I'm interested in independently publishing my book. Where do I start?

WELCOME, NEW PUBLISHING PROVIDERS, TO THE SGA RESOURCES LIST!

- The Darling Axe, novel development and editing services: https://darlingaxe.com
- Aimee Ravichandran of Abundantly Social, offering PR, social media, and author services: https://abundantlysocial.com/
- Looking for competitively priced editing services? Check out FirstEditing.com and tell JoEllen Jenn from SGA Books sent you: https://www.firstediting.com/
- Brooke Adams, done-for-you publishing services, developmental editing, and six-month masterminds for authors: https://www.wearewritingbrave.com/
- Ruth Schwartz, The Wonderlady, a one-stop shop for book creation: https://thewonderlady.com/
- The Independent Book Publishers Association offers a CHECKLIST to make sure your book is in alignment with industry standards: https://www.ibpa-online.org/page/standardschecklist
- Draft2Digital now does PRINT! From the Draft2Digital blog: https://www.draft2digital.com/blog/press-release-draft2digital-opens-d2d-print-to-every-author/
- Stuart Bache of Books Covered is now Stuart Bache Design: https://www.stuartbache.co.uk/
- BookVault, a new POD provider out of the UK, is making some moves: www.bookvault.app
- Written Word Media has great marketing services, including a membership program to amp up your reach: https://www.writtenwordmedia.com

FIND YOUR NEXT TEACHER OR COMMUNITY:

- Tiffany Yates Martin, FoxPrint Editorial, **my go-to expert for all things writing (check out her courses!)**: https://foxprinteditorial.com/
- Writers Helping Writers, featuring amazing resources by Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi: https://writershelpingwriters.net/one-stop-for-writers/
- The Creative Academy, run by Eileen Cook and Crystal Hunt: https://creativeacademyforwriters.com/

- Author Ever After, a community for romance writers, run by Danika Bloom: https://www.authoreverafter.com/

- Writing Mastery Academy, run by best-selling author Jessica Brody: https://www.writingmastery.com/
- Resilient Writers and the Writers Flow Studio, run by Rhonda Douglas: https://www.resilientwriters.com/
- AutoCrit, writing and editing support on their brand-new platform: https://www.autocrit.com/
- Sacha Black has an active Slack community if you're one of her patrons (https://www.patreon.com/sachablack) AND she has a full list of courses at https://sachablack.co.uk/writing-courses/.
- Becca Syme's Better-Faster Academy: https://betterfasteracademy.com/wbf101/
- Wordsmith Workshops, run by bestselling author Beth Revis: https://wordsmithworkshops.substack.com/

- Jane Friedman is a legend in the publishing business: https://www.janefriedman.com/
- Writers in the Storm blog: https://writersinthestormblog.com/
- Reedsy Blog (so much good stuff there, and the blog is free!): https://blog.reedsy.com/
- John Fox: https://bookfox.thinkific.com/
- Joanna Penn: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/courses/
- Good Story Company, run by Mary Kole: https://www.goodstorycompany.com/
- Kindlepreneur with Dave Chesson (Dave offers a BUNCH of free, very useful tools for authors): https://kindlepreneur.com

ISBNs (International Standard Book Number, the barcode on the back of books):

- About ISBNs: **Definitely read this before paying a bunch of money for ISBNs you may not need**: https://blog.reedsy.com/how-to-get-an-isbn/
- Free ISBNs for authors in Canada via ISBN Canada: https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/services/publishers/isbn/Pages/isbn.aspx

DISTRIBUTORS/AGGREGATORS:

- **START HERE**: https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/ebook/ebook-distribution/
- Publish Drive: https://publishdrive.com/
- Draft2Digital: https://www.draft2digital.com
- BookBaby: https://www.bookbaby.com/
- StreetLib: https://www.streetlib.com/
- eBook Partnership: https://ebookpartnership.com/

E-BOOK AND PAPERBACK CONVERTER/CREATORS:

- Vellum: https://vellum.pub (This is my favorite program. SO easy and lovely!)
- Atticus (by Dave Chesson of Kindlepreneur): https://www.atticus.io/
- Scrivener 3: https://www.literatureandlatte.com/
- Draft2Digital has a formatting option: https://draft2digital.com/faq/
- Reedsy: https://reedsy.com/write-a-book
- PublishDrive: https://converter.publishdrive.com/
- Joanna Penn of The Creative Penn offers a great article on formatting tips: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/formatting/

- Don't want to format the book yourself? Hire a pro: https://www.polgarusstudio.com/

UNIVERSAL LINK TOOLS:

- 1Link by Derek Murphy of CreativIndie: https://1link.st/
- Books2Read: https://books2read.com/links/ubl/create/
- BookLinker.com: https://booklinker.com/
- Linktr.ee Book Links: https://linktr.ee/blog/introducing-linktrees-book-links/
- Story Origin: https://storyoriginapp.com/

COVER DESIGNER AND EDITORIAL SERVICES RESOURCES:

- SGA Books is stepping into the premade cover design game: https://www.sgabooks.com/bookcovers
- Andrea Gibb at Wind and Root is SO talented (I love her work!)—she does custom and premade design: http://www.windandroot.ca/custom-book-design.html
- Reedsy (resources for editing, cover design, the works!): https://reedsy.com
- Bailey Designs Books: https://www.baileydesignsbooks.com/
- Regina Wamba does absolutely gorgeous, custom photography and design: https://reginawamba.com/book-packages#/
- Stephanie at Seventh Star Art: https://www.seventhstarart.com/
- Hang Le: https://www.facebook.com/designsbyhangle/
- Ana Grigoriu-Voicu: Premade store, https://www.kingwoodcreations.com/; for original design, https://www.books-design.com/
- Ashley Santoro: https://ashleysantoro.com/romance-book-covers
- Shanoff Designs: https://www.shanoffdesigns.com/covers-by-shanoff
- CreativIndie Covers, Derek Murphy: www.creativindiecovers.com
- Ebook Launch: https://ebooklaunch.com/
- Damonza: https://damonza.com
- Joanna Penn has a comprehensive list of book cover designers: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/bookcoverdesign/
- Mariah Sinclair: https://www.thecovervault.com/
- Stuart Bache Design: https://www.bookscovered.co.uk
- Deranged Doctor Designs: http://www.derangeddoctordesign.com
- The Cover Collection: http://www.thecovercollection.com/premadeebook-kindle-covers-fiction
- Covermint: www.covermint.design (Spendy; doesn't appear to have any romance premades)
- Cover Designer Directory: https://coverdesignerdirectory.com/
- Moor Books Design premades: https://www.moorbooksdesign.com/premade-book-covers-for-sale
- Book Cover Zone: https://bookcoverzone.com/
- BookFly Design: https://www.bookflydesign.com/portfolio
- A list of 14 designers (some will be duplicates of above) from Writing Tips Oasis: https://writingtipsoasis.com/book-cover-designers-for-self-publishers/

POPULAR STOCK PHOTOGRAPHY SITES:

- iStock: https://www.istockphoto.com/
- BigStock: https://www.bigstockphoto.com/
- Dreamstime: https://www.dreamstime.com/
- Adobe Stock images: https://stock.adobe.com/

- Deposit Photos**: https://depositphotos.com/
- Shutterstock: https://www.shutterstock.com/
- Creative Market: https://creativemarket.com/
- Envato: https://elements.envato.com/photos
- Getty Images: https://www.gettyimages.com/
- Tonl: https://tonl.co/
- Photocase: https://www.photocase.com/
- EyeEm: https://www.eyeem.com/
- Stocksy: https://www.stocksy.com/
- Arcangel: https://arcangel.com/
- Jumpstory: https://jumpstory.com/
- Alamy: https://www.alamy.com/
- Trevillion: https://www.trevillion.com/home
- Pexels: https://www.pexels.com/
- Unsplash: https://unsplash.com/
- StockSnap: https://stocksnap.io/
- VectorStock: https://www.vectorstock.com/
- Burst: https://burst.shopify.com/

*(**Via my referral/affiliate link)*

FREELANCE EDITORS:

- **Start HERE**: https://blog.reedsy.com/editors-for-new-writers/
- Reedsy: https://reedsy.com/
- Tiffany Yates Martin*, FoxPrint Editorial: https://foxprinteditorial.com/
- Jim Thomas* (YA and MG specialist): http://jimthomaseditor.com/
- Joanna Penn has another list, this time with editors: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/editors/
- My editorial site (copy and line editing, proofreading): https://www.plumfieldediting.com

*I've worked with both of these editors on big projects, and they are worth every penny.

MAILING LIST PROVIDERS (there are others but these are the most popular right now):

- MailerLite: https://www.mailerlite.com
- Constant Contact: https://www.constantcontact.com/
- MailChimp: https://mailchimp.com
- ConvertKit: https://convertkit.com
- Squarespace has email capabilities built into their website platform: https://www.squarespace.com/
- SendFox: https://sendfox.com/
- AWeber: https://www.aweber.com/
- HubSpot: https://www.hubspot.com/products/marketing/newsletter-builder
- Drip: https://www.drip.com/

MOST POPULAR E-BOOK and PAPERBACK/HARDCOVER PRINT AND DISTRIBUTION OPTIONS:

- Amazon KDP: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/
- KDP Select: https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/G200798990
- IngramSpark: https://www.ingramspark.com
- LOCAL TO CANADA for PRINT BOOK SMALL RUNS: Island Blue Printorium Bookworks: https://printoriumbookworks.islandblue.com
- Apple Books for Authors: https://authors.apple.com/
- Barnes & Noble Press (Nook): https://press.barnesandnoble.com/
- Rakuten Kobo (US): https://www.kobo.com/us/en/p/writinglife
- Rakuten Kobo (Canada): https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/p/writinglife
- Google Play Books: https://play.google.com/books/publish/u/0/

PRODUCE AND/OR DISTRIBUTE YOUR AUDIOBOOK (LIST NOT EXHAUSTIVE):

- **Start here:** https://www.writtenwordmedia.com/self-publish-audiobook-production-and-distribution/
- ACX: https://www.acx.com
- Findaway Voices: https://findawayvoices.com
- Lantern Audio: https://lanternaudio.com/independent-publishing/
- Author's Republic: https://www.authorsrepublic.com/
- Kobo: https://www.kobo.com/us/en/p/writinglife
- PublishDrive: https://publishdrive.com/distribution.html

CONTENT DISTRIBUTORS/PROVIDERS FOR SERIALIZED WORK:

- Yonder: https://www.yonderstory.com
- Radish: https://www.radishfiction.com
- Wattpad: https://www.wattpad.com
- Kindle Vella (US only currently): https://www.amazon.com/kindle-vella / https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/help/topic/GR2L4AHPMQ44HNQ7
- Dreame: https://www.dreame.com
- Kiss (via Crazy Maple Studio): http://writekiss.com/

TO BE ADDED TO YOUR MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY:

- David Gaughran's article on BEST BOOK PROMOTION SITES: https://davidgaughran.com/best-promo-sites-books/
- Mixtus Media (follow them on social media too!): https://www.mixtusmedia.com/
- BookBub: https://www.bookbub.com/launch
- Chirp by BookBub for audiobooks: https://www.chirpbooks.com/
- Author Central Page on Amazon: https://author.amazon.com/
- Social media channels: TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest
- BookBrush, to create ads: http://bookbrush.com/
- Canva, to create ads: https://www.canva.com/
- Stencil, to create ads: https://getstencil.com/
- Freebooksy: https://www.freebooksy.com/
- Fussy Librarian: https://www.thefussylibrarian.com/advertising/
- Red Feather Romance: https://www.redfeatherromance.com/for-authors/
- Written Word Media promotions: https://www.writtenwordmedia.com/

- Facebook/Meta Ads: https://www.facebook.com/business/ads
- Amazon Ads for Books: https://advertising.amazon.com/books
- BookBub Ads: https://www.bookbub.com/partners/bookbub_ads
- BookBub Featured Deals: https://www.bookbub.com/partners/featured_deals
- LitRing group promos and advertising: https://www.litring.com/authors/
- To build your newsletter/email list: https://www.booksweeps.com/authors/join-a-promo/ (and check out their homepage for great ebook recs: https://www.booksweeps.com/)

FOR HELP WITH FINDING KEYWORD AND KEYWORD PHRASES & CATEGORIES/SUBCATEGORIES:

- Publisher Rocket: https://publisherrocket.com/ ($97 USD as of Dec. 2022)
- KDSpy: https://www.kdspy.com ($69 USD as of Dec. 2022)
- StoryOrigin: https://storyoriginapp.com/ (Monthly or annual fee depends on service level you choose)
- BookSprout also offers a keyword tool: https://booksprout.co
- K-Lytics: http://k-lytics.com / http://k-lytics.com/pricing (Starts at $37 USD a month but remember you can use it for a single month and cancel/resubscribe as your publishing schedule requires. If you subscribe, you can also buy one report at a time as they come out. **SO MUCH INFO** in these reports, it can be overwhelming.)

DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR FINISHED BOOK TO READERS TO GET REVIEWS & FOR GIVEAWAYS:

- Book Sirens: https://booksirens.com/ – **I love this service, FYI.**
- BookFunnel: https://www.bookfunnel.com
- BookSprout, an advance reader copy (ARC) distribution system: https://booksprout.co
- Prolific Works: https://www.prolificworks.com/

EXCELLENT RESOURCES AND COURSES FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND RESEARCH:

- David Gaughran is awesome: https://courses.davidgaughran.com/courses/starting-from-zero
- Authors AI Learning Center: https://authors.ai/learning-center/
- Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi): https://www.allianceindependentauthors.org
- Joanna Penn of The Creative Penn is fantastic: https://www.thecreativepenn.com/courses/
- Sacha Black: https://sachablack.co.uk/writing-courses/
- Bryan Cohen, Amazon Ads school and help with blurb writing: http://bryancohen.com/
- Kindlepreneur with Dave Chesson: https://kindlepreneur.com
- Mark Dawson's Self-Publishing Formula: https://selfpublishingformula.com/courses/#selfpublishing
- Nick Stephenson's Your First 10K Readers: https://www.yourfirst10kreaders.com
- Alana Terry's Successful Writer courses: https://successfulwriter.podia.com/

SOME HELPFUL AND INSPIRING E-BOOKS/PAPERBACK BOOKS ON THE BUSINESS OF WRITING AND SELLING BOOKS (additional links are available via my LEARNING LIBRARY):

- **My VERY FAVORITE editing guidebook:** *Intuitive Editing*, Tiffany Yates Martin, https://foxprinteditorial.com/intuitive-editing/
- *Immersion and Emotion: The Two Pillars of Storytelling*, by Michelle Barker and David Griffin Brown

- *Writing the Romantic Comedy*, Billy Mernit
- *Dreyer's English*, Benjamin Dreyer
- *Seize the Story: A Handbook for Teens Who Like to Write*, Victoria Hanley
- *Spilling Ink*, Anne Mazer and Ellen Potter, http://www.annemazerbooks.com/spilling-ink/
- *7-Figure Fiction*, Theodora Taylor
- *The Novel Workbook for Messy Writers*, Gabrielle Prendergast
- *The Trope Thesaurus*, Jennifer Hilt
- *Top Tropes*, Aimee Walker
- *The Idea*, Erik Bork
- *Dear Writer, You Need to Quit*, Becca Syme
- *Writing Killer Cover Copy*, Elana Johnson
- *Writing and Marketing Systems*, Elana Johnson
- *Romance Your Brand: Building a Marketable Genre Fiction Series*, Zoe York
- *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*, Renni Browne and Dave King
- *Wonderbook*, Jeff VanderMeer
- The Complete Thesaurus Collection from Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi: https://writershelpingwriters.net/bookstore/
- *Save the Cat Writes a Novel*, Jessica Brody: https://www.jessicabrody.com/books/non-fiction/save-cat-writes-novel/about/
- *Newsletter Ninja 2*, Tammi Lebrecque, https://newsletterninja.net/
- *Let's Get Digital*, David Gaughran (self-publishing)
- *Strangers to Superfans*, David Gaughran (newsletters)
- *Successful Self-Publishing*, Joanna Penn*
- *Revision and Self-Editing for Publication*, James Scott Bell
- *Full Time Author*, Eileen Cook and Crystal Hunt
- *Scrappy Rough Draft*, Donna Barker
- *Build Better Characters* and *Create Story Conflict*, Eileen Cook
- *Strategic Series Author*, Crystal Hunt
- On *Writing*, Stephen King
- *Pity the Reader*, Kurt Vonnegut
- *The Seven Basic Plots*, Christopher Booker
- *The Anatomy of a Bestseller*, Sacha Black
- *The Plot Whisperer*, Martha Alderson
- *Story Genius* and *Wired for Story*, Lisa Cron
- *The Author's Guide to Cover Design*, Stuart Bache
- *Great Stories Don't Write Themselves*, Larry Brooks

*If you go to Joanna Penn's website, The Creative Penn, she has a TON of great books to help you. She's considered one of the original experts in successful self-publishing.

SOME USEFUL PODCASTS (and podcasts are free!):

- What Were You Thinking with Dana Goldstein
- The Indy Author podcast and video series: https://www.theindyauthor.com/
- The Creative Penn podcast with Joanna Penn

- The Autonomous Creative with Jessica Abel
- Scriptnotes with John August and Craig Mazin
- #AmWriting with KJ DellAntonia
- Grammar Girl
- Virtual Book Tour
- Authors on the Air
- Writer, Writer, Pants on Fire with Mindy McGinnis
- Writers, Ink.
- The Writer Files
- Writer's Routine
- Whoa!mance
- The Shit No One Tells You About Writing
- The Daring Author
- DIY MFA Radio with Gabriela Pereira
- The RomCom Rewind
- The Rebel Author Podcast with Sacha Black
- Fiction Writing Made Easy
- The Dialogue Doctor with Jeff Elkins
- The Story Blender Podcast
- Manuscript Academy
- We Fight So You Don't Have to with Liz Fenton and Lisa Steinke
- Day Drinking with Authors
- Romance Happy Hour
- Ask ALLi's Self-Publishing Advice Podcast
- Stark Reflections on Writing and Publishing with Mark Leslie Lefebvre
- Wish I'd Known Then … for Writers with Sara Rosett and Jami Albright
- The Rebel Author Podcast with Sacha Black
- Self-Publishing Show with Mark Dawson and James Blatch
- The Sell More Books Show
- Helping Writers Become Authors with KM Weiland
- The Kobo Writing Life
- Write Your Screenplay with Jacob Krueger
- The Book Marketing Show with Dave Chesson
- SPA Girls (Self-Publishing Authors) Podcast

There are many out there, so have a look!

COOL WRITING AND EDITING SOFTWARE:

- Scrivener: https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener
- Ulysses (for Mac, iPad, and iPhone): https://ulysses.app/
- Dabble: https://www.dabblewriter.com/
- Squibler: https://www.squibler.io/novel-writing-software
- Reedsy Book Editor: https://reedsy.com/write-a-book
- Novlr: https://novlr.org/

- Plottr: https://plottr.com/welcome/
- NovelChick: https://novelchick.com/
- AutoCrit: https://www.autocrit.com/
- Authors AI: https://authors.ai/
- Hemingway: https://hemingwayapp.com/
- ProWriting Aid: https://prowritingaid.com/
- Sudowrite AI: https://www.sudowrite.com

www.sgabooks.com
www.plumfieldediting.com
www.elizagordon.com
www.jennifersommersby.com