

# Resources to help authors

Steve Burt, Amazon Create Space class, Lifelong Learning College, January 26, 2016  
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The **Amazon Author page** is your public face. It's free, so keep it interesting and up-to-date.

**Amazon Advantage** is for small publishers who have non-Create Space books to list and sell on Amazon.

**www.selfpubbookcovers.com** is one of many sites that offer low-cost professionally designed book covers (\$50-\$150). Great option if you don't like the choices available with Create Space. You can buy these and put them into Create Space Cover Creator for your book's cover.

**Kindle ebooks**—set up KDP account free and upload a manuscript to Kindle software, add cover, publish. Or you can do the Create Space print version and have the system convert to a Kindle, too. Need to set up and manage Kindle account.

**ACX.com** is Audiobook Creation Exchange—a match.com for writers and voice artists. You can split royalties and end up with a free recorded version of your book. ACX makes downloadable audiobooks and supplies Audible, Amazon, and iTunes.

**Discmakers.com** if you want a physical product (DVD) in quantity.

**Organizations and associations (dues \$50-\$100 year)** may offer membership, awards, markets, contests, message boards, networking, pro tips, library databases.

Writers League of The Villages \$15 yr dues (WLOV website)

FAPA Florida Authors and Publishers Association [www.floridapublishersassociation.com](http://www.floridapublishersassociation.com)

FWA Florida Writers Association [www.fwa.org](http://www.fwa.org) (or is it .com? Do a search.)

International Thriller Writers [www.thrillerwriters.org](http://www.thrillerwriters.org)

MWA Mystery Writers of America

SINC Sisters in Crime [www.sistersincrime.org](http://www.sistersincrime.org)

HWA Horror Writers Association [www.horror.org](http://www.horror.org)

RWA Romance Writers of America [www.rwa.org](http://www.rwa.org)

SCBWI Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators [www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org)

Independent Book Publishers Association [www.ibpa-online.org](http://www.ibpa-online.org)

## Helpful Books

Complete Idiots Guide to ... Whatever the Topic Is

Whatever the Topic ... for Dummies

Writer's Digest Books [www.writersdigestshop.com](http://www.writersdigestshop.com)

Writer's Market 2016 (annually updated) and [www.WritersMarket.com](http://www.WritersMarket.com)

**www.SteveBurtBooks.com**

**For The Business End of Publishing and Bookselling**

Credit cards [www.Square.com](http://www.Square.com) card reader to use on iPhone, iPad, or Smartphone

Apple has something similar

Sales tax (states with sales tax—FL yes, MA and ME and VT yes, NH no) have their own sites This is required if you yourself sell books at retail (not for those sold through the Create Space system, but it would apply to those you buy at Publisher cost and sell at a conference or craft show)

[www.VistaPrint.com](http://www.VistaPrint.com) for self-design of posters, banners, literature and business cards

[www.uberprints.com](http://www.uberprints.com) self-designed clothing, caps, etc.

For bags, ribbons, shipping materials: [www.bagsandbows.com](http://www.bagsandbows.com), [www.uline.com](http://www.uline.com), [www.quill.com](http://www.quill.com), [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com)

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**Professional Resource People** (you pay them for their expertise)

[www.bookshep.com](http://www.bookshep.com) Book Shepherd Ellen Reid helps authors through the entire process (not cheap, but good)

[www.LarenBright.com](http://www.LarenBright.com) outstanding copywriter for cover copy, brochures, anything to do with words. Emmy-nominated writer for Hanna Barbera.

[www.Albertinebookdesign.com](http://www.Albertinebookdesign.com) Dotti Albertine is an award-winning cover (and interior) book designer (not cheap but good, and always backed up with clients)

[www.FatCow.com](http://www.FatCow.com) for reasonable self-design website (many others out there, too)

[www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) for a free blog you set up using one of their templates (others out there, too)

**Offset and Digital short-run printing houses** (if you need 500 to 5000 copies and want to cut your Create Space printing cost in half with a quantity order that you have a market for)

Sheridan Books (hardcover and paperback)

United Graphics (paperback), Mattoon, IL

Sir Speedy in Whittier, California (fast turnaround on digital runs, this Sir Speedy isn't just a copy center but is set up to crank out the books)

Bookmasters (Ohio)

More printers in the IBPA magazine or on website (listed above)