

SELF PUBLISHER'S BUDGET & TIMELINE

Quick Guide

How much time-and money-do you need to turn a completed manuscript into a published book? Check out the Self Publisher's Budget and Timeline Quick Guide to determine the financial and time investment needed to self-publish!



EDITING/PROOFREADING

\$ 500- \$1,200 (based on 50,000 words)



2-7 weeks



Ask other authors for referrals, Search Amazon for editors of similar books

Editing costs can vary greatly based on manuscript length, your editor's experience level and how much work is needed to get your manuscript in publishable condition. Don't skimp on this step! A thorough edit will make all the difference in creating a book that can compete with the pros.



COVER DESIGN

\$ 50- \$2,000



1-4 weeks



View cover designs you like from other indie authors, View book designer awards at thebookdesigner.com or search Fiverr at fiverr.com.

Cover prices vary greatly based on what you desire. A pre-made or template book cover could cost as little as \$50 while a cover with custom artwork could cost you a couple thousand depending on your illustrator. Choose what works for your vision and budget, but one word of caution: unless you are a professional designer, do not DIY.



FORMATTING AND LAYOUT

\$ 50- \$200



1-2 weeks



Fiverr is a good resource. Your cover designer may also provide this service.

Publishing your book straight from Microsoft Word *might* save you some money up front, but it will also cost you in the form of several headaches and giving your book the professional look it deserves. Get your books formatted for both print and digital formats to ensure that they have a polished look and meet printer specifications.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CONTROL NUMBER (LCCN)

\$

Free



1-2 weeks

(must apply for number before publication)



<https://www.loc.gov/publish/pcn/>

You are not required to have an LCCN for your book, but it is important if you want to get your book into libraries. You have to apply for your LCCN prior to book publication, so you need to make sure to build it into your publication timeline.



ISBN

\$ Free- \$295



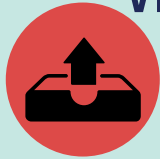
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VENDOR SUBMISSION



\$ Free- \$49



One to Two Weeks*



Your vendor website: Kindle Direct Publishing, Ingramspark, Book Baby, Draft2Digital or others

For most vendors, books that meet publishing requirements take up to roughly 48 hours to go live on most platforms, BUT especially for your first go round, allow cushion to troubleshoot and re-submit in case your book does not meet requirements the first time around.



PRINTING AND SHIPPING

\$ Varies



Three weeks +



Your vendor website.

The cost to print copies of your book will be based on book length and the options you select (ex.: color vs. black and white, paper stock, etc.) While most print orders from Print-on-demand publishers (Kindle Direct, Ingramspark, etc.) ship in less than three weeks, you will want to factor in time and cost of ordering a printed proof first to make sure your book prints correctly and re-submitting/receiving if not. Please note: if ordering print books through Kindle Direct Publishing, Amazon Prime shipping rates and timing do not apply. You will have to pay shipping costs for the shipping method you choose for your book.

TOTAL TIME

**2-5
months**

TOTAL BUDGET

\$600- \$3750

*Timing and associated costs above are estimates