

SELF- PUBLISHING by Jody Brady

As many of you have found out – getting published is a long – painful process. If you just want your book printed, here are some hints.

There are all types of people and businesses you can hire to edit, illustrate, format, and critique your book. If you've decided to do it on your own (saving \$\$\$ and time) - **Educate yourself.**

GOOGLE is your best friend. It's amazing what you can ask and get answered

YOU TUBE is your second-best friend. There are hundreds of presentations that can answer your questions and give instructions – for free. I access them on my T.V. while I'm doing other things around the house.

POD – Means Print on Demand...Which means you can order 1 book – or thousands. The two major companies that do this are:

ingramspark.com... and kdp.amazon.com

You can watch their YOUTUBE videos to learn about them.

Go to Youtube.com and put "Publishing on INGRAM and KDP" Barnes and Noble also publishes. There is a list of You Tube videos you can watch. They will tell you everything you need to know.

IF – You don't mind spending some money....

There are companies that will walk you through the process – for a \$\$\$ of course.....**REEDSY.com** and **BOOKLAUNCH.com**.

You can watch their YOUTUBE videos to learn about them also.

There are MANY – You Tube videos about writing. Jerryjenkins.com is a good resource – with a pleasant voice.

PICTURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

SHUTTERSTOCK.com - has a great selection of pictures and illustrations.

PIXABAY.com – has a smaller selection – and they're free.

ILLUSTRATORS and FORMATTERS:

There are many people that do these – some are very costly. It's up to you how much you want to spend.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. (They came and spoke to GCW several years ago) It is required to become a member.

<https://www.scbwi.org/>

A less costly alternative: - HIRING HELP ONLINE

Companies that operate outside the U.S. charge less. The two companies I am familiar with are **FIVERR.com**. .and.. **UPWORK.com**.

All money transactions are handled through them and not with the individual doing the work. That makes it professional – and safer for you.

(A company handles your credit card – not an individual)

Check out their [fiverr.com](https://www.fiverr.com), they have illustrators, editors, formatters and more. Pick carefully.

They list the providers and examples of their work. Be sure the individual speaks English fluently (unless you speak another language)

Communication is **important!**

Language proficiency is listed in their description. To check - ask them a question and see how well they answer it. Also – read their reviews and how many jobs they've done.

These two companies provide independent contractors... people that work from their homes, and probably all hours.

You are hiring someone to do one project. They are not an employee. They are an independent contractor for one project.

Time difference. The listings show the country where they live and work. Their time zone is probably a huge difference. Take that into consideration and be respectful of their hours.

Their prices are generally low, so don't expect them to do more than the job you hired them to do. If you hire them to do formatting - make sure all the editing is done **before** you send it to them. They usually have a list of extras they will provide – beyond their basic price.

Give them specifics about your book – the page size – type size if you have a specific one – margins etc. If you've downloaded pictures....send them, and the page you want them on. But, also – remember, they've probably done more books than you – so let them be creative.

I think it's a good idea to print out the pages how you envision them...and put the picture on them.....for a rough - visual idea of what it might look like.

