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Publishing Options:
Traditional Publishing, Print on Demand, and Ebook

See also "Notes on Self-Publishing" and *Step-by-Step Kindle Publishing*

	Traditional publisher	Print on Demand (Amazon CreateSpace)	Ebook (Amazon Kindle)
Editing MS before setting text	Editor paid to do it, no cost to you	You find and pay editor(s)	You find and pay editor(s)
Control of text	Between you and publisher: they can refuse to print what they disapprove of or think won't sell	You, although Amazon will reject plagiarism or pornography	You, although Amazon will reject plagiarism or pornography
Illustrations	Number and quality limited due to cost of printing and cost of high-res images	Can't print high-quality images via print on demand; requires ordering a couple thousand copies from an offset printer, probably at a cost of several thousand dollars	As many as will fit in a 50MB file; however, Amazon reduces resolution during conversion to ebook format, and the quality the reader sees will be limited by his screen or monitor
Permissions for photos and text	Author usually pays	Author pays	Author pays
Time for laying out book	Weeks or months: usually a joint effort among author, editor, designer	A few days	A few hours
Time from manuscript to bookstore	Typically 1 year	Typically 1 week, if you want to proof a hard copy	1 day
Marketing	Publisher will probably send out review copies; unless you're famous, publisher won't sponsor book tours, full-page ads, etc.	Your responsibility	Your responsibility
Royalties	5-10%	Profit depends on price you set vs. production cost	70% less delivery cost, or 35% without deductions
Profit on a $20 book	$1-$2, less 15% commission if an agent found the traditional publisher for you	$5 or so (depending on production cost)	$7 (=35% because Amazon Kindle only allows 70% royalty on books priced at $2.99-$9.99)
Who collects payments	Publisher	Amazon	Amazon
When you get paid	Often annually	Monthly (with a lag of 1-2 months)	Monthly (with a lag of 1-2 months)
Revisions	In next print edition, if book sells well enough	Revisions reviewed within a day; will apply to all copies printed from that point on	Within a day; purchasers can upgrade to revised text