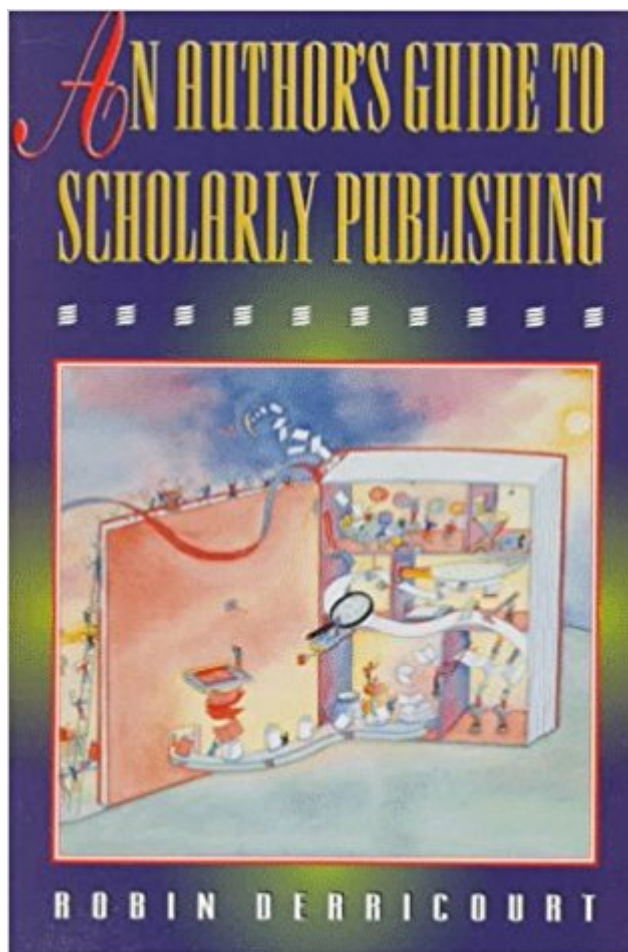


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An Author's Guide To Scholarly Publishing



Synopsis

Directed specifically to the needs of academic authors, this realistic handbook is a guide to publishing success for both beginning and seasoned scholars. Robin Derricourt uses an immensely readable series of informal letters to provide a fund of practical advice: an up-to-date manual on how to plan and prepare a book, approach a publisher, secure a contract, and build a reliable author-publisher relationship that will last throughout the process of publication and marketing. Informed by rare common sense, and a sense of humor, the book speaks clearly about the most recent developments in the rapidly changing world of electronic publishing, clarifying what can and cannot be achieved with word processors. From the possible negative responses of a publisher to the questions implied by success--new editions and subsidiary rights--*An Author's Guide to Scholarly Publishing* is indispensable reading for academics in every field. Derricourt's candid yet encouraging suggestions will be useful at any stage of book preparation, including the process of writing, when focusing on purpose and audience benefits both the author and the future publisher, not to mention the future reader! Furthermore, his "letters" include those on various kinds of books--standard monographs, technical books, conference volumes, edited volumes, collected papers, textbooks, and works built on dissertations. A reference of "nuts and bolts," this book is also quick and entertaining reading when perused from cover to cover.

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Customer Reviews

In *An Author's Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, Robin Derricourt divides his energy between informing potential authors about the ins and outs of scholarly publishing and training them to be the kinds of

writers scholarly publishers enjoy working with. For 12 years the publishing director for Cambridge University Press (in England and Australia) and a published academician himself, Derricourt brings a tremendous amount of knowledge to his subject. Academic publishing is a world unto itself, in which publishing's accepted rules of engagement--agents, enigmatic titles, attention-getting design, publication parties--do not apply. Derricourt, writing in epistolary style, is a hand-holder of the best kind: blunt ("the likelihood is that any particular book will not suit us"), funny (the chapter discussing peer review is addressed "Dear Judy Cation"), and very helpful. Ever so gently, Derricourt enumerates the qualities that make some academic authors so stellar, such as stylish writing, organization, and copyeditor appreciation ("the copyeditor is the only person who will have read every word of your book with care"). Within these pages, Derricourt advises on the creation of bibliographies, tables, edited volumes, indexes, and so many other elements of the publishing process. One chapter even offers a detailed explanation of how publishers calculate a book's price. Surprise: there's a formula; publishers don't "just invent the highest price they think they can get away with." --Jane Steinberg --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Academics wanting to make their mark in the book market need good advice. Robin Derricourt provides just this in *An Author's Guide to Scholarly Publishing*.... [The author] is full of humour as he pinpoints where each submission fails or succeeds."--New Scientist

While the author may know a considerable amount about academic publishing, the book's format -- composed of a fictional series of letters to authors who've supposedly committed mistakes in the publishing process or who've supposedly asked questions they want answered -- is distracting and keeps the author from addressing his subject in an in-depth, serious way. William Germano's book, *Getting It Published*, covers this subject in a more comprehensive, more easily accessible form.

Derricourt does a wonderful job of explaining many aspects of the scholarly book publishing process from the publisher's point of view. His writing style is quite entertaining and easy to read. And the book is designed well, too

When I first began the daunting task of turning my dissertation into an academic book, I had no idea where to start. I ran across this book and the light bulbs started to go on. As an aspiring author in the Humanities, I loved the creative format--a series of "letters" to fictional authors answering the kinds of questions that all beginning authors ask, as well as several important questions that we should

ask but usually don't. The format keeps an otherwise dry subject interesting, and it provides a unique window into the world of academic publishing. I also suspect that, given Derricourt's career in publishing, the letters are not entirely fictional. The book sometimes reads like a long FAQ about academic publishing, which I mean as a compliment. Derricourt has a sense of humor, too, and I desperately needed that while trying to coax/beat my dissertation into a book. The book covers both the dissertation-to-book process and the new-book process, and it includes instructions for writing a proposal, preparing the manuscript, and responding to feedback from peer reviewers, among other topics. Because the book covers a wide range of publishing, there will inevitably be some features of specific fields that it leaves out. And that's okay. I didn't want to read about special instructions for people planning to publish books on athletic training pedagogy anyway. The book focuses on what academic books have in common, rather than on what is unique to specific fields. (In other words, eventually you will need supplementary information on publishing in your specific field, which you will best get from other published authors in your field, not from another book on academic publishing.) Overall, the book is brief and accessible, and unlike some similar books, it doesn't waste time belaboring the obvious. So, how helpful was this book overall? I followed Derricourt's advice, and my own book is currently being published by a reputable university press and is now available right here on :Â The Augustinian Theology of W. H. Auden

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