

Publishing Guidelines

Important Notice: Copyright Documentation

In certain situations, PublishDrive may request proof of copyright or rights ownership from publishers. This may happen during the book review process or at any point after publication, including in response to a store report or an infringement claim. Cases where you may be asked to provide documentation include:

- Content that imitates or closely resembles another published work or author
- Interior or cover art that matches another book
- Content based on or derived from a previously published original work
- Use of trademarked terms (in which case permission from the trademark holder is required)
- Copyright infringement claims received prior to or after submission
- Copyright violation reports received from a store

Please note that DMCA notices and sales manipulation reports are handled differently and do not involve a documentation process — these result in immediate account-level action.

Submitted documents are always verified. If valid documentation is provided, the book will be accepted or reinstated. If no valid documentation is provided within the given deadline, the book may be withdrawn or rejected, and further action may be taken on the account. Please ensure you hold all necessary rights, permissions, and licenses for any content you submit before uploading.

Delivery Guidelines

This section covers the technical and operational requirements for submitting books in each format.

General Requirements (All Formats)

Cover Art The cover must accurately represent the book, be free of quality issues (blurriness, pixelation, misalignment, rotation), and match the metadata. It must include the title and author name. Pricing language, promotional claims, explicit content, and infringing material are not permitted. Scanned images are not accepted. If multiple authors contributed to the book, all

must be named on the cover. Creators in other roles (editor, translator, etc.) do not need to be named on the cover.

Metadata

- *Title & Subtitle*: Must be spelled correctly, match the cover and content file, and be written in the primary language of the book. Pricing language, all-caps, all-lowercase, and period or colon at the end of the title are not permitted. Subtitles may only appear in the subtitle field.
- *Author Name*: Full name with standard spelling and capitalization. No additional information (roles, dates, etc.) may be included.
- *Pen Name*: May be used, but must not imitate another author or be used to circumvent legal or contractual obligations.
- *Description*: Must be at least 50 characters, accurately describe the book, and be free of pricing language, promotional content, search terms, or links to book-selling websites. Cannot be entirely in bold. Must use sentence case and correct line breaks.
- *Categories*: Must accurately represent the book. Up to three may be selected. Fiction and nonfiction, juvenile and young adult categories must not be mixed.
- *Keywords*: Must be in the same language as the book. Must not include other authors' names, sales rank claims, promotional terms, store names, or content unrelated to the book.
- *AI Declaration*: If AI tools were used in the creation of the book (authoring, editing, translation, illustration, narration), this must be declared in the metadata under the "Creators" section. Some stores (e.g. OverDrive Audio, Apple Books Audio) additionally require AI usage to be stated in the first line of the description.
- *Publication Date*: Defaults to today's date. A future date enables pre-orders automatically.
- *Adult Content*: Must be declared in the metadata if applicable.

Copyright Page (Ebook & Print) Must include: title, author, translator and illustrator (if applicable), publisher name and contact details, ISBN, copyright holder, and copyright text.

Ebook Requirements

Accepted File Formats: EPUB, DOCX (DOCX files are converted to EPUB automatically).

Content File

- Must contain full and complete text with no missing chapters, indices, or footnotes.
- No placeholder text or images (e.g. "lorem ipsum").
- No encoding errors, OCR errors, or unsupported characters.
- Minimum length: 10 pages (~15,000 characters), excluding front and back matter.
- Font color and typeface must not be forced.

Cover Art

- Minimum resolution: 800×1,280 px. Recommended: 1,600×2,560 px.
- Embedded cover in the content file: 1,600×2,400 px.
- No setup shots, 3D representations, box set images, or photographs of the physical book cover.

Table of Contents Every EPUB must include a ToC (toc.ncx). All entries must be clickable and link to the correct location. No placeholders or empty items. Page numbers from print sources must be removed in digital conversion.

Images, Maps & Charts Must be clear, correctly placed, and legible. Large images must fit on one screen. Maximum: 4 megapixels. No blurriness, pixelation, misalignment, or misplaced images.

Internal Links All internal references (footnotes, ToC links, page references) must be correctly linked. Broken or missing links are not accepted.

Fixed Layout Fixed layout EPUBs are only accepted by: Apple, Google, Everand, OverDrive, CNPIEC, Dangdang, Gardners, Mackin, Bibliotheca, Kobo, Ekonyv.hu, Barnes & Noble (children's books only). All panels must have correct magnification and no content may overflow the screen.

Kindle Unlimited Submitting to Kindle Unlimited via PublishDrive is not possible, as it is an Amazon-exclusive program.

If a book is currently enrolled in Kindle Unlimited, it can still be published through PublishDrive, but only to the following library partners: OverDrive, LibraryOne, Hoopla, Odilo, Bibliotheca, and Mackin. No retail stores can be enabled while the book remains in Kindle Unlimited.

If the publisher wishes to make the book available on retail stores (such as Apple Books or Kobo), the book must first be removed from Kindle Unlimited. A 90-day gap is then required between the removal date and the retail release date, during which the book must be set up as a pre-order on PublishDrive.

Audiobook Requirements

Accepted File Format: MP3. Each chapter must be submitted as a separate audio file; a single-file upload is not accepted.

Cover Art

- Minimum resolution: 1,400×1,400 px. Must be square format.
- Borders (vertical or horizontal) are not recommended.

AI Narration AI narration is permitted but must be declared in the "Narrator" metadata field and/or the book description. Audible does not currently accept AI-narrated books; Audible must be disabled during upload if AI narration is used.

Not Accepted for Audiobook Distribution Abridged audiobooks, audio products containing advertising, public domain books, reference/guide/quotation/dictionary books, home & garden/interior design/organization books, gift books, cookbooks, diet books, comic books, graphic novels, photography books, art monographs, engineering or professional reference books, flashcards, calendars, box sets, sports books relying heavily on pictures, and travel guides formatted as reference guides.

Print (POD) Requirements

Required Files: Two separate PDFs — one for the cover (including back cover, spine, and front cover) and one for the interior/content. An ISBN is also required; PublishDrive cannot distribute POD titles without one.

Cover Art PDF

- Recommended color space: CMYK (RGB also accepted).
- Recommended resolution: 300 DPI or higher.
- No text within 0.25" (6 mm) of the trim lines.
- No crop or printer marks.
- Recommended page size: 19" × 13" (48.26 × 33.02 cm), cover centered and flush to the bottom.

Interior PDF

- Single-page PDF only (no spreads or 2-up layouts).
- Page numbers must be sequential and logical; even numbers on the left, odd on the right.

Color Requirements

- Black-and-white pages must be saved as grayscale or single-color black. Not as RGB or CMYK build. No spot colors.
 - Color pages: CMYK recommended, RGB accepted. No spot colors.
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Content Guidelines

This section defines what content PublishDrive accepts, what is prohibited, and the special rules that apply to specific content types.

Accepted Content

PublishDrive accepts original, exclusive-copyright works in ebook, audiobook, and print formats, including works with adult content (provided it is properly declared in metadata), and AI-assisted works (provided AI usage is properly declared).

Prohibited Content

Copyright & Rights Infringement Content that infringes the rights of others — including copyright, trademark, right of publicity, or other intellectual property rights — is not accepted. This includes:

- Unauthorized adaptations, novelizations, or retellings of films, TV series, games, or other copyrighted audiovisual works, even if presented as fan fiction, a retelling, or "inspired by," or if character names have been altered.
- Content that misleads readers into believing a book is an official, licensed, or authorized adaptation when it is not (through cover design, title, description, or marketing language).
- Derivative works that rely heavily on copyrighted source material without constituting sufficiently original content, even if labeled as "inspired by" or "based on."
- Companion books based on copyrighted works, such as summaries, study guides, or game guides.

Misleading Content

- Titles, subtitles, cover art, descriptions, or keywords that mislead customers or impair their ability to make informed purchasing decisions.
- Pen names or titles that imitate known authors or works.
- Content presenting itself as official or authorized when it is not.

Disappointing Content

- Content marketed as a subscription or redirecting readers to an external source for the full text.
- Content freely available on the web, unless the publisher holds exclusive copyright.
- Content whose primary purpose is to solicit or advertise.
- Content not significantly differentiated from another book, or a non-differentiated version of another book.
- Poorly translated content.

Explicit & Objectionable Content

- Depiction (photo or illustration) of a child in a sexual situation.
- Photographs of penetrative sex, oral/genital contact, or genitals.
- Textual encouragement to commit a crime (e.g. content defending rape, pedophilia, incest, or bestiality).
- Photographic content intended solely for sexual arousal.
- Excessively objectionable or crude content.
- Nudity without educational, artistic, historical, or documentary value.
- Pornographic text or sexually explicit terms in titles, subtitles, descriptions, or excerpts.
- Content driving traffic to commercial pornographic video sites.

Nazi Propaganda Cover art depicting Nazi symbolism (as outlined in Strafgesetzbuch section 86a) is not permitted if the book is cleared for sale in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or any other country restricting Nazi propaganda.

Special Content Categories & Criteria

Public Domain Works PublishDrive does not accept public domain books for distribution. Only works with exclusive, active copyright are accepted.

Freely Available & Non-Exclusive Content Books consisting primarily of content freely available elsewhere (e.g. repackaged encyclopedia entries, forum posts, tutorials, Q&A sites) are not accepted. The publisher must be the exclusive copyright owner of the content. Content licensed to multiple parties for redistribution is not accepted.

We also do not accept content where the original source is impossible to trace and copyright ownership is therefore questionable — for example, joke collections, books of quotations, and books of proverbs.

Low-content books (such as coloring books, calendars, planners, and notebooks) are also not accepted under this policy. See the Low-Content & No-Content Books section below for format-specific rules.

PLR (Private Label Rights) Books PLR books are not accepted, as they typically contain repackaged, non-exclusive content available from shared sources.

Low-Content & No-Content Books

- *Ebook*: No low-content or no-content books are accepted in any form.
- *Print*: Ingram does not accept low-content or no-content books. Amazon and the Chinese POD distribution network accept coloring books, activity/puzzle books, and journals that include meaningful original content (graphics, quotes, exercises, etc.) in addition to blank pages.

- Low-content books include: coloring books, journals and planners with original content, activity and workbooks, crossword and puzzle books, notebooks.
- No-content books include: journals and planners with no original content, plain or lined notebooks.

AI-Generated / AI-Assisted Content AI-assisted books — whether the assistance relates to the content or the cover — are accepted and do not require declaration in the metadata.

AI-generated content and AI-narrated audiobooks do require declaration in the metadata under the "Creators" section. For AI-narrated audiobooks, this must also be reflected in the "Narrator" field and/or the description. Note that Audible does not currently accept AI-narrated audiobooks.

Spamming & Duplicate Content Publishers submitting many versions of similar books, or books sharing the same images, text, or other content, will be blocked from distribution. Promotional and commercial books are also subject to this policy.

Adult Content Adult content is accepted provided it is correctly declared in the metadata. Refer to PublishDrive's adult content category guidelines for details on accepted categories.

Account & Quality Policies

Book Correction Policy PublishDrive reserves the right to reject or withhold any book from distribution at any time, including during the review process or after publication, without prior notice. This applies to quality issues as well as content or rights violations identified at any stage.

In cases involving fraud, rights violations, or repeated policy breaches — including but not limited to sales manipulation, DMCA notices, copyright violations, and submission of invalid copyright documentation — PublishDrive reserves the right to terminate the account in accordance with its internal fraud and report handling policy.

Restricted Account Policy Accounts found to be regularly misusing PublishDrive's services — including distributing stolen, infringing, or illegal content, or spamming — may be restricted, limiting functions such as uploading new books.

Exit Policy Publishers may withdraw their catalogue and inactivate their account at any time without notice by contacting customer support. If the account balance has not reached the payment threshold (\$5 USD) at the time of termination, PublishDrive holds the right to withhold payment until the threshold is reached. Transfer fees are not covered by PublishDrive.