

RESOURCES - INDIEKIDSBOOKS.COM

Darcy Pattison | c. 2023

See my books at MimsHouseBooks.com (Use this code for 10% discount: MIMS10)

PAPERBACK

KDP Print (Amazon's POD) - Sign up for account at <http://kdp.amazon.com>
Ingram Spark. (Sister company of wholesaler Ingram, so books are listed there.

POD printer.) Sign up for account at <https://ingramspark.com/>

LuluDirect (NOT Lulu, just the LuluDirect) connects to Shopify.

Bookvault - this is a new UK company just moving into the US. Uneven service during this transition, but promises to have better POD pricing. Connects to Shopify for direct sales.

HARDCOVER

Ingram Spark. (Sister company of wholesaler Ingram, so books are listed there.
POD printer.) Sign up for account at <https://ingramspark.com/>

EBOOKS - GOING DIRECT

Apple - [iTunesConnect.apple.com](https://itunesconnect.apple.com)

You must apply for an account. Read this for more info.

<http://www.apple.com/itunes/working-itunes/sell-content/books/>

Kindle - Sign up for account at [Kdp.Amazon.com](https://kdp.amazon.com)

Kobo - Sign up for account at <http://writinglife.kobobooks.com/>

They distribute to WalMart and Overdrive. Also audiobooks.

Nook - Sign up for account at <https://press.barnesandnoble.com/>

Google Play - play.google.com/partners

Overdrive - distributes to libraries and schools.

You can go direct or go through KOBO.

Direct: <http://company.overdrive.com/connect-application/>

EBOOKS - AGGREGATOR DISTRIBUTORS

Draft-2-Digital - Sign up for an account at <http://draft2digital.com>

Aggregators allow you to upload once, and they will send your ebook to the other distributors. Be sure to read and understand the agreements.

OFFSET PRINTING

Distribute to Amazon through Amazon Advantage program.

Get bids from offset printers.

Go overseas for lowest bids for high volume

IBPA has lists of printers.

TRACKING BOOK SALES ACROSS PLATFORMS

ScribeCount.com - Excellent platform for tracking sales across most platforms.

SELLING FROM YOUR OWN ONLINE STORE

Shopify.com – Excellent platform for selling products online.

AUDIOBOOKS

ACX.com is Amazon's audiobook option. They distribute to Amazon & Audible.

Exclusive or non-exclusive options.

Findaway.com – education ebook distribution.

Kobo Books – Sign up for account at <http://writinglife.kobobooks.com/>

iBooks may be adding audio – keep watch!

Google Play has audio now, including A.I. generated audio.

Keep watch for other opportunities as this is a growth area!

MAILING LISTS

Mailerlite.com is free for up to 2000 subscribers

Other options include Convertkit, Aweber, Infusionsoft, ActiveCampaign, Klaviyo, etc.

PROMOTIONAL SITES

Bookfunnel.com – Reliably provides ebooks to your customers for promotion or sales.

Amazon Advertising available through your KDP Dashboard.

Bookbub.com

Reedsy.com Search engine for promotional sites: <https://blog.reedsy.com/book-promotion-services/>

SchoolVisitExperts.com – info on visiting schools from children's author Alexis O'Neill, who writes "The Truth About School Visits" column for the SCBWI Bulletin.

Many other sites – Look for those recommended by authors in your genre.

METADATA: CATALOGING & READING LEVELS

Metadata is the data about your book including ISBN, format/binding, title, subtitle, publication date, BISAC subject code, sales rights, cover image, description, and contributors. In a 2017 Nielsen Book US Study, titles with complete metadata averaged 75% more sales than those without metadata. Children's books with complete metadata sell 55% more. The cover is the most important piece of metadata, boosting sales by 51%. That means a professional cover could mean the difference in making a profit or not. Descriptive elements – title, description, author bio, reviews – result in 72% higher sales. Metadata may not sound like a marketing task, but it's a crucial one.

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Sign up for the VIP Mailing List (at bottom of page) because they'll send special offers and coupons. Wait for a good price for volume. (You do NOT need QR codes or bar codes from them.)

LCCN – Library of Congress Cataloguing Number. Go through the Author/Self-Publisher Portal. <https://www.loc.gov/publish/prepubbooklink/>

CIPBlock.com – Former librarian Adrienne Bashista offers CIP Blocks for a reasonable price. The CIP (Cataloguing in Publishing) block is the information on the copyright page that includes cataloging information needed by librarians. Most school and public libraries require this in books they purchase.

Metametrics – <https://metametricsinc.com/education-companies/lexile-forreading-and-Writing/about-lexile-forreading/>
Obtain a Lexile score on your books. Emily Weller: eWeller@leXile.com

Renaissance Learning – They develop the Accelerated Reader tests. Send review copies to Nancy Skorczewski, Title Selection Coordinator, Renaissance Learning, Inc, 2911 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

BISAC Codes for Juvenile Fiction - <https://bisg.org/page/JuvenileFiction>
BISAC Codes for Juvenile Nonfiction - <https://bisg.org/page/JuvenileNonfiction>

Readability Formulas – Free resource to check reading levels of your manuscript.
<http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php>

BOOK LAYOUT & DESIGN

IBPA's Design Checklist – Free PDF.
<https://www.ibpa-online.org/page/standardschecklist>

BookDesignTemplates.com – Word or Indesign templates for novels and nonfiction.

Vellum.com (Only for Mac) – Excellent program to layout novels or nonfiction for print or ebooks. They export for every ebook platform and print-ready pdf files. One-time purchase.

Atticus.io - similar to Vellum, but this one is for PC only.

ApplePages program (Only for Mac) – Excellent program to export epub. See this post: <https://www.indiekidsbooks.com/p/how-to-create-epubs-from-picture>

Behance.net – Adobe's social media platform for illustrators. Look for illustrators here.

DIY Book Covers – Look for premade covers that can be customized at sites such as <https://thebookcoverdesigner.com/>. There are many sites like this to explore. Find the ones that specialize in your genre.

ProWritingAid.com – Excellent editing program. Use this before sending to a copyeditor. <https://prowritingaid.com?afid=5233> (affiliate link)

GraphicRiver.net – Get Indesign templates to use for catalogs, sell sheets, and other promo materials.

Validate your epub here: <https://draft2digital.com/book/epubcheck/upload>

Kindle Kids Book Creator – Free program from Amazon to create Kindle files.
https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G201562880

Formatting Kindle eBooks – Because Kindle charges \$0.15 download fees for ebooks, you must reduce the size of your files. Here's how:
<https://www.indiekidsbooks.com/p/how-to-create-epubs-from-picture>

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Each state has its own education standards. Check the state's department of education website.

CoreStandards.org – The Common Core standards for English and Math from Achieve, Inc.

NextGenScience.org – The science standards from Achieve, Inc.
Teacher organizations. For certain subjects, teacher organizations often maintain teaching or curriculum standards. Research those of interest for your books.

ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST

Children's Book Council – CBCBooks.org
They help organize many book awards from teacher organizations. To participate, you should join the organization

ABA – American Booksellers Association – bookweb.org
If you can about bookstore sales, you can join as a publishing partner and have access to several marketing programs. White Boxes send out ARC, flyers, and promotional materials. You have access to membership list for mailing info.

PODCASTS

The Creative Penn – Joanna Penn has been talking about indie publishing for about ten years and her podcast is still one that has great info.

SelfPublishingFormula – UK Authors Mark Dawson & James Blatch teach Facebook advertising and Self Publishing 101. Their podcast has up-to-date info on the indie world.

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

Author Income: How to Make a Living from Your Writing – survey of working indie authors with info on best practices. Hint: Write more!
<https://www.writtenwordmedia.com/author-income-how-to-make-a-living-from-your-writing/>