

Write It Now!

10 Tips to Self-Publish Your First (or Next) Book

Your Guide-on-the-Side: Sharon L. Bowman
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and *Training from the BACK of the Room* (Dec. 2008)



1. When the writer is ready, the readers will come.	5. Write it in bits, or write it in chunks.	9. ISBN: The “must-have” number.
2. Write like you talk.	6. Give some writing away.	10. Make it easy to find. Make it affordable to buy.
3. Do your homework.	7. Test the waters.	11. BONUS TIP!
4. Start with YOUR top ten!	8. Ask: Who is it for? Why are you writing?	12. BONUS TIP!

I want:

I plan to:

Useful Websites ...

www.thebookproducer.com

Ad Graphics: Jim and Barb Weems
Jim and Barb are the best of the best in independent book layout and production, from start to finish. They have produced hundreds of NSA-authored books. They work with you until your book is exactly like you want it to be. Check out the site testimonials from NSA members. Call them for a free cost estimate.

www.bowker.com

The official ISBN website.
Current cost is about \$400 for a block of 10 numbers or \$125 for a single number. You can get a single number from other websites at cheaper rates, but the publisher listed with the number will be the website company and not you.

www.copyright.gov

Everything you want to know about copyright laws.

www.centralplainsbooks.com

Originally a book printing company, this site now offers book layout services as well. Competitive pricing for printing of 500 books or more.

www.mimeo.com

This site offers print-on-demand services at competitive prices. Best for booklets, handouts, workbooks, manuals, CDs, etc. Straight printing fees; no royalties taken.

www.amazon.com

Follow the link to the Amazon Advantage Program – with this, Amazon warehouses your books and offers a 24-hour turnaround time. On its website, Amazon also offers “on demand” self-publishing, using the services of CreateSpace.com and BookSurge.com (can be more expensive than simple self-publishing).

NOTE: There are lots of excellent “how-to” sites you can find by doing an Internet search for the following: free book writing tips, how to write and publish a book, self-publishing, etc. BEWARE of any site that offers “vanity” or “subsidy” publishing services in which you pay a large fee for them to print your book and then you pay a royalty each time you sell a book. Often, they don’t do the book promotion and marketing they advertise. Log onto www.sfwa.org/BEWARE/vanitypublishers.html for detailed information.

Useful Books ...

The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity. (1992) Julia Cameron

The Complete Guide to Self-Publishing: Everything You Need to Know to Write, Publish, Promote, and Sell Your Own Book. (4th edition 2002) Marilyn and Tom Ross

If You Can Talk, You Can Write. (1993) Joel Saltzman

Jump Start Your Book Sales: A Money-Making Guide for Authors, Independent Publishers and Small Presses. (1999) Marilyn and Tom Ross

The Writer’s Market (for the current year). The #1 resource for places to sell what you write.

For the grammar part of writing:

Edit Yourself: A Manual for Everyone Who Works with Words. (1996) Bruce Ross-Larson

Woe is I: The Grammarphobe’s Guide to Better English in Plain English. (1996) Patricia O’Conner

Write Right! A Desktop Digest of Punctuation, Grammar, and Style. (5th edition 1995) Jan Venolia