

# How do I get a printed copy of my book?

To get a printed copy of your book, there are several print-on-demand ("POD") services around.

## Print On Demand

1. You upload your book's content and cover to a POD service. Some allow you to upload a Word document and/or create a cover online
2. You can order as many copies as you like. Generally you need to order at least one "proof copy"
3. Your book is optionally distributed to Amazon and other vendors. You can also keep it private/for personal use
4. Readers can order a copy from Amazon (or elsewhere), and one is printed and sent to them
5. 6. POD services either charge a "distribution fee" per book sold to a customer or a flat upfront cost

## Ingram Spark

Generally regarded as the most professional option  
It has the widest worldwide distribution and lower bulk costs

It usually involves a set-up fee for new novels (\$49 + \$25 for revisions to live titles)

The process is typically harder: you need to have "print ready" files

**Distribution fee:** varies

## Lulu.com

Lulu.com offers "wizards" that let you create your cover online

You can sell your book directly from Lulu as well as other vendors like Amazon

Lulu uses local printing presses in several countries

**Distribution fee:** 50-65% of list price

## Advantages of POD

1. Minimal upfront cost (from \$5)
2. You can easily make changes to your content or cover
3. Readers can order your book from anywhere, often with local postage if local printing presses are used

## Amazon KDP Print

This used to be called CreateSpace and offers the same Cover Creator tool

There's no hardcover option

It uses local printing presses in the US, UK and Europe

**Distribution fee:** 40% Amazon, 60% for others

## Disadvantages of POD

1. No economy of scale: each copy costs more than printing in bulk
2. Quality can vary between different printers and print runs
3. There may be fewer paper type and size options depending on service

## BookBaby

Offers publishing packages including cover design

Higher upfront cost (from \$99 to distribute only on BookBaby or \$39 for a single personal proof copy)

It uses local printing presses in the US, UK and Europe

**Distribution fee:** flat fee of \$399 per title

## ANY PRINT-ON-DEMAND BOOK CAN BE LISTED ON AMAZON

You do not need to use Amazon's print-on-demand service to sell your book on Amazon