

Formatting e-Books for Writers *Convert Your Word File to Kindle*

by Susan K. Stewart

Resource List

Books

[*Amazon Kindle Publishing Guidelines*](#) (technical details needed for each Kindle device)

[*Building Your Book for Kindle*](#) (Windows and Mac version available)

[*Field Guide to Fixed Layout for E-books*](#) from Book Industry Study Group

[*Formatting Pages for Publishing on Amazon with CreateSpace*](#) by Chris McMullen

[*Free*](#) by Chris Anderson

[*From WORD to EBOOK*](#) by Ben Mackin

[*Goodreads for Authors*](#) by Michelle Campbell-Scott

[*How to Blog a Book*](#) by Nina Amir

[*Pictures on Kindle*](#) by Aaron Shepard

[*Smashwords Style Guide*](#) by Mark Coker

[*Smashwords Book Marketing Guide 2018*](#) by Mark Coker

[*The Secrets to Ebook Publishing Success*](#) by Mark Coker

(These books are Smashwords Guides.)

[*Zen of eBook Formatting*](#) by Guido Henkel

[*Zen of eBook Marketing*](#) by Guido Henkel

Free online conversion services

(These only convert; they don't clean up files.)

Zamzar (multiple format options)

<http://www.Zamzar.com>

Nitro (Microsoft Office files to PDF)

<http://www.pdfword.com>

Online Convert (various formats to EPUB)

<http://ebook.online-convert.com/convert-to-epub>

Calibre

<http://calibre-ebook.com/>

Calibre is free software to convert various file formats. Some e-book self-publishers use this program to convert their documents. I found it didn't do as complete of a job as I wanted. But it is good for getting a general feel for how the e-book will look in different formats.

E-book service companies

Bookbaby

<http://www.bookbaby.com>

Bookbaby charges an up-front fee, but advertises that they don't take a percentage of sales. A simple how-to guide is offered as a free download.

E-bookit

<http://www.ebookit.com>

Offers conversion, formatting, and distribution services.

Lulu

<http://www.lulu.com/publish/ebooks/>

Lulu is a well-known print-on-demand company, which has expanded into e-publishing. They have a downloadable guide. The free ePub converter still requires the simple formatting outlined in this book. Lulu will convert a file to EPUB free, but there are hosting cost and commissions. See the details at <http://bit.ly/2BJMADc>.

Publish Green

<http://www.publishgreen.com>

This company provides complete conversion services for a fee.

Smashwords

<http://www.smashwords.com/>

Very popular e-book conversion and distribution company. A style guide to prepare a Word file for their conversion process is available.

IngramSpark

<http://www.ingramspark.com/>

Provides services for e-books and print books including hardback books. Offers more distribution channels than Amazon.

Draft2Digital

<https://draft2digital.com/>

E-book formatting and distribution services. Draft2Digital doesn't have a store, but does have a 10% fee on books sold through the various e-bookstores.

E-book conversion services

Melinda Martin Publishing and Design Services

<http://melindamartin.me>

One-on-one design and self-publishing services. E-book conversion from a Word file, plus cover and interior design.

Jonlin Creative

<http://www.jonlincreative.com/>

Jonlin provides book design services as well as branding packages, social media images, and more.

E-book Formatting Fairies

<http://marieforce.com/fairies/>

The Fairies provide a wide variety of services from basic conversion to CreateSpace preparation.

iTunes Lists of Book Production and Delivery Services

<https://itunespartner.apple.com/en/books/partnersearch>

A list of service providers to help prepare e-books for iBooks store.

Vellum

<https://vellum.pub/>

Offers a formatting program free. A fee is required to convert the file for e-publishing and print books.

EPUB conversion programs

Sigil (convert to EPUB)

<https://sigil-ebook.com/>

EPUB Validator

<http://validator.idpf.org/>

eBookIt EPUB Validator

<https://www.ebookit.com/tools/bp/Bo/eBookIt/epub-validator>

A complimentary EPUB checker. It gives a list of errors but not how to fix them.

EPUB Checker for Mac

<http://www.macupdate.com/app/mac/35031/epubchecker>

Also found in the App Store (updated version)

Editing Services

Christian Editors and Proofreaders Network

<http://thechristianpen.com/>

Christian Editor Connection

<http://christianeditor.com/>

Deb Haggerty | Freelance Editor

<http://www.positivegrace.com/>

Nicolas Nelson | Wordsmith Writing Coaches

<http://www.wordsmithwritingcoaches.com>

Kristen Stieffel | Writer • Editor • Mentor

<http://kristenstieffel.com>

John Vonhof | Writers & Authors on Fire

<http://www.WritersAuthorsOnFire.com>

Linda W. Yezak | Writer/Editor

<http://lindayezak.com/>

Darlene Catlett | Editor

<https://www.love2edit.com/>

Images

Free

Free Images

<http://www.freeimages.com/>

Morguefile

<http://morguefile.com>

Pixabay

<https://pixabay.com>

Mama Red Knight

List of free image websites

<http://mamaredknight.com/images-for-your-social-media-posts-and-projects/>

Paid

Dreamstime

<http://www.dreamstime.com/>

iStockPhoto

<http://www.istockphoto.com/>

Be sure to read all license information and attribution information before using even free images.

Marketing services

ClickBank

<http://www.clickbank.com/>

e-junkie

<http://www.e-junkie.com/>

List of lists

These websites have lists of various other websites to help with preparing and selling e-books.

Bookmarket – eBooks Production and Distribution

<http://www.bookmarket.com/ebooks.htm>

John Kremmer, author of *1,000 Ways to Market Your Book*, provides a long list of service for e-book publishing.

The Book Designer – Top Ten Resource Guides for e-Book Authors

<https://www.thebookdesigner.com/2011/05/top-10-best-guides-for-e-book-authors/>

Jane Friedman – How to Publish an Ebook: Resources for Authors

<https://www.janefriedman.com/how-to-publish-an-ebook/>

E-book conversion

http://wiki.mobilerread.com/wiki/E-book_conversion

This is a long list of resource divided not just by topic, but also by platform.

Helpful websites

Creative Commons

<http://www.creativecommons.org>

This is the home of the Creative Commons rights and descriptions.

E-bay e-product policies

<http://pages.ebay.com/help/policies/downloadable.html>

Can e-books be sold on Ebay? Ebay has specific policies for selling e-products.

HTML help

EPUB eBooks Tutorial

<http://www.jedisaber.com/eBooks/formatsource.shtml>

W3Schools

<http://www.w3schools.com/html/>

HTML Dog

<http://htmldog.com/guides/html/beginner/>

A Simple Guide to HTML Cheat Sheet

<http://www.simplehtmlguide.com/cheatsheet.php>

Clean Up Your Ebook Files With HTML

<http://blog.janicehardy.com/2014/08/clean-up-your-ebook-files-with-html.html>

Word help

Style Basics

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/style-basics-in-word-HA010230882.aspx>

How to Use Microsoft Word Styles (tutorial)

<http://www.word-tips.com/microsoft-word-styles/>

Word Learning Zone – Microsoft Word: Styles (YouTube)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Xq_DVYxMOo

Password protect Microsoft office files

<https://its.uark.edu/help/ta/217.php>

Interesting articles

10 Formatting Tips for Nook (EPUB)

<http://bentrubewriter.wordpress.com/2013/07/11/10-formatting-tips-for-the-nook-epub/>

10 Things to Consider When Pricing E-books

<http://thewritethought.com/blog/index.php/2011/08/27/10-things-to-consider-when-pricing-e-books/>

10 Questions to Ask Before Committing to Any E-Publishing Service

<http://janefriedman.com/2012/02/10/10-questions-epublishing/>

Can Ebook Data Reveal New Viral Catalysts to Spur Reader Word-of-Mouth?

<http://blog.smashwords.com/2012/04/can-ebook-data-reveal-new-viral.html>

Checking ebooks

<http://electricbookworks.com/kb/simple-ebook-operational-issues/checking-ebooks/>

Comparison of e-book formats

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_formats

Digital Rights Management and Privacy

<https://epic.org/privacy/drm/>

DRM

<https://www.eff.org/issues/drm>

eBook Quality and How to Avoid a Kindle Refund

<http://www.sellbox.com/ebook-quality-and-how-to-avoid-a-kindle-refund/>

How much should an ebook cost?

<http://www.thedominoproject.com/?p=1986>

How to become an ebook superstar

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jun/06/become-an-ebook-superstar>

How to self-publish an ebook

<http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-self-publish-an-ebook/>

Marketing a self-published e-book

<http://electricbookworks.com/kb/self-publishing/self-publishing-ebooks/marketing-a-self-published-ebook/>

Sound effects for e-books

<http://janefriedman.com/2014/06/27/create-first-booktrack-get-2000-new-readers/>

Take Pride in Your eBook Formatting

<http://guidohenkel.com/2010/12/take-pride-in-your-ebook-formatting/>

The Pros and Cons of DRM

<http://thefutureofink.com/pros-and-cons-of-drm/>

The pros, cons, and future of DRM

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/the-pros-cons-and-future-of-drm-1.785237>