

Books, e-books, e-textbooks, and associated services (LIB4044 SU)

SUMMARY

Start date: 4th January, 2022

End date: 30th June, 2025

OJEU Number: 2021/S 126-335498

Lead Consortium: SUPC

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Website:
<https://www.hecontracts.co.uk/agreements/1014>

This agreement covers the purchase of printed books, e-books, and e-textbooks along with any associated services via content aggregators. The agreement is primarily concerned with library use (Lots 1-5) but there are also Lots that cover purchase of printed books by departments/schools (Lot 6) and purchasing by staff/students, including via bursary schemes (Lot 7)

SCOPE

This Agreement is for the supply of printed books, e-books, standing orders and related materials. It is broken down into Lots as follows:

Lot Number	Lot Title
1	English language print books for library stock
2	Print books published in foreign languages or in countries where English is not the first language, for library stock
3	Standing Orders
4	E-book for library access, licenced via aggregators for all authorised users, split in to five sub-lots:
	4.1 Individual title, DDA or package purchase for access on aggregator's own platform, primarily UK languages
	4.2 Individual title, package or EBA purchase for access on a third-party platform
	4.3 Multi-publisher EBA for access via aggregator's own platform
	4.4 Subscriptions for library access
4.5 Individual title, DDA or package purchase for access on aggregator's own platform, primarily non-UK language	
5	E-textbook access, usually priced by specified number of core users and delivered via an e-textbook platform
6	English language print books for institution department purchase (primarily non-library)
7	Sales to individuals – staff and students (print or electronic)

AGREEMENT BENEFITS

There are several benefits to using this framework:

- Improved average saving on English Language Print Book headline discount compared to the previous Agreement
- Standard licenses for library e-books, separated for both Subscriptions and Perpetual Access
- Specific Lots for e-textbooks and developing areas of e-book supply such as multi-publisher EBA schemes
- Opportunity for income sharing under Lot 7 – Sales to individuals – staff and students (print or electronic)
- Standard favourable Call-Off terms and conditions for all printed books
- An agreed service standard for supply of bibliographic metadata, enhancing value for money and student experience
- An agreed service standard for processed and shelf-ready materials
- Minimum Accessibility standards for e-books and platform accessibility statements

USING THE FRAMEWORK

There are several ways to call-off from this agreement:

1. Direct award

A direct award to any supplier named on the Lot is permitted. If not awarding to the top-scoring supplier then due diligence and objective justification for the decision should be recorded internally.

2. Conduct a desktop exercise

Institutions may use a desktop calculator to amend any criterion by up to 20 percentage points to reflect their local requirements. This tool is available on HEC and, based on the institution amended weightings, will then recalculate the total overall score. Once complete, you should place your contract with the highest scoring supplier.

3. Further competition

Institutions wishing to undertake a further-competition may do so. All the supplier(s) appointed must be invited to submit responses to the institution's further-competition tender document.

You can find further guidance to calling off in the Buyer's Guide on the HE Contracts database.

SUPPLIERS

Lot	Suppliers
Lot 1 English Language Print Books for Library Stock	Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, ProQuest LLC,
Lot 2 Print Books published in foreign languages or in countries where English is not the first language for library stock	Browns Books, Casalini Libri SpA, EBSCO International Inc, Erasmus Antiquariaat en Boekhandel BV., Houtschild International Booksellers , Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG, ProQuest LLC,
Lot 3 Standing Orders	Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, ProQuest LLC,
Lot 4.1 E-book for library access - Individual title, DDA or package purchase for access on aggregator's own platform, primarily UK languages	BibliU Limited, Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, Kortext, ProQuest LLC,
Lot 4.2 E-book for library access - Individual title, package or EBA purchase for access on a third-party platform	BibliU Limited, Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, ProQuest LLC,
Lot 4.3 E-book for library access - Multi-publisher EBA for access via aggregator's own platform	BibliU Limited, Browns Books, Ithaka Harbors d/b/a "JSTOR", ProQuest LLC,
Lot 4.4 E-book for library access - Subscriptions for library access	BibliU Limited, Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, Kortext, ProQuest LLC, VitalSource Technologies LLC,
Lot 4.5 E-book for library access - Individual title, DDA or package purchase for access on aggregator's own platform, primarily non-UK language	Casalini Libri SpA,
Lot 5 E-textbook access, usually priced by specified number of core users and delivered via an e-textbook platform	BibliU Limited, John Smith & Sons Ltd, Kortext, VitalSource Technologies LLC,
Lot 6 English language print books for institution department purchase (primarily non-library)	Browns Books, EBSCO International Inc, John Smith & Sons Ltd, ProQuest LLC, Waterstones Booksellers Limited (trading as Blackwell),
Lot 7 Sales to individuals – staff and students (print or electronic)	Browns Books, John Smith & Sons Ltd, Kortext, VitalSource Technologies LLC, Waterstones Booksellers Limited (trading as Blackwell),

SUSTAINABILITY

Responsible Procurement is an important element for this agreement and has been introduced as a distinct criteria in the evaluation, weighted at 10% of the overall score. Members wishing to give further importance to this criterion can raise the weighting to a maximum of 30% using the desktop calculator method of calling off. Suppliers were asked questions covering the following areas:

- Fair wages
- The Equality Act 2010
- Reduction of carbon emissions
- Compliance with appropriate financial and tax regulations
- Whistleblowing
- Enhancing student employability
- Promoting a mentally healthy workplace and workforce (for information only)

NEXT STEPS

Documentation, including relevant call-off contracts and the Buyer's Guide are all available via the [HE Contracts](#) database.

For further assistance, please contact the relevant individual for your region given in the Buyer's Guide.