

Guiding Questions for Planning an Edited Collection of Chapters or Articles

1. What is the “bigger story” that you want to tell with this edited collection? How can you capture it in a way that engages editors and reviewers?
2. Would an edited collection benefit your career at this time given the context in which you work?
3. Is the collection best published as an edited book or a special issue of a journal? Will you invite contributors or put out a call for proposals?
4. How will you select a publisher or journal to approach? What criteria might you identify to help you choose?

5. Will you invite contributors to draft their chapters/articles before or after you approach a publisher or journal editor with a proposal?

6. What kind of schedule or set of deadlines will you generate for drafting and revising? Keep in mind your own commitments over the several months or years the project can extend, and keep in mind that not all contributors will make all the deadlines you specify.

7. What process will you set up for authors to get a sense of or have the opportunity to respond to and review one another's chapters/articles?

8. How will you balance offering constructive and supportive feedback to contributors with striving to create a coherent collection?