



Author Tax Deductions Checklist

Maximize your publishing business profitability by tracking every deductible operational expense. Use this comprehensive audit ledger to map your annual accounts.

SOFTWARE & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many of the tools authors use every day are legitimate business expenses. If the software is used primarily for your author business, it is often deductible.

- ☐ Writing software (Scrivener, Atticus, Vellum)
- ☐ Editing tools (ProWritingAid, Grammarly)
- ☐ Design software (Photoshop, Canva)
- ☐ Email marketing platforms (Klaviyo, MailerLite, ConvertKit)
- ☐ Website hosting and domain registration
- ☐ Project management software
- ☐ Cloud storage subscriptions

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The people you hire to help produce and market your books are typically deductible business expenses. Always keep clean invoices and receipts for all contracted services.

- ☐ Editors
- ☐ Proofreaders
- ☐ Cover designers
- ☐ Formatters
- ☐ Virtual assistants
- ☐ Advertising consultants
- ☐ Accountants and bookkeepers
- ☐ Website developers

ARC COPIES & REVIEW EXPENSES

Advanced Reader Copies (ARCs) are an essential marketing framework. These expenses are incurred specifically to generate critical reviews and early book awareness.

- ☐ Printed ARC copies
- ☐ Shipping costs
- ☐ Packaging materials
- ☐ Promotional bookmarks and inserts
- ☐ Review copy giveaways

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Marketing is one of the most common and powerful author asset deductions. Maintaining clean logs of direct ad spend throughout the year is essential.

- ☐ Facebook ads
- ☐ Amazon ads
- ☐ BookBub promotions
- ☐ Newsletter swaps
- ☐ Giveaway costs
- ☐ Book fair fees
- ☐ Conference sponsorships
- ☐ Promotional graphics and videos

RESEARCH EXPENSES

Research directly related to your manuscripts may be fully deductible. The expense should have a clear, documented connection to your writing operation.

- ☐ Books purchased for research
- ☐ Historical archives
- ☐ Museum admission fees
- ☐ Research databases
- ☐ Expert consultations
- ☐ Language resources

RESEARCH TRIPS & TRAVEL

Travel becomes deductible when it is primarily for core business purposes. Personal vacation structures generally cannot be wrapped into business deductions.

- ☐ Visiting a book setting for spatial research
- ☐ Attending writing conferences
- ☐ Author conventions & signings
- ☐ Industry networking events
- ☐ Educational workshops
- ☐ Associated Costs: Transportation, Accommodation, Registration fees, and business-related meals

HOME OFFICE EXPENSES

If you regularly work from home, you may qualify for a structural deduction. The workspace typically needs to be used regularly and primarily for operational corporate activities.

- ☐ A percentage of rent or mortgage interest
- ☐ Property taxes (where locally permitted)
- ☐ Utilities & Home insurance
- ☐ Internet service infrastructure
- ☐ Maintenance costs

EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Authors invest heavily in their technical hardware. Depending on regional tax systems, these may be deducted immediately or depreciated over a multi-year period.

- ☐ Computers & Main working laptops
- ☐ Monitors & External displays
- ☐ Printers & Ink supplies
- ☐ Cameras & Microphones (Promotions/Audio podcasts)
- ☐ Audiobook recording equipment
- ☐ Tablets and e-readers used for editing and market research

BOOKS, COURSES & EDUCATION

Investing in your professional development qualifies directly as an operational expense. The training must relate explicitly to improving or maintaining your current author corporation.

- ☐ Writing courses & plot design workshops
- ☐ Marketing & Advertising courses
- ☐ Publishing workshops & industry conferences
- ☐ Business coaching & executive consulting
- ☐ Educational books & reference manuals

STRATEGIC ACCOUNTING NOTE

This checklist serves as an internal operational ledger for asset tracking. Always consult with a certified CPA or tax specialist in your specific geographical region to align your logged deductions with current corporate and local self-employment compliance frameworks.