. It outlines the resources needed to produce a single collection of 100 books. Working at scale (i.e., building four collections simultaneously) reduces the per-collection cost by \$30,000, resulting in a per title cost of \$3,800. The model's categories fully cover all associated costs including developing title lists, managing copyrights, locating source files, ensuring that authors are kept fully informed of progress, converting the files to fully accessible EPUBs and PDFs, updating the metadata records, hosting the content, managing the financing model and project details, and working with discovery providers to ensure robust adoption of the materials.

Author Affiliation Sponsorship Model

All Big Ten Open Books' author-affiliated institutions are being requested to participate in funding the development of the four collections listed above. Through their libraries, we are asking institutions to sponsor the creation of open-access editions of their scholars' works at a cost of \$3,800 per title. The Big Ten Academic Alliance has already sponsored 100 of the titles and we are now seeking support from other institutions to make all 400 open access books a

reality. We are also inviting all values-aligned institutions to support the work of making more content available openly through sponsorship for individual titles without an affiliated institution. Collections will be built as titles are sponsored with a total number of 100 books per collection.

California Digital Library and the University of California System Titles

We have identified a [list of 205 Big Ten press-published books](#) that were authored by UC-System faculty. This list has three categories:

Category	Description	Total Titles
A. Selected for Big Ten Open Books 2025	Books that have been selected for inclusion in one of the four planned Big Ten Open Books Collections.	31
B. On Big Ten Open Books Reserves List 2025	Books that have been researched and preliminarily identified as potential candidates for a Big Ten Open Books' collection, but not yet selected for inclusion.	44
C. Not Selected for Open w/ UC-System Affiliation	Books that were identified as having UC-System affiliated authors, but have not been selected for an open access collection nor yet identified by a press as being a candidate for OA status.	130

UC-System Proposal

Big Ten Open Books seeks sponsorship from the California Digital Library for the 34 titles included in Category A. This amounts to a total cost of .

Sponsorship provides:

- Creation of a fully accessible, CC-licensed (CC-BY NC), open access EPUB and PDF of each title, added to the relevant collection.
- Hosting of the EPUB and PDF files on Fulcrum, JSTOR, OAPEN, and Project Muse.
- Attribution of sponsorship on the Fulcrum page (if desired).
- New metadata that is shared with discovery platforms (ExLibris, OCLC, EBSCO, OAPEN).
- Support for deposit of files and metadata in the sponsoring institution's local repository

Throughout this implementation, we plan to continue identifying future collection areas. Our goal is to continue refining the model and our processes in order to create a programmatic, and sustainable future for Big Ten Open Books. We also hope to help other institutions and



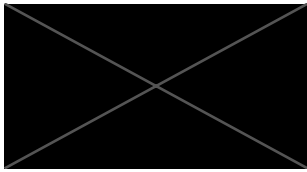
consortia adopt and refine this program for their own use in order to expand our shared goals for making more published materials available to the world. Within that framing, the project team is also interested in discussing how the additional titles in Category B and C might be made open access.

Signatures execute this Proposal. Each party represents and warrants to the other that the performance of obligations outlined in the proposal have been duly authorized.

California Digital Library

Big Ten Academic Alliance

By:



Name:

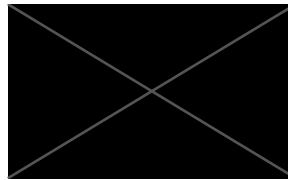
Title:

Director of Shared Collections

Date:

5/16/2025

By:



Name:

Title:

Director of the Center for Library
Programs

Date:

5/16/2025
