

Back to Front - Information for Authors

We are able to publish books of the following types:

Minimum number of pages: 48

Maximum number of pages: 500

Black and white or halftone internal illustrations

From August 2006, colour illustrations are possible

Full colour covers

Three methods of publishing are possible:

1) Scanning. If you have a copy of a book previously published, in good condition, this can be scanned into the printer's system, and reproduced from there using Print On Demand. This requires that you have full rights to all aspects of the book: author's rights, print layout rights, and if you wish to use the original cover, the illustrator's permission. Warning – rights to the print layout belong to the publisher in perpetuity, even if rights for the book itself have reverted to the author. We cannot scan a book without permission from the original publisher. However, see (3) below!

2) Typesetting can be done by Back To Front from your input (preferably in electronic format, such as a Word document). We are also able, at an additional cost, to recover text from a scanned book and re-typset it to avoid contravening the layout rights as described above.

3) New! We can now scan in a book and recover the text, and then re-typeset the interior of the book. This avoids the problem of requiring the print layout rights from the original publisher. It also ensures a higher quality end product.

How we work with authors

Back To Front provides a publishing service only. This means that we prepare a book for printing, we obtain an ISBN number, and we catalogue the book and provide copies for the British Library if not previously published.

Our books are available through our own secure website shopping cart, and also from any high street bookshop or from any Web seller, such as Amazon. They are ordered through the wholesalers: Gardeners or Bertrams in the usual way. At that point, the requested number of books is printed, even if it is just one, and it is dispatched to the bookshop.

Authors can order copies of their own books to sell for themselves, for example at school visits. These are ordered direct through Back To Front, and the books are delivered to you at any requested address. Books should be received in 3 – 5 days. This provides you with a higher profit per book than selling through bookshops.

All profits (after covering the cost of publishing) are shared 50:50 between the author and Back To Front.

Specifications for print-on-demand books

Black and white interior content (half-tones possible – from August 2006 we can also reproduce colour interiors, although the permission of the artist must first be obtained)
Maximum footprint of text on page is 5.5" x 10.5"

Bulk between 108 to 740 pages with total page count divisible by 4

We can handle books with page extents between 48 and 108 pages, but at present only in two trim sizes: 229 x 152 mm or 280 x 210 mm

Trade paperbacks come with full colour covers and are available in seven trim sizes:

5" x 8"

5.5" x 8.5"

6" x 9"

6.14" x 9.21"

7.44" x 9.69"

7.5" x 9.25"

8.25" x 11"

Our printer uses a high quality, acid-free, book-grade opaque paper stock. All books with trim sizes of 6" x 9" or smaller are printed on a 55# natural shade opaque. Larger books are printed on a 50# white. Paperback covers are printed on a bright white 80# cover stock.

For more details contact:
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