# Publishing Terms Dictionary

*Plain definitions for the words you will hear along the way.*

CONTENTS

Understanding The Language Of Publishing 1
Agent 1
Advance 1
Book Proposal 2
Manuscript 2
Publisher 2
Query Letter 2
Rights 2
Royalties 2
Submission 2
Traditional Publishing 2
Independent Publishing 3
Hybrid Publishing 3
Publishing Terms Dictionary 3
Return to The Harbor 3

## Understanding The Language Of Publishing

The publishing world has its own language. Understanding common terms helps authors make informed decisions and ask better questions.

## Agent

A professional representative who helps authors navigate publishing opportunities and relationships.

## Advance

A payment a publisher may provide to an author before royalties are earned.

## Book Proposal

A document that presents a nonfiction book idea, often including:

- Book overview
- Audience
- Author background
- Market information
- Chapter summaries

## Manuscript

The written version of a book before publication.

## Publisher

A company that produces, publishes, and distributes books.

## Query Letter

A professional introduction used to present a book project to agents or publishers.

## Rights

The legal permissions connected to how a creative work may be used, published, or distributed.

## Royalties

Payments an author may receive based on sales or use of a published work.

## Submission

The process of sending a manuscript or publishing materials for consideration.

## Traditional Publishing

A publishing path where an author partners with a publishing company that selects and invests in a project.

## Independent Publishing

A publishing path where an author takes a more active role in bringing their work into the world.

## Hybrid Publishing

A publishing approach that combines elements of independent publishing and professional publishing support.

## Publishing Terms Dictionary

Publishing language should help authors feel informed, not overwhelmed. The Harbor exists to help you understand your options and discover your next step.

## Return to The Harbor

When the words start to make sense, the Publishing Path ticket at Harbor Station is a good next stop.

**Open this Library guide >**

**Visit the Library >**

*Your notes (editable in a PDF reader that supports forms)*

*Every story has a different journey. When you are ready for personal guidance, The Harbor is here to help you discover your next step. Your PDF notes stay in this personal copy.*