Round 2 FAQs

For general information about Knowledge Unlatched, its benefits, licences, usage statistics, the KU Pilot and much more, please refer to the KU website:
http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org

1. Why should we choose Knowledge Unlatched?

Knowledge Unlatched is an award-winning* organisation enabling libraries and publishers to work together to create a sustainable route to Open Access for scholarly books.

* Winner: IFLA/Brill Award for Open Access 2014 and the Curtin University Award for Best Innovation in Education 2015.

The jury of the IFLA/Brill award said that they were ‘deeply impressed with the simplicity and elegance of the original concept, with the daring scope of the project, bringing together libraries, publishers and other organisations from around the world, and with the highly successful outcome of the Pilot phase that tested the concept.’

Knowledge Unlatched enables libraries to bring down the costs of monographs and make them freely available to the whole world on a Creative Commons licence.

2. What is the timeline for Round 2?

• The call to publishers for titles began at the end of May 2015.
• Titles were submitted by the beginning of July 2015 (long-list)
• The selection process was completed by acquisition librarians in mid August 2015 (final list)
• Authors’ permissions were then obtained by mid September 2015 as well as the final metadata check
• Pledging period opened 6 October 2015
• Pledging period ends 28 February 2016
• Billing March 2016
• Unlatching from March 2016 onwards

3. What are the benefits to us joining the second round?

You will be part of an ever-growing number of institutions that are using your content funds to make books Open Access in a way that is less expensive than the purchasing of single print copies and/or e-books – and you are bringing benefit to the whole world of scholarly communications.

4. How were titles selected for inclusion?

We asked publishers to submit titles to a long-list that would be subjected to a selection process by a small task force of acquisitions librarians agreed by the Library Steering Committee. The shortlist is made up of the most suitable books for the programme – which we’ve defined as those with the widest appeal.

5. Which publishers are participating in Round 2?

26 respected scholarly publishers are participating in Round 2 including the following university presses: Amsterdam, Brandeis, Dartmouth, Cambridge, Colorado, Duke, Edinburgh, Fordham, Leiden, Liverpool, Manchester, Michigan, Monash, Penn State,
6. **When will the elections for the Collections Committee be held?**

Whilst KU is in the process of scaling up, KU is running this second round to further develop the business model. Meanwhile, an interim task force curated this second round, as agreed by the Library Steering Committee. Once resources are in place, elections will be held.

7. **How many titles are on offer and how does this compare with the first round?**

We are offering 78 books in this next round (up from 28 in the last round). Titles are separated into eight different packages, with around ten books each. Libraries are being asked to pledge for a minimum of six of these small packages.

8. **What subjects will be covered?**

Titles fall into the following disciplines: Anthropology, History, Literature Media & Communications and Politics.

Two publisher-based packages are also on offer from Duke University Press and the University Press of Michigan which cover the above subject areas.

9. **What languages will be on offer this round?**

For now KU is continuing to offer English-language books only.

10. **How did you decide on how many titles to offer this time round? Will it be like the Pilot where it was a ‘take it or leave it’ decision for the whole collection?**

We’re using this second round to experiment with the size and shape of the offerings. We don’t want to be accused of offering a ‘big deal’, but nor are we able to offer a title-by-title selection process at this time (although we aim to as KU grows and if the community wants it). So, the idea is to offer eight packages of which 300 libraries around the world will have to commit to at least six to enable unlatching. There will be one package for each of the subject categories of around ten books each (with two for History) and two packages made up of books from a single publisher each (Duke University Press and University of Michigan Press have asked to be the first two publishers offering this).

11. **How much will it cost to participate?**

In the first round the cost of the package per library was capped at $1680 which was $60 per book, although as more than the target number of libraries participated, this was reduced. KU is inviting libraries to pledge a capped maximum of $3,891 to unlatch the Round 2 Collection of 78 titles from 26 recognised publishers which is just under $50 per book. Libraries need to pledge to a minimum of six packages in order to participate, although we hope that libraries will pledge to unlatch them all. The minimum pledge needed to unlatch six packages is $2,643. If more than 300 libraries from around the world sign up, the amount paid by each library will be adjusted down. This is because the Title Fee represents the basic cost of publishing a monograph and is a fixed amount.

*Last updated: 14 Dec 2015*
12. From which budgets are you expecting libraries to pay for these books?

Whether this is taken from subject acquisitions budgets or digital content budgets, or from elsewhere is something that we need to learn more about as the programme scales. (We continue to survey libraries on this as well as workflow issues.)

13. Will there be a charge for participating in KU?

Yes. In the first round our overheads were covered by grants. Now we'll need to demonstrate that the model is sustainable. We're asking libraries and publishers to pay a 7.5% service charge each towards our running costs. These costs are inclusive in the figures quoted on the package pages.

14. What will the average cost per book be?

In the first round we said that with 200 libraries the average price per book would be $60. In the end we had nearly 300 libraries sharing the costs and the figure came in at just under $43. This time the average price per book starts at just under $50. We are aiming at 300 libraries participating and if this target is exceeded, we can bring the average price per book down further.

15. How much is the Title Fee per book?

There is no one size that fits all, but we suggested below $15,000 which is at the top end of what publishers charge when (in the very few cases) authors are able to fund the Open Access version. Of course, some books cost more because of length and complexity. The average in the last round across 28 titles was $12,000. In Round 2, the average across 78 titles comes to just under $12,000 which now includes the KU service charge for covering administrative costs.

16. How was our participation fee worked out?

We took the Title Fees for the books and added on the KU administration costs which are included in the price of the package. The KU service charge is shared among publishers and libraries. For your final invoice we will divide the total between the number of libraries who pledged. For this round we based the cost on 300 libraries pledging. As more join then the cost per library goes down. So, if you are thinking of participating, please encourage colleagues at other libraries to do so as well!

17. Will we be offered deductions on purchases of additional formats similar to the Pilot?

This time, the deduction has been set publisher by publisher, and ranges from 20% to 50%. The second round is still experimenting with this model. We welcome your feedback. A breakdown is available on the Collections website (http://collections.knowledgeunlatched.org).


18. Are any governing bodies offering grants for participating libraries such as HEFCE, SFC and DELNI for this collection?

No. The Pilot Collection was to test the proof of concept and the idea was supported by agencies through grants. The second round is to better test the true sustainability of the KU model, by including administrative costs deducted that are from the Title...
Fees paid to the publishers and built into the cost of the packages paid by the libraries.

19. How did publishers respond to calls for book proposals?

Very well. We received 155 title submissions from 26 publishers - twice as many books as we can accommodate in Round 2. The shortlist selected by the Library Task Force consists of 78 titles – almost three times as many as in the Pilot.

20. Will publishers make other formats available?

Yes. Most people want to see content available in multiple formats and via a number of different channels and to be available on a number of devices. For this, publishers will charge because there are real costs (and not just printing) associated with making the range available. Each publisher is experimenting with what works best for them. But this is not an area that KU is involved with.

21. Did libraries buy print or e-books in other formats of the books in the first round?

In the first round we asked librarians to tell us if they were planning on buying a title in another format within the first three months of the end of the pledging period, what that format was to be and through which type of vendor. The number of units that were bought in other formats amounted to 7% of the total possible given the number of libraries and books (ie. 582 out of a possible 8316). This can be interpreted in a number of ways: a) The book wouldn’t have been purchased anyway, and now it is being supported in the new KU way or b) Libraries are waiting to see whether there is either usage of the open version and/or whether individual academics ask for a print copy to be purchased or c) it is cannibalising potential sales. Anecdotal evidence is coming in and shows that some books sell better than expected to individuals (the OA version acts as a promotion piece).

22. What are authors saying about Open Access via KU?

Please see http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/featured-authors-section/

There you can read authors’ opinions from both before the Pilot and after their books were unlatched through KU. They provide the strongest testimony for the value of open.

23. What are the aggregators doing with KU books?

Some publishers are providing KU titles to the aggregators, while others are not currently.

24. Are there other partners of KU?

Yes, please see http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/partners/

25. How are publishers handling accessibility issues?

We are encouraging publishers to make the actual PDF of the title, when supplied, conform to the guidelines and practices for accessibility. We provided them with guidance and made clear the requirements and expectations around the world. This worked well for the first round and we expect it to do so for the second round too.
We are also working with our hosting partners to make sure that their websites are compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/).

26. How will MARC Records be provided?

We will continue to supply high quality MARC records as before. See http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/pilot-collection/marcxml-data/

We are aiming to provide MARC records early in the pledging period rather than waiting until the end as in the Pilot. Further details to follow.

27. Is there a preservation policy in place?

Yes, these books are preserved by Portico and CLOCKSS.

28. Will you be organising webinars again?

Yes, we will be holding webinars during the pledging period to explain about KU and how Round 2 works. It will be suitable for both newcomers and Charter Member libraries. They will be available to view online after the events themselves too. The dates are 29 October and 11 November. Further information here.

29. Are usage statistics available for the books in the KU Pilot Collection?

Yes. Every quarter we prepare a summary report on use of the Pilot Collection, drawing on COUNTER-compliant download figures that are provided to us by OAPEN. We also present HathiTrust statistics.

These summary reports are published as news items on our website here.

30. We are a Charter Member Library – can we have access to our own IP-specific usage statistics for the KU Pilot Collection books?

We are not yet providing individual institutions with library-specific usage data, although it is something that we are working towards for the future.

At this stage we are working with OAPEN and others to see whether we can develop a useful methodology for understanding institution specific use on an IP address basis, without requiring authentication or login to use the pilot collection and without intruding on the privacy of users.

We are grateful to libraries that have provided us with IP address block details, as we are using these to refine our methodology.

However, as we are sure you will appreciate, this is complex - so at this stage we are still working to understand what kinds of useful information we will be able to provide libraries with, and how we can gather and share it transparently.
## Knowledge Unlatched

Overview of the main differences between the first round and this round

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KU Characteristics</th>
<th>Round 1 (Pilot)</th>
<th>Round 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of books</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of publishers</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer</td>
<td>1 package</td>
<td>8 packages of around 10 books each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer</td>
<td>1 package of 28 books</td>
<td>libraries asked to choose 6 of the 8 - i.e. 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject areas</td>
<td>4 subjects*</td>
<td>5 subjects*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher packages</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>2 of the 8 will be publisher specific (Duke and Michigan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target number of libraries</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation pledge</td>
<td>Target $1680 max. per library, $60 per book</td>
<td>Target $2,643 min - $3,891 max per library, $50 per book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction on Title Fee if buying second format</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>To be set publisher by publisher. Information will be on the Collections website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment period</td>
<td>30 days from invoice</td>
<td>30 days from invoice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invoices sent out</td>
<td>1 week after close of pledging period</td>
<td>1 week after close of pledging period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consortia options</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subject areas offered:*

- History: yes, yes
- Literature: yes, yes
- Politics: yes, yes
- Media & Communications: yes, yes
- Anthropology: no, yes

| Funding of KU administration | grants | mark-up and commission based - total uplift on Title Fee 15% split between publishers and libraries |

Last updated: 14 Dec 2015