



begin-a-book

Begin-a-Book's ISBN Code Tips



begin-a-book

What you need to know

www.beginabook.com

info@beginabook.com

What are ISBN codes? - They are a 10 digit (up until 2007) and now 13 digit code which helps to identify your book. Think of it as a unique serial number which is essential for getting your book published. Most publishers will want you to have one.

What do they do? - Essentially they help databases and publishers to identify and find your book amongst large libraries. This is useful for monitoring and stock control purposes and to further identify who has published the book - even if you're self-publishing.

Where can you get hold of one? - It depends on your location as there will likely be an ISBN office that issues codes specific to your country. As Begin-A-Book is a business based in the United Kingdom we can only give you advice on where to get a hold of ISBN numbers here. You can head to <https://www.nielsenisbnstore.com> to find out more if you live in the United Kingdom or overseas British territories.

How much do they cost?- From the Nielsen website they cost around £80-£90 per code (2021 prices), with discounts on the more you purchase. You need one code per title and a different one for the eBook and paperback versions. They are less common on eBooks but can be used for these too.

Do you need an ISBN code? - ISBN codes are not enforced by law on books (in the UK) and therefore, legally, you do not require one. However they are highly recommended as it can be a great way for shops and buyers to locate and order your book, especially if you're self-publishing.

When are ISBN codes recommended? - Typically they are recommended for any creative writing work that you want published such as any books or e-books (including non-fiction). However, writing work such as blogs, newspapers, magazines or any form of journalism do not require ISBN codes.

For more information, please see:

<https://www.nielsenisbnstore.com/Home/FAQNew>
