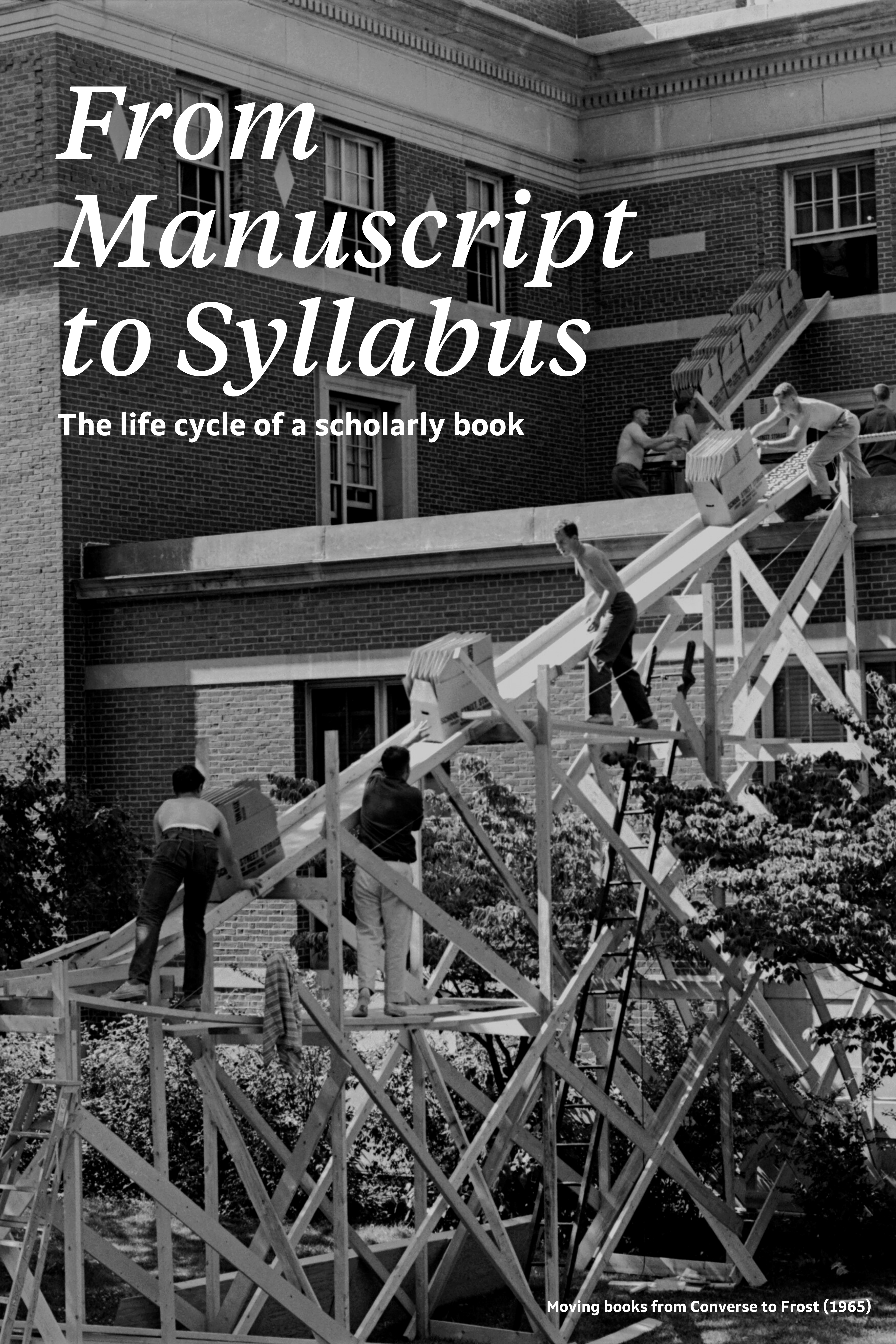


The following exhibit was conceptualized, created, and realized by Amherst College Press interns Liz Tran and Priscilla Lee in the spring of 2022. Printed on 24 x 36 foam core poster boards, the images that follow were hung in the Frost library Mezzanine Gallery on April 12, 2022. Below is the wall text.

Throughout their year-long internship, Amherst College Press interns Liz Tran ('23) and Priscilla Lee ('25) have been learning about how scholarly books—particularly books in the humanities or humanistic social sciences—get published and brought into the world. They used photos from the Amherst College Digital Collections to introduce different stages of this process. To learn more about the press, visit acpress.amherst.edu or follow us on Instagram @AmherstCollegePress.

From Manuscript to Syllabus

The life cycle of a scholarly book



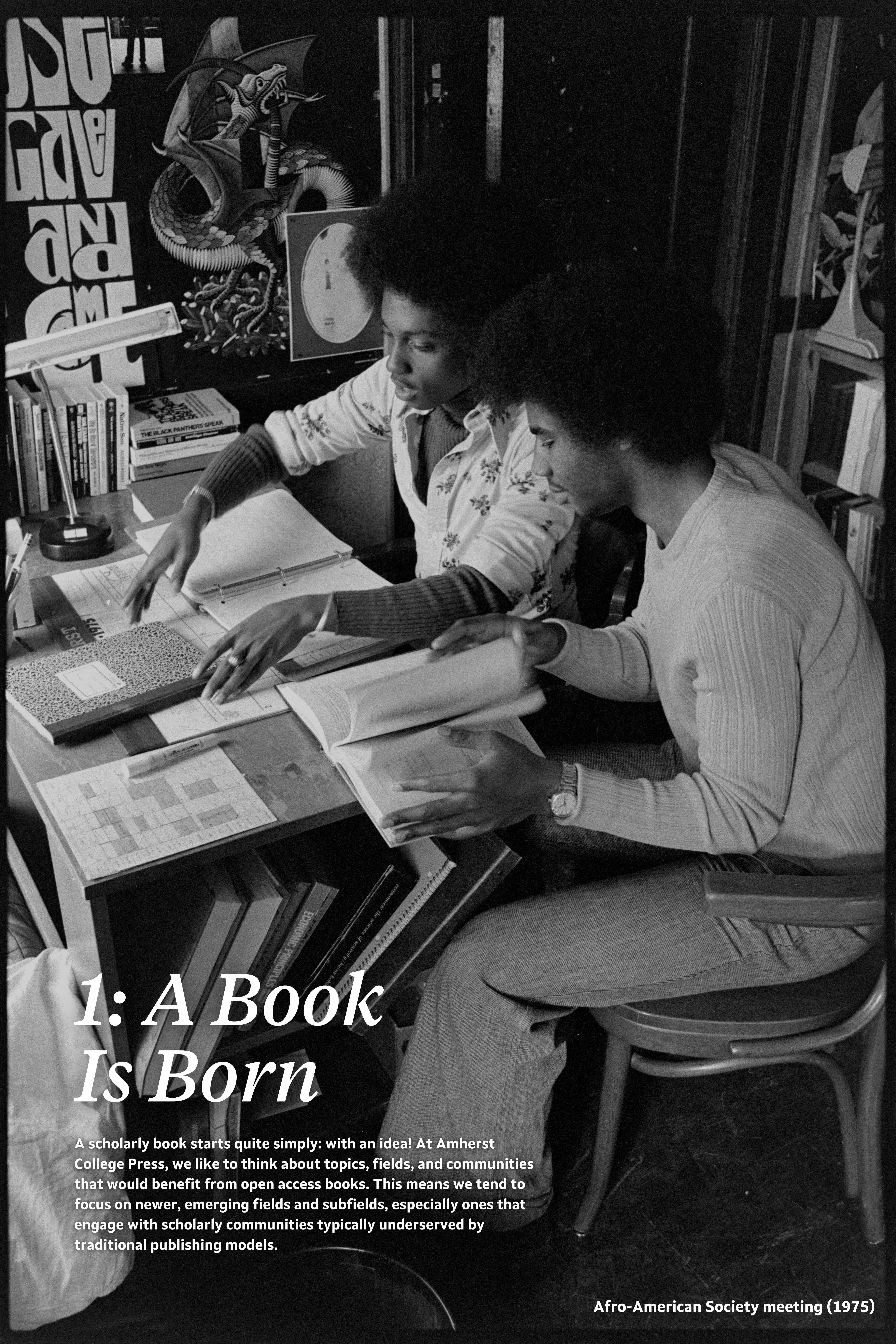
Moving books from Converse to Frost (1965)



What Is Amherst College Press?

Amherst College Press publishes innovative scholarly books in the humanities and social sciences and makes them available to readers everywhere, free of charge as digital books (we make print books available for purchase too). As an open access press, ACP is committed to eliminating barriers to publish, circulate, and read scholarship.

So, how does a scholarly book come into being? While the journey can be different for every book, there are a few important steps that are essential in the publication process.



1: A Book Is Born

A scholarly book starts quite simply: with an idea! At Amherst College Press, we like to think about topics, fields, and communities that would benefit from open access books. This means we tend to focus on newer, emerging fields and subfields, especially ones that engage with scholarly communities typically underserved by traditional publishing models.



2: Submit a Manuscript

Once an idea has been developed, it's time to write! This step can last for years--and years--for scholars as they read exhaustively about their topic, conduct primary research, or travel to archives. Scholars test out ideas at conferences, by writing journal articles, and working with editors to submit book proposals and develop manuscripts.



3: Peer Review

The peer review process can be fully open, fully anonymous, or somewhere in between. The editor invites reviewers to read the manuscript or proposal and use a reader report form to assess the project's purpose and value, the author's methodology or framework, and how the work compares to other books already published. Once the comments are communicated back to the author, they can make edits accordingly or explain why they disagree with the reviewer.

4: *Published!*

After peer review, the manuscript goes to the faculty board, which is typically composed of faculty at the press's home institution. The board has final say over whether the book should be published. The manuscript is then put into production, where it is copyedited, typeset, given a cover, and formatted for print or ebook publication, and is released to the world!





5: Into the Coursepack

Once a book is published, it makes its way into bookstores, libraries, and coursepacks, inspiring further research and scholarship! Publishing open access allows instructors to reprint without worrying about having to secure permission and assign books that students—and libraries—don't have to purchase, lowering the cost to read and use scholarship... starting the cycle over again!

What's Next?

Open access aims to move scholarly publishing away from traditional fee-based models in efforts to allow research to be freely accessible to everyone. By publishing open access, Amherst College Press hopes to produce transformative scholarship in ways that transcend traditional academic boundaries. We publish our books on Fulcrum, a platform created by University of Michigan Publishing, to allow narratives to be integrated with multimedia and optimized for long-term preservation. The future of publishing is innovative!

Amherst College Press

