

Advice for aspiring authors:

What are you writing/have you written?

Once you know which genre you are writing for (biography, children's, fiction etc), spend a good amount of time in your local bookshop (or library) assessing the type of book on offer in your category. Consider subject matter, jacket design, market saturation (are there already several books on your subject...?).

Be your own harshest critic. Read other, recently published, books in your subject area.

Why do you want to publish and how?

- Self publish for friends and family
- Publish for online only
- Publish for the mainstream with a conventional mainstream publisher

For all of these categories, your best source of information is the Writers & Artists Yearbook or the Children's Writers & Artists Yearbook. This is the bible of information about everything from literary agents to publishers and everything in between. It can usually be found in your local library or bookshop.

<https://www.writersandartists.co.uk/store/9781472947512/writers-artists-yearbook-2020>

Unfortunately, as booksellers, we have a huge amount of pressure on our reading time – from current publishing, reading for author events and book group. I'm afraid that we can't therefore, promise to read unpublished manuscripts.

Best of luck!