

FAQ: What do we mean by ‘bibliodiversity’?

Alongside **literary quality** and **strength of the project**, submissions to PEN Presents are assessed on their **contribution to bibliodiversity**.

Bibliodiversity references the variety and diversity of literature available in a region or country. The works supported by PEN Presents contribute to or enhance Anglophone publishing’s bibliodiversity in a number of ways. Works might:

- Be translated from a language underrepresented in publishing
- Emerge from a country or culture underrepresented in publishing
- Be of a form or genre underrepresented in publishing
- Offer new or previously elided perspectives on existing or already-represented themes, contexts or cultures
- Come from and represent less-heard voices – from both authors and translators whose perspectives and identities are less-represented in publishing
- Address themes that are underrepresented in publishing.

There are, of course, further ways in which books might enhance or contribute to bibliodiversity. Often, many of these will intersect.

Translators should also note that ‘literary quality’ is the highest-weighted criterion for assessment (**40%**), and that ‘strength of the project’ and ‘contribution to bibliodiversity’ are equally weighted (**30%**).

Translators are encouraged to consider different ways in which their projects might contribute to bibliodiversity when submitting an application to PEN Presents. If you would like to discuss or clarify this term further, you can email will@englishpen.org