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### Notes on How to Rework a Ph.D. Dissertation for Publication as a Book

<<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweblibrary/dissertationtobook>>

- 1) Search publishers and select which would be appropriate with regard to the theme/topic of the dissertation
- 2) The average length of time of the publication of a book in the U.S. from submission to book in hand is 1.5-2 years
- 3) Prospectuses can be sent to several publishers: in your cover letter state that you are sending the prospectus to several publishers, but that you do/did not submit the full manuscript to any one of them until invited and in which case only one publisher receives the full manuscript
- 4) Address in cover letter to publisher by the surname of the editor, acquisition editor, series editor, etc., or whomever you submit the manuscript to; professional e-mail protocol requires to address an editor by his/her surname unless, following first exchange of correspondence, invited to address her/him by first name
- 5) Some publishers work with full manuscripts only: in such a case state in cover letter submission is only to them
- 6) Do not — ever — submit a full manuscript to more than one publisher at the same time
- 7) Submit to university presses: start with a "star" publisher and work your way down
- 8) Take into account that some publishers require subvention: explore subsidy from your institution and/or government funding agencies
- 9) Have a title for the manuscript according to publisher's practice: check titles of books on publisher's list
- 10) Adjust content, for example: get rid of excessive surveys of secondary literature and gratuitous quoting; wordy and circuitous openings, recapitulations of what has been already covered; disclaimers as to what has not been covered; stress clarity, concreteness, pace, and include a solid conclusion; do not mention in the manuscript that it is from a dissertation; avoid jargon unless you define your terms/notions in the text
- 11) Format the manuscript according to the style guide of the publisher: while this is time consuming, most publishers appreciate such detail and hence would likely be "friendly" toward your manuscript: you should also state in your cover letter that the manuscript is already in the style of the publisher
- 12) If the manuscript is accepted, prior to signing the contract negotiate that articles (revised) can be published from the manuscript without payment to publisher with regard to copyright
- 13) If you publish excerpt(s) from a dissertation prior to or after the submission of the manuscript, notify publisher; if after submission, ask for permission
- 14) Compile up to five names with addresses incl. email and phone number of scholars who would be able to evaluate your manuscript: some publishers — if/when decide that the manuscript would be of interest in principle — ask for a list of potential reviewers
- 15) Note that in the humanities a book sells in the U.S. at best an average of 200-250 copies.

### Sources to consult

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