

Authors

Key points to getting your work published

This guide is aimed primarily at authors trying to publish their own work — in other words, acting as their own publisher. It also touches on problems arising where authors submit articles to journals or book publishers for publication or get involved in the official publishing of their institution.

Getting an ISBN

For various purposes, including computerised ordering systems and cataloguing, it is normal for all books commercially published to be given an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). Amateur publishers may also find this useful.

Apply to:

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3rd Floor, Midas House
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GU21 6LQ
Tel: 0870 777 8712 (9am — 5pm)
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Email: isbn.agency@nielsen.com
URL: www.isbn.nielsenbookdata.co.uk

From January 2007 a 13-digit ISBN replaced the previous 10-digit number. Each publisher is allocated a number, preceded by a product code of either 978 or 979, and by 0- or 1- indicating the English language countries. After the publisher's number comes that of the individual book, and the fourth and final section of the number is a check digit for computer purposes.

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978-	product code used for books
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225-	identifier for specific title
0	check digit

It is possible to obtain an ISBN before publication so that it can be printed on the verso (the back) of the title-page and quoted in advertising literature. Getting an ISBN and giving details of the book to Nielsen Bookdata has the great advantage of securing an entry in the weekly publication, *The Bookseller*, which promotes sales.

Publication matters for The University of Nottingham are handled by the Registrar's Department, and official University publications are handled by the Director of Communications and Marketing (ext 15765).

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A similar system exists for getting an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).

If you produce a periodical, you should apply to:

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LS23 7BQ
Tel: 01937 546267
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The primary concern of an author is in the copyright in the text. It is important to know who owns this. It normally belongs to the author upon creation of the work unless he has assigned it to someone else, such as the publisher. The duration of copyright in a published text is 70 years from the death of the author. Under various international treaties, copyright protection is extended to other countries, to prevent foreign copying without benefit to the copyright holder. It is clearly advisable for anyone involved in getting their work published, either here or in foreign jurisdictions, to get sound advice before contracts of any sort are exchanged.

The Society of Authors provides members with legal advice and model forms of contract. Contact:

The Society of Authors
84 Drayton Gardens
London
SW10 9SB
Tel: 0207 373 6642
URL: www.societyofauthors.org/

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Legal deposit

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