



# INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS

Calling all independent authors and publishers! We are proud to announce the 20th annual **Independent Publisher Book Awards**, conducted to honor the year's best independently published titles. Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, we are now accepting entries for books with **2014-2016 copyrights or released between January 1, 2014 and February 27, 2016**. The contest is presented by Jenkins Group and our book marketing website, IndependentPublisher.com, headquartered in Traverse City, Michigan.

The Independent Publisher Book Awards were conceived in 1996 as a **broad-based, unaffiliated awards program open to all members of the independent publishing industry**, and are open to independent authors and publishers worldwide who produce books intended for an English speaking audience. We define “independent” as 1) independently owned and operated; 2) operated by a foundation or university; or 3) long-time independents that became incorporated but operate autonomously and publish fewer than 50 titles a year.

The awards are intended to bring increased recognition to the thousands of exemplary independent, university, and self-published titles published each year. Since the inaugural contest in 1996, over 5,500 books have received “IPPY” Awards, and all the recognition, credibility, and increased sales that a book award can bring. Entry fees range from the early-bird fee of \$75 to \$95 when you enter closer to our final deadline of February 27, 2016. Regional and E-Book category entries are just \$55 when added to a national category entry.

**The IPPY Awards reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing.** Independent spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets and books are judged with that in mind. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to winners in 80 fiction and non-fiction national subject categories, 24 regional categories, and ten E-Book categories.

## NATIONAL / REGIONAL CATEGORIES

National categories are open to all entrants, inside and outside the U.S. There are two new national categories this year: **Cover Design – Fiction** and **Cover Design – Non-Fiction**. Regional IPPYs will be awarded to the Best Fiction and Best Non-Fiction books in eight U.S. regions, two Canadian regions, Australia/New Zealand, and Europe. If your book is written with a regional focus, don't miss this opportunity to extend your exposure and increase your chances of winning an IPPY. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding a regional entry to your national category entry. Note: children's picture books generally don't fare well in these categories.

## E-BOOK CATEGORIES

To acknowledge the growing importance of e-books in our fast-changing business of publishing and bookselling, we've added an e-book division to the IPPY Awards. We do accept e-books in all categories, but we will also present gold, silver and bronze medals in ten e-book categories. Entry fee is just \$55 when adding an e-book entry to a regular print book entry; fees are the same as National category fees when entering an e-book category only. See the list of e-book categories below.

## E-BOOK ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION

We accept e-books in the ten e-book categories and also into our regular subject categories. Once you've entered online, your e-book file must be submitted. They may be submitted electronically in any commonly used format (e.g. .PDF, .MOBI, .EPUB). **You will have the option to upload your e-book after you pay online and in a confirmation email.** Electronic submissions will be erased at the end of the contest, after results are announced. Do not upload Word documents, as these will not be accepted for judging.

## OUTSTANDING BOOKS OF THE YEAR

**All IPPY entry entrants are automatically considered:** For 33 years our mission at *IndependentPublisher.com* has been to recognize and encourage the work of publishers who exhibit the courage and creativity necessary to take chances, break new ground and bring about change, not only to the world of publishing, but to our society, our environment, and our collective spirit. One book in each of the following categories will receive a special award for Outstanding Book of the Year:

**Independent Spirit Award – Independent Voice Award – Most Original Concept  
Most Likely to Save the Planet – Most Outstanding Design – Best Book Arts Craftsmanship  
Peacemaker of the Year – Outstanding E-Book Achievement**

These winning titles may or may not be medalists among the regular 80 national categories or the regional and e-book competitions. No extra effort is needed to enter; they will be chosen from the regular Award entries, nominated by judges during the judging process. Categories are subject to revision.

## 2016 INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS GUIDELINES

### WHO MAY ENTER

Independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout North America and overseas authors and publishers who publish books intended for an English speaking audience. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.

### ELIGIBILITY

Books released between Jan. 1, 2014 and February 27, 2016, or with 2014-2016 copyrights, are eligible. Publishers are to select the category and/or region (see category list) in which the book(s) should be judged. Regional entries do best when their subject matter reflects the region in which they're entered. In other words, a book by an author from Quebec writing about a murder in Maine will do best in the North-East U.S. region. Make your decision on whether a book sells best at a regional level, and which region it sells in.

Submission for more than one category is acceptable, but each requires a fee. **Submit one copy of the title per category and per region.** For example, when you enter two categories and one regional competition, please send three books. You will have the option to upload electronic submissions after you pay online and in a confirmation email. All books entered become the physical property of Jenkins Group and will eventually be donated to libraries and charities. E-book files are deleted after the results announcements are made.

### ENTRY FEES

Per title, per category – see “Early-bird” entry fee schedule on order form. Please include completed entry form or online registration receipt in the same package as the books. When entering a title into more than one category, please pay a fee and send a copy of the book for each category entered. Multiple entries can be sent in one package, and entry fees paid by check or money order can be combined into one check amount.

**Note: Due to new banking policies, we only accept personal checks from outside the United States that are drawn from a U.S. currency account and have U.S. DOLLARS permanently printed on the check or money order.**

### WHAT TO SEND

Send one copy of the book for each category entered, with the entry form or online receipt tucked inside the front cover. Judges only get to see the book itself, so please don't send press kits, reviews, bookmarks, etc. as they will be discarded.

### JUDGING PROCESS

Judging will be based on quality of content, originality, design, and production with emphasis on innovation and social relevance. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of editing, design, reviewing, bookselling and library.

### MEDAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Three to five medalists per category will be named on about April 7th; medals to be presented during an awards ceremony in Chicago, on the eve of the BookExpo America convention (date TBA). All medalists and one guest may attend the awards ceremony at no charge; additional guests for a fee. Those not attending will receive medalist packets by mail.

## DEADLINES

Early-bird deadlines in September and December are designed to encourage early entries (see schedule on order form). All entries must be posted online or postmarked by the final deadline of February 27, 2016. We will confirm your entry via email and send periodic updates about judging and results announcement. Please make sure we are on your “white list” of email contacts so we stay in touch throughout the awards process.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Each announced medal-winning book will receive a gold, silver or bronze medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 foil seals. Related publicity includes the awards event, a print and online advertising campaign (in 2014 and 2015 ads ran at Shelf Awareness), and year-long exposure at IndependentPublisher.com.

## NATIONAL CATEGORIES

1. Fine Art
2. Performing Arts  
(Music/Dance/Cinema/Theater)
3. Photography
4. Architecture
5. Contemporary Fiction
6. Literary Fiction
7. Short Story Fiction
8. Anthologies
9. Juvenile Fiction
10. Young Adult Fiction
11. Fantasy
12. Science Fiction
13. Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction
14. Historical Fiction
15. Military/Wartime Fiction
16. Horror
17. Multicultural Fiction
18. Multicultural Fiction – Juv-Young Adult
19. Mystery/Cozy/Noir
20. Suspense/Thriller
21. Religious Fiction
22. Romance
23. True Crime
24. Urban Fiction
25. Visionary Fiction
26. Children’s Picture Books (7 & Under)
27. Children’s Picture Books (All ages)
28. Children’s Interactive  
(Activity, Audio, CDRom, etc.)
29. Juvenile-Young Adult Non-Fiction
30. Multicultural N-F Juv-Young Adult
31. Multicultural Non-Fiction Adult
32. Essay/Creative Non-Fiction
33. Autobiography/Memoir I  
(Celebrity/Political/Romance)
34. Autobiography/Memoir II (Coming of Age/  
Family Legacy/Travel)
35. Autobiography/Memoir III (Personal  
Struggle/Health Issues)
36. Biography
37. Aging/Death & Dying
38. Animals/Pets
39. Business/Career/Sales
40. Coffee Table Books
41. Cookbooks - General
42. Cookbooks – Nutritional/Vegetarian
43. Current Events I (Politics/Economic/Foreign Affairs)
44. Current Events II (Social Issues/Humanitarian)
45. Education I (Workbook/Resource)
46. Education II (Commentary/Theory)
47. Environment/Ecology/Nature
48. Erotica
49. Finance/Investment/Economics
50. Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Non-Fiction
51. Gift/Specialty/Journal
52. Holiday
53. Health/Medicine/Nutrition
54. Graphic Novel/Drawn Book – Humor/Cartoon
55. Graphic Novel/Drawn Book –  
Drama/Documentary
56. History (U.S.)
57. History (World)
58. Home & Garden
59. How-To (Crafts/Hobby/Industrial Arts)
60. Humor
61. Inspirational/Spiritual
62. New Age/Mind-Body-Spirit
63. Parenting
64. Poetry
65. Popular Culture
66. Psychology/Mental Health
67. Sports/Fitness/Recreation
68. Reference
69. Religion (Eastern/Western)
70. Science
71. Self Help
72. Sexuality/Relationships
73. Transportation (Auto/Aviation/Railroad, etc.)
74. Travel – Essay
75. Travel - Guide-book
76. Women’s Issues
77. Writing/Publishing
78. Book/Author/Publisher Website
79. Cover Design – Fiction
80. Cover Design – Non-Fiction

## EBOOK CATEGORIES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| E1. Best Adult Fiction E-Book                   | E7. Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction E-Book                      |
| E2. Best Romance/Erotica E-Book                 | E8. Best Children's Illustrated E-Book                       |
| E3. Best Mystery/Thriller E-Book                | E9. Best Regional E-Book: East (of the Mississippi + Europe) |
| E4. Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror E-Book           | E10. Best Regional E-Book: West (includes Aus/NZ)            |
| E5. Best Adult Non-Fiction Personal E-Book      |  |
| E6. Best Adult Non-Fiction Informational E-Book |  |

## 2016 REGIONAL COMPETITION CATEGORIES & REGIONS

**NE** (North-East) ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY  
**MA** (Mid-Atlantic) PA, WV, VA, DE, MD, DC, NJ  
**SE** (South-East) KY, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL (plus territories of PR and USVI)  
**S** (South) MS, LA, AR, TX, TN  
**GL** (Great Lakes) OH, MI, IN, IL, WI  
**MW** (Mid-West) MN, IA, MO, OK, KS, NE, SD, ND  
**WM** (West-Mountain) MT, WY, ID, UT, CO, NM, AZ, NV  
**WP** (West-Pacific) CA, OR, WA, HI, AK  
**CE** (Canada-East) ON, QB, NF, NB, NS, PE, Nunavut  
**CW** (Canada-West) BC, AB, SK, MB, NW Territory, Yukon  
**AUS** (Australia, New Zealand)  
**EURO** (All of Europe including UK, Scandinavia and all other islands)

### **Regional entries on the entry form:**

Please use the initials of your region, plus the number 1 for fiction and 2 for non-fiction on the entry form below. Example: a fiction book from Florida is SE1; a non-fiction book from Quebec is CE2.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who Enters the IPPY Awards?**

All independent publishers are eligible, ranging from self-published authors to major university presses. About 2,500 publishers participate in the Awards each year, from every U.S. state, Canada, and English-speaking countries overseas. The 2015 IPPY Awards attracted 5,800 total entries; winners came from 44 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, six Canadian provinces, and ten countries overseas.

### **Are Awards Programs Worth the Money and Effort?**

Entering your titles in awards programs does take time, money, and effort, but the pay-offs include increased visibility, credibility, P.R. value, personal satisfaction, and prestige. Awards are a great morale boost for all those involved, and they influence reviewers and buyers. An award seals on a book's cover increases retail sales.

### **What sets the IPPY Awards Apart?**

IPPY Award entrants have four ways to win: the National, Regional, E-book and Outstanding Books of the Year (which all entrants are considered for with no extra fee). Award winners appear for an entire year on our website, [www.IndependentPublisher.com](http://www.IndependentPublisher.com), and are featured prominently in feature stories in our monthly newsletter, which goes out monthly to over 15,000 subscribers worldwide, many of whom are agents, buyers, and librarians.

### **If I enter the Awards online, how do you judge my books?**

We designed the online entry system to make entering the IPPY Awards more convenient, but you still have to ship the books to us. We suggest (but don't require) that you send a trackable package so you can confirm delivery of your entry. Please include the online entry receipt or completed entry form with the book, or a note listing contact and category information. We do send confirmation by email when your entry is received and processed.

### **Do the judges read every book from cover to cover?**

Book awards judges are very good at assessing a book's quality, much as a buyer at a bookstore or library determines whether or not to purchase. The further a book makes it into the judging process, especially in fiction categories, the more likely it will be read completely.

Any other questions? Send an email to Jim Barnes, Awards Director - [jimb@bookpublishing.com](mailto:jimb@bookpublishing.com)

# 2016 IPPY AWARDS ENTRY FORM

Book Title – or web address if entering the Book/Author/Publisher Website category

Author

Publisher Name or Publishing Service Provider (eg. iUniverse, CreateSpace, Outskirts Press, etc.)

National Category(s) (You may list multiple categories, but don't forget to send a book for each category entered)

Regional Category ( 1 = Fiction 2 = Non-Fiction - Examples: NE 1; AUS/NZ 2 ) and/or E-book Category (E-1 through E-10)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ONE COPY OF BOOK FOR EACH CATEGORY AND EACH REGION ENTERED!

National Entries

(Open date through Sep. 12, 2015)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Sep. 13, 2015 through Dec. 12, 2015)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Dec. 13, 2015 through Feb. 27, 2016)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$95 = \_\_\_\_\_

Add Regional Entry ( per title, per category)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

Add E-book Entry ( per title, per category)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

Regional or E-book Entry Only (Same as national rates, \$75-\$95)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

ALL CHECKS  
AND MONEY  
ORDERS  
MUST BE IN  
U.S. FUNDS

**Note:** for the \$55 “add-on” fee to apply, you must have also entered the title in a full-priced category

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person

Email Address (required to receive entrant and results updates)

Company (for mailing address purposes)

Address

City, State, Postal Code

Telephone

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check/Money order in U.S. Currency payable to  
*Jenkins Group*

To enter with credit card, visit our online entry page:  
[www.IndependentPublisher.com/ipland](http://www.IndependentPublisher.com/ipland)

## HOW TO SEND

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

**IPPY AWARDS 2016**  
**Jenkins Group**  
**1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**