

Review of “Make Your Book: The Author’s and Writer’s Workbook”

As an author, I frequently hear variations of the following: “I’d love to publish a book, but I don’t know where to start – it’s all so confusing.” This is where Alexis Aronis’s new work comes to the rescue. In *Make Your Book: The Author’s and Writer’s Workbook*, Aronis walks the neophyte author through almost every major decision that they will face in designing their book.

Alexis Aronis does more than simply tell the reader what format to use, he supports his assertions with research done within Amazon’s many titles. Aronis follows the scientific method to look at bestsellers, and uses his findings to narrow down a range of suitable trim sizes. From trim size, the author moves to the all-important area of reviews. He provides guidelines for interacting with potential reviewers and underlines the critical importance of reviews in the book launch process, something that few “how-to” guides will address. From there, Aronis goes on to discuss and explain the most useful features of Word and precisely how to use them to design an attractive, consistent document for your book. He includes little-discussed features such as “indexing” as well as using “track changes” to collaborate with editors. As someone who provides editing services, I particularly appreciated that part!

The author also discusses the creation of book covers in PowerPoint, an easy solution that few authors might otherwise consider. His overview of the basics of using “objects” is concise, yet provides enough information to allow readers to create their own attractive book covers.

This book is thoroughly researched and it shows. It’s primarily concerned with elements of book design, and would be especially useful for beginning authors of non-fiction who self-publish, particularly those whose books contain numerous diagrams.

The *Workbook* is logically structured, attractively laid out, and the index makes it easy to find what you’re looking for. It includes many links to valuable resources such as online design tools, as well as exercises that allow writers to hone their approaches to writing and publishing. It focuses equally on obtaining impressive results in paperback and ebook formats. While some may consider this book long, the length is not cumbersome because many pages are devoted to the graphics which support and illustrate the text.

In conclusion, this well-researched tome will serve as an invaluable tool, particularly for those authors endeavoring to publish a non-fiction book with its attendant greater degree of complexity. From trim size to covers, fonts to indexes, *Make Your Book: The Author’s and Writer’s Workbook* will guide you, step by step, in creating the most organized and attractive book possible.

Merwie Garzon, bestselling author of the *Blaze of Glory* trilogy