



# Write Your Own Success

AN XLIBRIS BOOK MARKETING GUIDE

**Xlibris**

# From Your Imagination to Your Reader's Hands

What started as an idea in your head has finally become a published book. But your writing journey isn't over yet. With the right kind of marketing and publicity, you have a better chance extending the reach of your book into the hands of readers.

## A Collaborative Approach to Marketing Your Book

Xlibris has simplified the process of book promotion, providing a comprehensive solution for authors by bringing together a range of services under one roof.

### WE PROVIDE THE RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE. YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Marketing your book can be as fun and creative as the actual process of writing it—if you have the right attitude and approach. Your thoughtful input, combined with our expertise and experience, can give you a platform for sharing your book's message and achieving your own version of success.

### GETTING STARTED

Developing a marketing plan is one of the most important factors in promoting your book successfully. Follow this guide to learn how you can create a strategy to target your ideal readers, distinguish your book from the competition, plan dynamic events, and develop press materials that can grab the attention of media outlets.

To get started, consider the essential elements of an effective marketing plan outlined on the following pages, and then contact an Xlibris Marketing Consultant for help putting your plan into action.



## 3 Phases of a Successful Book Marketing Plan

As with any good book, a good marketing plan has an effective beginning, an engaging middle and a powerful end.

### PHASE ONE:

Ask the important questions.

### PHASE TWO:

Gather your resources.

### PHASE THREE:

Follow through.

# Phase One:

## Ask the important questions.

Take a moment to consider the questions below and write down your answers. Outlining your goals and thoughts on paper is a concrete way to start building your marketing plan.

### WHAT ARE YOUR BOOK MARKETING GOALS?

Identify goals that are observable, measurable and attainable. You may dream of selling a million copies, but that's not a realistic starting goal. Set some targets you can hit, so you can measure progress and celebrate successes.

### WHO ARE YOUR IDEAL READERS?

Develop a clear picture of who your potential readers will be. Your book won't appeal to everyone—and that's OK! Create a prototype of your ideal reader by considering age, gender and other demographics. This will help you to pinpoint the right strategies for reaching them.

### WHAT ARE COMPETING TITLES FOR YOUR BOOK?

Search a bookstore or online for books that might focus on a similar topic or have a similar title to your own. What are these authors doing to compel readers to pick up their books? How can you appeal to readers drawn to books such as these while still making your book stand out?

### HOW CAN YOU POSITION YOURSELF AS AN AUTHOR?

Depending on the genre and topic of your book, you may be able to cite particular experiences, professional accreditations or other compelling factors that lend authority to your status as a writer. This information will come in handy when it comes time to pitch your story to the media.

### WHAT ARE YOUR KEY SELLING POINTS?

When you speak to book buyers, potential readers or media representatives, you want to have clear and compelling reasons why someone should buy your book. This selling sound bite is key to gaining attention of your target audiences.

### WHAT ENDORSEMENTS CAN YOU SECURE?

Having quotes from well-known or respected people can give your book added credibility in the eyes of potential book buyers. Think about who might be willing to endorse your book. With their permission, you could use their quotes on your back cover and in your sales materials.

### HOW WILL YOU UTILIZE THE WEB?

The Internet can be one of the most effective ways to promote a book, and social media has made it easier to establish a presence online. Identify the social network best suited for reaching your intended audience, set up an account and start contributing and connecting with others. It takes effort, but the personal connections and ease of sharing can help you build a fan base. Include your social media information in all your promotional and press materials.

Online blogs allow authors to develop a relationship with readers worldwide. You can post a summary of your book, an author bio, news stories and upcoming events. Some authors use a blog as an extension of their book, offering fans an extended glimpse of their story or topic.

No matter the focus of your blog, your goal is to write interesting, valuable posts that will compel readers to follow your blog and engage with you through commenting and sharing your posts.

# Phase Two: Gather your resources.

With your goals in mind, you can now start to lay the groundwork for the launch of your book.

## DEVELOP YOUR BOOK'S MEDIA HOOK.

Sometimes called the “elevator pitch,” this is the brief speech (brief enough to share with someone during an elevator ride) that you use to get media outlets interested in featuring your book. Above all, make sure your pitch is quick, clear and unique. Writing it down will help you remember it so that you can deliver it at a moment’s notice.

## PLAN YOUR BOOK LAUNCH EVENT.

Generate interest with some grassroots-style promotion of your book. In some cases, an event may help you gain valuable media attention. Be creative in planning and choosing a location. Tie it in to the theme or subject of your book. And don’t forget to have fun—people are more likely to respond to someone who is enthusiastic and inviting.

### MARKETING TIP:

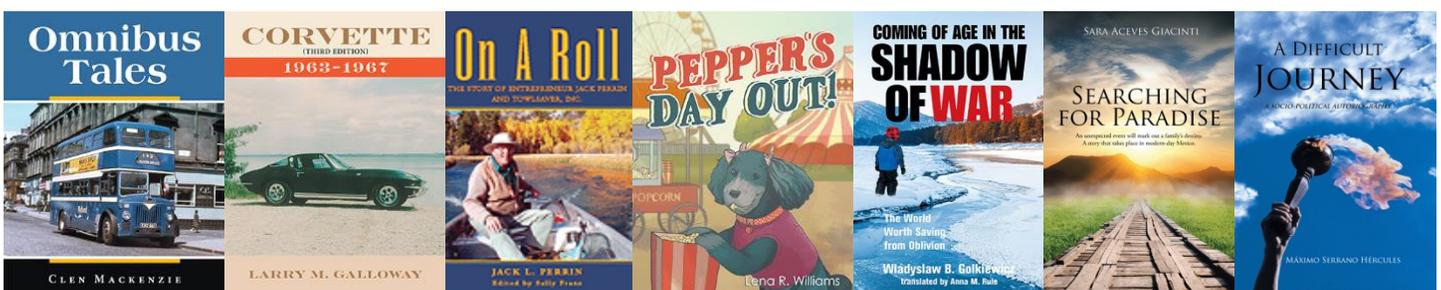
Identify your target audience by thinking critically about what type of people are most likely to buy your book. Are they men or women? Baby boomers or young adults? Narrow your focus for a better chance at reaching the right audience.

## IDENTIFY VENUES FOR BOOK SIGNINGS.

Many local retailers, bookstores and libraries welcome authors who are interested in speaking or holding a book signing, but they want to plan for them in advance. Reach out to members of your community to see if they know of any suitable venues. Once you have a list of possible locations, contact the people in charge to make initial plans; and set a date only after your book is available for purchase.

## COLLECT ANY NECESSARY PRINTED MATERIALS.

Bookmarks, postcards, flyers, business cards and posters will call attention to your book at events and give readers a lasting memento that they can take home. These printed materials are a necessity when your marketing plan includes events like book signings, book readings or speaking engagements.





### ASSEMBLE YOUR MAILING LIST.

Prepare a list of people and media outlets that you'll invite to your book launch, signings and other events. Accommodate for both email and regular mail.

### FINALIZE YOUR MARKETING PLAN, CALENDAR AND BUDGET.

Establish a calendar of your tentative activities for the coming year and consider the investment needed to accomplish those tasks. This will help you stay accountable and reach your goal of connecting with as many readers as possible.

#### MARKETING TIP:

Be sure to finish every media interview by mentioning the title of your book, providing your website address and letting the audience know where they can purchase your book, including online retailers.

### SEND OUT YOUR BOOK LAUNCH INVITATIONS.

When you settle on a time and date and work out the details with the location, send out the invitations to your book event, including local members of the media on your list.

#### MARKETING TIP:

Starting your marketing efforts locally is always a good idea. As you learn what works best, you can adapt and improve your plan appropriately as you gradually expand your efforts into larger markets and nontraditional venues.

# Phase Three: Follow through.

With your plan and resources in place, you can start carrying out the events and actions you've been preparing.

## **HOLD YOUR BOOK LAUNCH EVENT.**

Congratulations! You are a published author. Celebrate that achievement. Have plenty of books on hand to sell and sign (Contact your Xlibris Publishing Book Sales Consultant to help with that.), and make the most of the time you have.

## **SCHEDULE OTHER EVENTS.**

You laid the groundwork in Phase Two. Now follow through using your press materials to finalize a calendar of promotional events. Don't just think locally. As you travel, plan ahead by looking for bookstores or venues that might be interested in having you sign your book.

## **PITCH TO LOCAL AND WEB MEDIA OUTLETS.**

Using the hook you developed in Phase Two, contact local reporters at newspapers and broadcast media (radio, TV) to try to secure stories about your book. Identify websites and bloggers that might be interested in your topic and make a pitch to them as well. National coverage may be one of your goals, but the best place to start is locally; then expand from there.

## **PLAN AND CREATE ADVERTISING WHERE APPROPRIATE.**

Advertising is a way to make readers aware of your book. There are a number of niche publications and websites out there; so no matter how specific your target audience, there's likely to be an advertising opportunity that can reach it. Several impressions may be needed for a reader to be influenced to buy, so you may want to plan on purchasing space for several ads to be featured over an extended period.

## **EVALUATE AND REVISE YOUR PLAN.**

A good marketing plan is flexible. Even the best-laid plans will not go exactly as you expected, so be willing to evaluate results and make adjustments. If something is working, find a way to expand your efforts in that area. If something isn't working, adapt. Learn from experience and make changes as necessary to accomplish your goals.

### **MARKETING TIP:**

When promoting your book to media outlets, always provide an angle that can help reporters and reviewers craft a compelling or entertaining story. The story behind the book often brings readers to the book itself.

# Bringing It All Together

## The Key to a Successful Book Marketing Campaign

Along with having clear goals, the key to book marketing is an integrated approach to your campaign. In other words, combining the right elements based on your book will give you a greater impact than a series of disconnected activities.

This is where Xlibris Publishing can help.

Our comprehensive approach to book marketing is designed to give you the best opportunity for success and help make it easy for you to manage the process.

### Xlibris Marketing Services

You can let us do a little or a lot — depending on your needs and your budget — in the areas that matter most when you need to build awareness and a following as an author.

#### PUBLICITY MARKETING

Promote your book to readers using the powerful reach and scope of the media.

- Publicity Campaigns
- Press Release Campaign

#### INTERNET-BASED MARKETING

Take your promotions to the Web and establish a digital front for your campaign.

- Google Search and Display Marketing
- Social Media Advertising
- eBook Promotions

#### EVENTS

Put your book in front of book fair and festival attendees and industry professionals.

- Miami Book Fair International
- Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
- London Book Fair

#### MULTIMEDIA

Run your campaign on different marketing platforms: radio, TV, video, print ads, and more.

- Radio and TV interviews and advertising
- Online videos
- Advertisements in publications such as *The New York Times Book Review*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Reader's Digest*

*Note: Marketing tools are subject to availability.*

# We Have the Tools & Support to Keep You Moving Forward.

Put your plan into action with help from Xlibris.

To enhance your self-published book's sales potential, you need a marketing plan. Our Xlibris Marketing Consultants can give you advice on which of our marketing services best fits your genre, personal goals, and marketing needs.

Xlibris has the resources to help you and your book gain the publicity and media buzz that you desire. Our rich plethora of marketing services has been put together through years of experience and market observation.

Whether it is newspapers and magazines, the online arena, events, or a mass media strategy combining these channels and more, Xlibris has the depth of knowledge to help your book step into the market.

## Xlibris

**Call your Xlibris Marketing Consultant  
to learn more.**

**844-714-8691 (US)**

**0800 0148620 (UK)**

**1 800 844 927 (AU)**

**0800 008 756 (NZ)**

