LIB4061 SU

Books, e-books and associated services

Contracting Authority SUPC | Contact Lorraine Whelan | Phone 0113 487 1752 | Email l.whelan@neupc.ac.uk

Key Information

Framework Start Date	01/08/2025
Current End Date	31/07/2027
Procurement Regulation	PCR2015

Framework Suppliers 18

Amalivre
BibliU Ltd
Blackwell's (Waterstones Booksellers Ltd T/A Blackwell's)
Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
Cambridge University Press
Casalini Libri SpA
Clarivate (FKA ProQuest LLC)
DIGITAL CONTENT ASSOCIATES LIMITED (DCA)
EBSCO International Inc.
Erasmus Antiquariaat en Boekhandel BV
Happier Every Chapter Ltd.
Kortext Ltd
MACMILLAN PUBLISHERS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
MALLORY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (Snapplify)
Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG
PERLEGO LIMITED
VitalSource

Scope of Requirements

The framework covers purchase of printed or digital books and associated goods. It is divided into 9 Lots:

Lot 1: Print publications: standard suppliers for library stock

Lot 2: Print publications: specialist suppliers for library stock

Lot 3: Print publications: supply to schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, academic departments (generally non-library)

Lot 4: E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase

Lot 5: E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase for third-party platform

Lot 6: E-book aggregator: subscription packages

Lot 7: E-book aggregator: e-textbooks

Lot 8: E-books: specialist and innovative solutions

Lot 9: Sales to individual staff/students and bursary provision

Accessibility

For Lots (Lots 4, 6, 7, and 8) supplier platforms must comply with W3C recommendations and WCAG 2.2 Level AA guidelines on accessibility.
he reader platform must also include an accessibility statement that has been verified with a score of 100% by ASPIRE (https://www.textboxdigital.com/aspirelist-platforms) in 2023 or later. An earlier verification will be acceptable provided reverification is achieved before 31st December 2025

Call Off Method

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 Hunter 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

Lot Information

1 : Print publications: standard suppliers for library stock
- Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
- EBSCO International Inc.

2 : Print publications: specialist suppliers for library stock
- Amalivre
- Casalini Libri SpA
- Erasmus Antiquariaat en Boekhandel BV
- Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
- Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG

3 : Print publications: supply to schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, academic departments
- Amalivre
- Blackwell's (Waterstones Booksellers Ltd T/A Blackwell's)
- Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
- EBSCO International Inc.
- Happier Every Chapter Ltd.
- Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd

4 : E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase
- BibliU Ltd
- Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
- EBSCO International Inc.
- Kortext Ltd
- VitalSource

5 : E-book aggregator: title-by-title perpetual access purchase for third-party platform
- EBSCO International Inc.
- MALLORY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (Snapplify)

6 : E-book aggregator: subscription packages
- BibliU Ltd
- Clarivate (FKA ProQuest LLC)
- EBSCO International Inc.
- Kortext Ltd
- VitalSource

7 : E-book aggregator: e-textbooks
- BibliU Ltd
- Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
- Kortext Ltd
- MALLORY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (Snapplify)
- VitalSource

8 : E-books: specialist and innovative solutions
- Amalivre
- Cambridge University Press
- Casalini Libri SpA
- DIGITAL CONTENT ASSOCIATES LIMITED (DCA)
- Erasmus Antiquariaat en Boekhandel BV
- MACMILLAN PUBLISHERS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
- PERLEGO LIMITED

Responsible Procurement

Responsible Procurement formed 10% of the framework score with tender questions focussed on Environmental Sustainability and ED&I. Social Value will be explored with suppliers during year 2 of the contract (2026-27) in order to arrive at proportionate requirements for the next iteration of this framework agreement.

Added Value

Robust tendering and evaluation process which has tested the Supplier capabilities to meet an agreed minimum set of requirements on behalf of participating consortia.

Transparent pricing (for appropriate Lots) and a pricing structure with competitive flat-rate discounts as well as allowances for variable rate discounts which usually average out higher.

Standard favourable Call-Off terms and conditions applicable to all Members, with document templates available for easy contract execution.

Agreed minimum Key Performance Indicators with all Suppliers, which can be adopted by each individual member institution, or can be adapted as necessary for specific requirements.

Robust Supplier Relationship Management programme which ensures support and escalation points for both members and suppliers, while also providing a forum to explore collaborative opportunities.

9 : Sales to individual staff/students and bursary provision

- Browns Books (A.T. Little & Sons Limited)
- Happier Every Chapter Ltd.
- Kortext Ltd
- Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
- VitalSource

For further information, please refer to the Buyers Guide

© UKUPC 2026