Lever Press Series Proposal Guidelines

Please download this document (go to File -> Download as and choose the file format most convenient for you) and use it as a guide to writing your proposal. When you are finished, please submit the proposal at https://leverpress.submittable.com/submit.

As a digital-first, open access publisher, Lever endeavors to do things differently. (You'll notice that this is a publication proposal, and not a book proposal.) The majority of questions should be familiar from standard print book proposals, and do think of the proposed work similarly.

Tell us about your proposed series

1. **Brief Description.** Describe your proposed series in one or two paragraphs.
2. **Outstanding Features.** What are the unique and distinctive features of the series you propose? Try to provide three.
3. **Audience.** Describe the audience(s) of your proposed series. Be as specific as possible regarding disciplinary background and the types of readers (your peers, professionals in practice, grad students, undergrads, general readers, etc.

Tell us where your series fits

All publications are situated alongside or in contrast with existing bodies of work. Provide some information about the existing series (series name/series editors/publisher) addressing your proposed subject(s) and treatment(s). Identify the existing gaps your series will fill.

1. **Subject areas.** Identity the primary disciplines this series will speak to. We welcome secondary disciplines as well.
2. **Competing and comparable series**. Identify the existing series (name/series editors/publisher) covering your proposed subject(s). Briefly describe the strengths and weaknesses (including the gaps yours will address). Competing series have more overlap with the proposed, whereas comparable series produce complementary publications. If you are able to parse these into the two categories, please do so below.
3. **Anything else** you'd like to add or address about the current scholarly landscape for this work?

Tell us about the works in your proposed series

This section provides an opportunity to illustrate the work of your series by describing some specific titles. Help us to get a better understanding of these works by describing possible

projects you've discussed with scholars or by describing the types of works you plan to pursue.

1. **Potential titles.** Provide the details for some potential titles. Be as specific as possible by including authors, titles, and brief descriptions. Try to provide three examples.
2. **Length of works.** Lever's open access, digital-first publication model affords us a rare opportunity to experiment with the length of scholarly publications, allowing us to genuinely consider the most appropriate size and format for scholarship. And while we will certainly publish the standard book-length monograph (averaging about 125,000 words), we are eager to experiment with form and length. Describe the average length (word count, including notes and references) of titles in your series. Answers could range from the standard book-length monograph (~125,000 words) to a range of lengths.
3. **Type of works.** (Please check all that apply.)
    a. ___ Authored/coauthored monograph
    b. ___ Edited volume
    c. ___ Reader / primer
    d. ___ Textbook / core course text
    e. ___ Reference works
    f. ___ Collectively authored works (e.g. a greater number of authors with a hierarchy different from the standard edited volume)
    g. ___ Digital works with less traditional narrative path
    h. ___ Other:_____

Tell us about the shape of your series

We endeavor to use digital technology to incorporate the full richness and robustness of your scholarship into our publications--within the constraints of our commitments to best practices for accessibility, discoverability, and preservation. In order to work with you to develop a publishing plan for your work, it will help us to know as much as possible about the tools, platforms, and file formats you have used throughout your research process so that we can discuss how the digital elements of your scholarship may best be integrated into the published work.

1. **How might this series push the boundaries** of scholarship via exploring formats beyond the traditional monograph-length book and/or the integration of digital research tools?
2. **Additional content forms.** What other media types do you imagine your authors might employ? Please check all that apply.
    a. ___ Representations of primary sources (as digital images, text, etc.)
    b. ___ Images (grayscale)
    c. ___ Color images
    d. ___ Video

     e. ___ Audio

     f. ___ Non-Western diacritics / texts

     g. ___ Other

3. **Other digital affordances.** What digital affordances are required to best share your work? Please check all that apply.

     a. ___ Annotation of primary source texts and/or materials

     b. ___ Outlinks to datasets and/or statistical analyses

     c. ___ Data visualization

     d. ___ Mapping (GIS)

     e. ___ 3D spatial rendering

     f. ___ Other:

Tell us why you are particularly interested in working with the Lever Press?

1. We're interested in hearing how series proposals fit with our three commitments: alignment with the mission and ethos of liberal arts colleges, digitally-native works, and an orientation toward open access.

2. Which (if any!) of the following thematic areas does your series align with? You may check more than one.

     a. ___ Great Questions and Grand Challenges

     b. ___ Lever Texts

     c. ___ New Frontiers in the Digital Liberal Arts

     d. ___ Special Collections

     e. ___ Teaching, Learning, and Leading in the Liberal Arts College