

BASIC ELEMENTS OF A BOOK PROSPECTUS

Be sure to include:

- A clear explanation of the subject of your book, the breadth of the material you intend to cover, your point of view, and an explanation of why your approach is timely (not necessarily in that order).
- A table of contents and a summary of each chapter that explains both the content of the chapter and its role in the book as a whole
- A list of the other books which are available on the topic with a sentence or two for each differentiating your own from those others
- A discussion of the level at which you intend to write and who the audience will be--include any possible classroom use
- An estimated length (in words) and date of completion as well as an estimate of the number of maps, tables, figures, and images
- A paragraph or so about yourself

A typical proposal runs 3-10 pages.

Remember that the prospectus is the first document an editor will encounter. So take the time to make sure it is well-written and error-free.

Peter Wissoker
705 N. Tioga St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
wissoker@lightlink.com