



So, You Want to Self-Publish?

Tips for Self-Publishing Your Dream Book

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Things to consider before going into publishing...

1) Writing/Content

- What are you writing about? Ensure that your topics/themes are distinct.
- Does what you are writing about require research? If so, make sure to collect it.
- Having a word count goal (e.g. 1,000 words per day) will help you to reach the amount of words you need or want for your book.

PRO TIP: Whenever you feel writer's block, take some time away from your writing and do something that helps you relax. You can also engage in an activity that you enjoy. When you feel more relaxed, get back into writing.

2) Formatting your Manuscript

- Focus on writing your manuscript, create first – analyze after.
- Go through as many (rough) drafts as needed.
- Choose your book size. The standard book size is usually 6" x 9".

PRO TIP: Learn about formatting your manuscript on Word or In Design if you are not willing to pay someone to format it for you.

3) Editing your Manuscript

- Find an editor that is familiar with your genre of writing (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, poetry, mystery/thriller, etc.).
- Continue to proofread your own work.



- Join author/writer groups on Facebook to help with getting another opinion on your manuscript.

PRO TIP: Build a network of “beta readers”. These people will have access to your manuscript and will provide honest feedback.

4) Book Cover & Book Design

- Ask yourself: which direction do you want to take? You have the options of hiring someone or you could create your own book cover using apps such as Canva.
- Your book cover is an important element when promoting your book. Ensure you do the necessary research to receive or create the best cover for your book.
- To get an idea of what your book cover could potentially look like, visit local book stores.

PRO TIP: Research book covers on Amazon to see what book covers in your genre of writing look like.

5) Copyright

- Once you decide your work will be published, the Copyright Act (in Canada) automatically protects your work.
- The Copyright Act prohibits others from copying your work without your permission.
- If you would like to further protect your work, you can register for a copyright.

For more information on Copyright in Canada and US:

- US Copyright: <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/>



- Canada Copyright: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/eng/h_wr00003.html

6) ISBN's

- An International Standard Book Number uniquely identifies your book and helps with the sale of your book in retailers and your book's overall discoverability.
- To obtain an ISBN for your book in Canada it is FREE.
- It is best to obtain an ISBN from your place of residency (e.g. if you're from the U.S., obtain an ISBN there).

For more information on ISBN's in Canada and US:

- ISBN Canada (FREE): <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/isbn-canada/Pages/isbn-canada.aspx#toc2-12>
- Register for ISBN Account in Canada: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/isbn-canada/Pages/create-account-isbn-canada.aspx>
- ISBN US: https://www.isbn.org/faqs_general_questions#isbn_faq7

7) Printing → Publishing

This part of the process varies for everyone depending on what will work for you. For me, I chose the printing house route. I went with a printing house and had my books printed. I manage shipping/sending out my books via my website on WordPress. There are many others who go through book baby or CreateSpace by Amazon (now referred to as Kindle Direct Publishing) to publish their books. Whichever route you choose, research the pros and cons and you will be well on your way to self-publishing your first dream book!