

# LIB4061 SU

Books, e-books and associated services

Contracting Authority SUPC

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## 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. The 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 re-verification 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  
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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

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Happier Every Chapter Ltd.

Kortext Ltd

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd

VitalSource

**For further information, please refer to the [Buyers Guide](#)**

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