

Book Publishing Options for Smithsonian Authors

Smithsonian employees write and publish in a wide variety of formats and disciplines. The Smithsonian offers several internal options for authors seeking to publish books. Below is a summary of the options and contact information if authors have questions. In addition to the resources below, publishing policy guidance is available in Smithsonian Directive 806, *Publishing at the Smithsonian Institution and by Smithsonian Employees*, and in Sections 8 and 9 of SD 103, *Smithsonian Institution Standards of Conduct*.

1. SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press– SISP is the in-house publisher of scholarly monographs in all disciplines. SISP publishes Smithsonian research results, available for free, through its open access portal.

For more information, visit <https://scholarlypress.si.edu> or contact Ginger Minkiewicz, minkiewiczg@si.edu.

2. TRADE PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Books– SB is a division of Smithsonian Enterprises that publishes nonfiction books for a broad audience. SB publishes these books in-house and works closely with Smithsonian authors and units to ensure books and marketing are closely aligned with the Museum’s identity. These books are warehoused and sold by Penguin Random House Publisher Services. SB also provides distribution and marketing services for SI units and book packaging services (creating books) for SI units.

Examples of books published by SB include:

- Adult trade nonfiction
- Family reference (e.g., illustrated encyclopedias, or comprehensive coverage of a single topic)
- Exhibition catalogue or illustrated collections books
- Guidebooks

For questions about Smithsonian Books, contact Carolyn Gleason, cgleason@si.edu.

NOTE: In areas where SB and SLP overlap, they will work together with the author or unit to find the best fit.

3. LICENSED PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Licensed Publishing– SLP is a division of Smithsonian Enterprises that collaborates with third-party publishers to develop and publish Smithsonian-branded books. SLP works with Smithsonian authors to develop commercial book concepts that third-party publishers sell to a broad audience. Additionally, SLP works with third-party publishers to develop book concepts that may be written by Smithsonian authors, co-written by Smithsonian authors and non-Smithsonian authors, or written by non-Smithsonian authors and reviewed by Smithsonian experts. Examples of books published by SLP include:

- Children’s nonfiction
- Children’s historical fiction
- Adult narrative and photography-based nonfiction
- Graphic novels
- Family reference

For questions about Smithsonian Licensed Publications, contact Jill Corcoran, corcoranj@si.edu.

NOTE: In areas where SB and SLP overlap, they will work together with the author and unit to find the best fit.

4. UNIT-BASED PUBLISHING

Certain Smithsonian museums and units have publishing staff that guide authors within their units. Currently, these units are: Cooper Hewitt, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, National Museum of African Art, National Museum of the American Indian, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and Smithsonian Science and Education Center. If you are a Smithsonian author in one of these units seeking to publish, you should first consult your unit’s publishing staff, who can advise you of your options, including publishing with SISP, SB, or SLP.

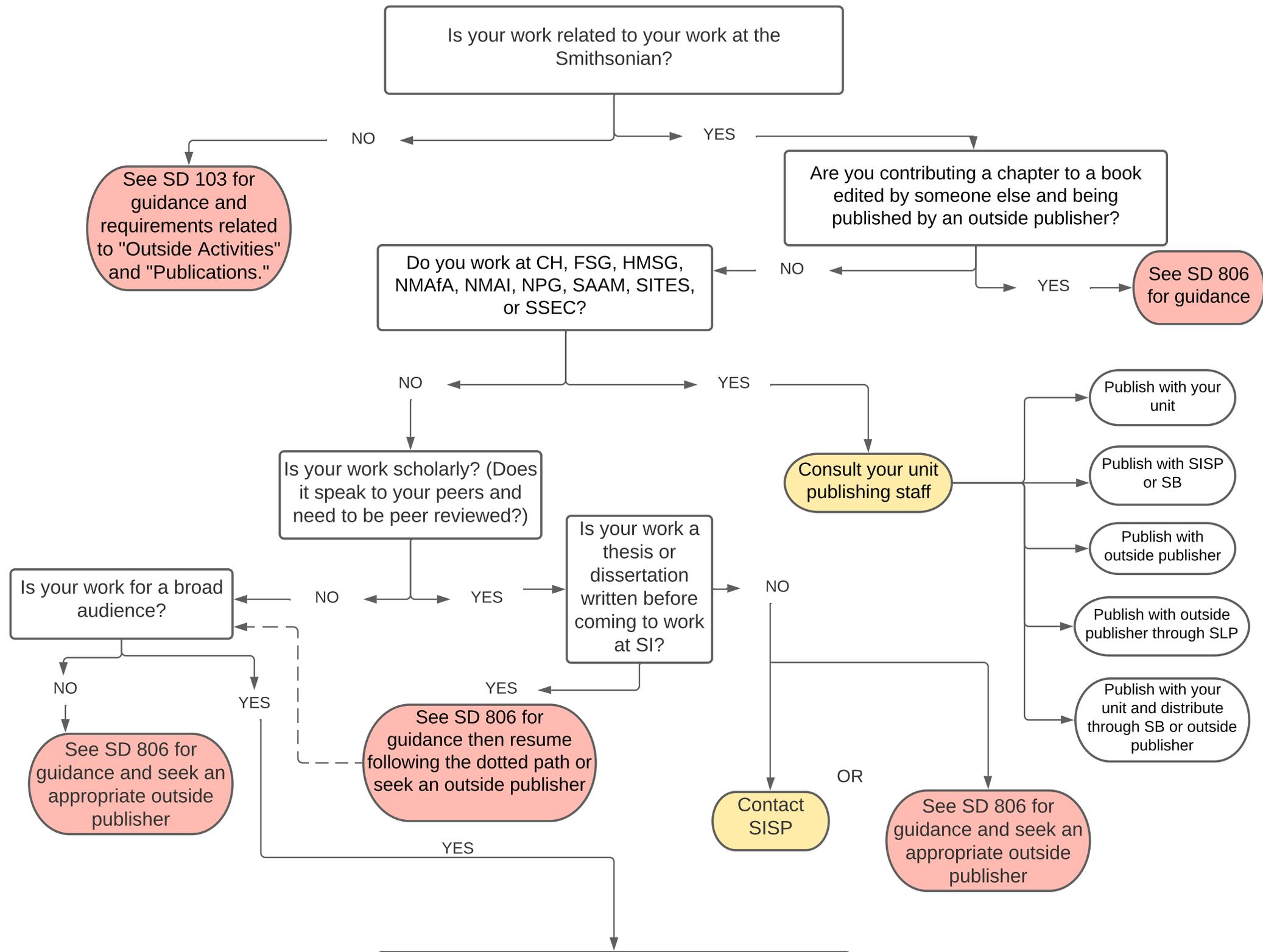
5. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

On occasion, Smithsonian authors may seek to publish a book that is based, in whole or in part, on research conducted prior to becoming a Smithsonian employee, such as publication of a masters or doctoral thesis, or a former employee may wish to publish a book based on research conducted while employed by the Smithsonian. These special scenarios are addressed in SD 806.

6. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

If you are unclear which publishing option is best suited to your publication, contact any of the three resources mentioned above and they can assist in pointing you to the right place. In addition, you may contact the Office of Contracting, OCONHelp@si.edu or the Office of General Counsel, LegalHelp@si.edu for assistance.

*The next page contains a decision tree to help you determine which publishing contact you should reach out to.
An abbreviation key and contact information is located at the bottom of the decision tree.*



Is your work one of the following?

- Exhibition catalogue or illustrated collections book
- Distribution and marketing for SI units
- Book packaging (creating books) for SI units
- An idea from a non-Smithsonian colleague

NO

YES

Is your work one of the following?

- Children's nonfiction
- Children's fiction
- Graphic novel
- Activity or novelty book
- A children's book idea that needs an author or illustrator

NO

YES

Contact SB

OR

See SD 806 for guidance and seek an appropriate outside publisher

Contact SLP

OR

See SD 806 for guidance and seek an appropriate outside publisher

Is your work one of the following?

- Trade adult nonfiction
- Family reference

NO

YES

Contact SB and SLP

OR

See SD 806 for guidance and seek an appropriate outside publisher

If your type of publication has not been covered in this chart, reach out to the contacts in the Need Help? section of this document for publishing assistance.

Need Help?
 If you would like assistance determining the appropriate publishing path, please contact:

Ginger Minkiewicz, SISP, minkiewiczg@si.edu
 Carolyn Gleason, SB, cgleason@si.edu
 Jill Corcoran, SLP, corcoranj@si.edu
 Office of Contracting, OCONHelp@si.edu
 Office of General Counsel, LegalHelp@si.edu

SISP: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press
SB: Smithsonian Books
SLP: Smithsonian Licensed Publishing
SD 103: Smithsonian Institution Standards of Conduct
SD 806: Publishing at the Smithsonian Institution and by Smithsonian Employees