

Plan Your Publishing Journey

A Practical Publishing Planner for Aspiring & Independent Authors

A successful publishing journey begins with a clear plan. This workbook is designed to help you organize your book project, identify decisions that still need to be made, and map the steps between your manuscript and a professionally published book.

You do not need to know every answer today. Use the planner to capture what you know, mark what you still need to determine, and create a practical roadmap for moving forward.

STAGE 1: YOUR BOOK VISION

Working title:

What is your book about?

Who is the primary reader for this book?

What do you want readers to learn, understand, experience, or gain from it?

Why is this book important for you to publish?

Stage 2: Manuscript Preparation & Editing

Use this page to identify where the manuscript stands and what work may still be needed before final production.

CURRENT MANUSCRIPT STATUS

- ☐ I have an idea but have not started writing.
- ☐ I have started writing.
- ☐ My manuscript is partially complete.
- ☐ My manuscript is complete.
- ☐ My manuscript has already been professionally edited.

Approximate word count:

What still needs to be written, developed, reorganized, or revised?

EDITORIAL SUPPORT I MAY NEED

- ☐ Developmental editing - structure, content, organization, and development.
- ☐ Copyediting - grammar, clarity, consistency, and sentence-level refinement.
- ☐ Proofreading - final review for errors before publication.
- ☐ I am not sure which level of editing I need.

Notes or concerns about my manuscript:

Stage 3: Book Design & Production

Think about how your book should function and look as a finished publication. Some decisions may change as production develops.

FORMATS I AM CONSIDERING

- ☐ Paperback
- ☐ Hardcover
- ☐ eBook
- ☐ Workbook or companion publication
- ☐ I am not sure yet

Preferred trim size or book dimensions, if known:

PRODUCTION ELEMENTS TO PREPARE

- ☐ Professional cover design
- ☐ Interior formatting
- ☐ Title page, copyright page, and other front matter
- ☐ Back matter
- ☐ Author bio
- ☐ Book description / back-cover copy
- ☐ Photos, charts, illustrations, worksheets, or other special elements

Describe the look, tone, or reader experience you want for the finished book:

Special production notes:

Stage 4: Publishing & Distribution

These decisions affect how your book is identified, listed, sold, printed, and distributed.

PUBLISHING ACCOUNTS

- ☐ I already have an Amazon KDP account.
- ☐ I need to establish an Amazon KDP account.
- ☐ I am considering IngramSpark / expanded print distribution.
- ☐ I am not sure which publishing platforms I need.

ISBN PLANNING

- ☐ I already have my own ISBN(s).
- ☐ I need guidance about ISBNs.
- ☐ I am not sure whether I need an ISBN.

Categories or subjects that describe my book:

Keywords or phrases readers may use to find my book:

Desired publishing date or general timeframe:

Where do I hope readers will be able to find or purchase the book?

Publishing or distribution questions I still need answered:

My Publishing Roadmap

Bring your notes together into a simple action plan. Focus first on the decisions or tasks that need to happen before the next stage can begin.

MY NEXT THREE PRIORITIES

1.

2.

3.

My desired publishing date:

Questions I still need answered:

People, files, information, or resources I need to gather:

You don't have to figure out every step alone.

Your publishing plan gives you a starting point. When you're ready for professional support, DBHH Publishing can help determine the appropriate next step for your project.

START YOUR PUBLISHING JOURNEY

Designed by His Hands Publishing

Turning Messages Into Legacy.