



# Working with Indie Authors

## Useful links for indie authors

- [Artslaw copyright information](#)
- [Artslaw Contract review](#)
- [Writers Beware](#) – lists publishers who are known scammers:

## Self-publishing assistance

- [IndieMosh](#)
- [Busybird Publishing](#)

## Where to connect with indie authors

- Facebook group: [AABE – Ask a book editor](#)
- Facebook group: [AABE – Help wanted](#)
- Facebook group: [Secret Editors' Business – need editor – need work](#)
- Facebook group: [EAE \(Editors Around the Earth\) group](#)
- Writers groups: Facebook, libraries, neighbourhood houses
- Website: use quality SEO words and keep your content fresh (blogs)
- IPEd listing
- Writers Centres: directory listings
- Networking: keep your face present by helping others, learning and answering questions
- Writing competitions: join in and connect with writers

## How to quote jobs

- Ask what stage the work is at: has it been edited and by who
- Ask to see the manuscript: look further than first few pages, which are likely to be polished
- Suggest a beta read or assessment first: helps both yourself and the client determine the state of the manuscript, plus an assessment offers developmental advice
- Offer a sample edit to see if you fit the job: can be free but I charge \$50 per 1000 words
- Keep track of all your jobs to work out your average speed and rate over time
- Quote a price range, rather than a fixed price: covers you for the unexpected
- Always take a deposit: I take 50% up front then the remainder *before* returning the edit
- Touch base with your clients regularly: keeps clients happy without bothering you
- Have strong, clear barriers for your time and expertise: no after-hours communication



## **Over-delivering on education**

I love to educate so I nearly always over-deliver. But I've learnt to value my time by:

- Only leaving comments and explanations on repetitive issues on the first 2–3 chapters, then just I fix the issue or comment for the author to fix it
- Use autotext for repetitive comments
- Keep track of your time: Toggl is free. Helps you keep to schedule and work out your overall rate. This helps with estimations on future jobs
- Offering a coaching service (an intensive, educational edit) on the first 5,000 words only

## **Sensitivity, plagiarism, copyright material**

- Sensitivity: do workshops to educate yourself, keep abreast of editor FB discussions and advice
- Plagiarism: be upfront but use 'soft' language: perhaps, maybe, didn't realise
- Copyright: more direct, send to [ArtsLaw](#) website

## **A niche makes good business sense**

- Make your niche area clear on your website and socials
- Let other editors know your specialisations
- Hang around editors and writers FB groups or forums to offer advice and get your name known
- Keep a list of editors you can refer work to and who can refer work back to you
- If you don't yet know your niche, give it time to learn your own strengths and interests