

Undergraduate Resource Bundle 2027-30 Renewal Q&A – June 16, 2026

Summary

The Undergraduate Resource Bundle 2027-30 Renewal Q&A provided a chance for BC ELN members to ask questions about the upcoming renewal of the Undergraduate Resource Bundle and renewal process. The Q&A was held in advance of BC ELN's negotiations with EBSCO as well as BC ELN's deadline for the [URB Participation and Feedback Survey](#), which asks BC ELN partner libraries to commit to licensing the URB in principle and which will inform negotiations. URB team members provided background on the Undergraduate Resource Bundle, gave a walkthrough of the [previous](#) and [new](#) URB webpages (navigation on the righthand menu, login required), which will be updated as more information becomes available. The URB Team also provided an overview of the negotiations process and timeline.

Timeline:

The timeline for this renewal is shorter than the first URB term, as there is no transition away from the Common Suite. The goal is for all information and pricing to be available to partner libraries ~6 months in advance of the term start.

Currently, the renewal process launch has been announced, along with the initial [Participation and Feedback Survey](#), due June 24th. As a reminder, the survey isn't a financial commitment, it is a commitment in principle and the URB Team uses these initial commitments as a tool for negotiation and leverage numbers for better pricing.

- [July-September 2026](#): Informed by the survey results, the URB Team will negotiate with EBSCO over the summer months.
- [September 2026](#): An initial pricing proposal will be available, and the 2027-2030 URB webpages will be updated for review by partner libraries. Feedback on the initial pricing proposal will be requested, and further revisions will be made if necessary.
- [October-November 2026](#): A formal commitment survey will be distributed to partner libraries, requiring a full commitment to the three-year term
- [December-January 2026](#): Final commitments will be collected, and the renewal will be ready for posting in ConsortiaManager in the Spring, well in advance of the term start.

Discussion

A short discussion centered on budget restrictions due to the decrease in FTEs and international student caps at institutions across the board. Members have been told to cut databases, and the opt-in upgrade to Business Source Ultimate paired with a move of content from the base

BSC to BSI has been prominent in discussion at at least one institution. The URB team confirmed that they have been hearing this, and about the wider struggles due to the external environment, already. BC ELN will bring this concern to the negotiations with EBSCO; in the meantime, please continue to voice this concern.

Responses to specific questions asked during the Q&A can be found below.

Questions and Responses

Q1. Where can I find the pricing model?

BC ELN has not yet begun negotiations with EBSCO for the 2027-30 URB term, so the pricing for the new term is not yet available. There is, however, a detailed pricing model and individual institutional pricing for the 2024-27 renewal available [on the BC ELN website](#) (login is required to view this page).

Q2. Some content has been shifted over the years from Business Source Complete to Business Source Ultimate, for which institutions must upgrade. Can you bring this up to EBSCO in negotiations?

BC ELN will certainly bring this to EBSCO in negotiations.

Q3. Are there any conditions you know of at EBSCO or overall pricing trends there that would cause pricing for this next term to be out of alignment with what we expect from other EBSCO resources?

No. We generally negotiate with the understanding that pricing and YoY for multi-year commitments such as the URB should be lower than single-year commitments. We would not commit to anything more than standard, and EBSCO is very receptive to commentary and feedback, even having set the annual increase for EBSCO resources to 2% this year to offset the impact of the decrease in international student FTEs. We are optimistic that negotiations will be straightforward.

Q4. What is the best way to make a slight alteration to the form we have submitted for the Participation and Feedback Survey if we need to?

You can go ahead and re-submit the survey; just let us know via email or in comments which is the correct one from your institution.

Q5. Is there any possibility of a reduction of cost in the databases? Is that a tack we want to take, given that our FTEs have gone down across the board- which is not only a huge factor for institutions in BC, but across North America.

BC ELN will bring this up with EBSCO. For background, the current URB pricing is based on tiers from years ago, following the old Common Suite model rather than strict FTE-based tiering. We have found it beneficial not to change this model thus far, as most institutions are still in the same tier even with FTE increases over the years. We will, however, bring this up in discussions.

Q6. Are the numbers in the pricing model in USD or CAD?

All figures in the pricing models on the URB webpages are in US dollars; however, the invoices you receive from us will always be in CAD.