

Distribution and Sales in the US

A guide for Canadian publishers
Part 2: Distributions and Sales in the US

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ISBN 978-1-927784-32-7

Published by Livres Canada Books, the national association of the Canadian book publishing industry for promoting export sales.

Prepared for Livres Canada Books by Michael Johnson. While every effort has been made to report information correctly, the publisher assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied by the author, and disclaims any liability for loss or damage caused by errors or omissions. The opinions expressed in this report are those of the author.

Livres Canada Books 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 504 Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7 CANADA

www.livrescanadabooks.com

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund at Canadian Heritage.



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Introduction

This guide, as part of a three-guide report, is intended as an overview of book distribution and sales activity in the United States. We are focused on how publishers get their titles listed and sold. This guide provides information on the physical and digital distribution of books and ebooks within certain key markets. The markets themselves are covered in detail in Part 1: The US Marketplace. The conferences and seminars that support publishing in general and the marketplaces in particular are covered in detail in Part 3.

This guide will cover the main sales and distribution channels in the bookstore, online e-retailer, and library markets. We will discuss the differences between distributors and wholesalers, and provide guidance on how you should work with these various partners.

Some of the firms, such as Baker & Taylor (B&T), cover several market areas, while others, such as Follett Library Resources, are specific to a certain market. This will be explained in detail in each market section.

We will also discuss two particular production options—print-on-demand (POD) and ebooks—that may present easy and efficient entry points for your titles in the various US markets.

Learning about and working with these sales and distribution partners will be the main driver of your success in the United States.