

Formatting Software Resource List 2025

This is not an exhaustive list, but these are some of the most common software and apps used by indie- and self-publishers.

Atticus: <https://www.atticus.io/>

- Windows | Mac | Linux | Chromebook
- Print and ebook
- Optional: write directly in the program
- Uses Design Themes to choose your overall layout
- Wide collection of customizable font choices
- Cost \$147 +tax

Affinity Publisher: <https://affinity.serif.com/en-us/publisher/>

- Windows | Mac | iPad
- Print
- Fully customizable design (similar to InDesign) program
- Learning curve
- Cost \$70 - \$165 (this price point for the three-program package)

Adobe InDesign: <https://www.adobe.com/products/indesign.html>

- Windows | Mac
- Print
- Fully customizable design program
- Learning curve
- Cost \$22.99/mo (1-yr subscription) OR \$34.49/mo cancel anytime

Microsoft Word: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/word>

- Windows | Mac
- Can create PDFs for paperback as well as more complicated file packages for ebook (but I don't recommend this for beginners. There are too many easier & better options)
- Good for initial writing & more complicated for book publishing formatting
- Cost **Free** - \$150/year (subscription)

Scrivener: <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/overview>

- Windows | Mac
- Write and format directly in the program or import files
- Can create print and ebook files
- No templates, steep learning curve
- Cost \$60 +tax

Kindle Create: <https://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Create/b?ie=UTF8&node=18292298011>

- Windows | Mac
- Print and Kindle ebooks (KPF ebook file type does not work elsewhere)
- Uses Design Themes/Templates
- Cost **Free**

Draft2Digital: <https://draft2digital.com/>

- Web-based software
- Print & ebooks
- Preformatted PDFs converted to ebook (*requires a Word processing software)
- Also a distribution channel hub
- Cost **Free**

Calibre: <https://calibre-ebook.com/>

- Windows | Mac | Linux
- Ebook
- Open-Source ebook creation & reading software
- Cost **Free**

Alternative Word Processors:

Google Docs: <https://www.docs.google.com>

- Web-based software
- Print
- Cost **Free**

Apache OpenOffice: <https://www.openoffice.org/>

- Windows | Mac | Linux
- Print
- Cost **Free**

LibreOffice: <https://www.libreoffice.org/>

- Windows | Mac | Linux
- Print
- Cost **Free**

Add-on for MS Word:

Atlantis Word Processor: <https://www.atlantiswordprocessor.com/en/>

- Windows
- Don't know many other details, but was recommended by a self-publisher
- Cost \$35 - \$49

MAC-only Options

Vellum: <https://vellum.pub/>

- Mac only
- Originally designed for ebook formatting but now has paperback option
- Uses Design Themes to choose your overall layout
- Limited customizable font choices
- Cost \$200 - 250 +tax

Pages: <https://www.apple.com/ca/pages>

- Mac only
- Print
- Cost **Free with most Apple Products**