Amazon Deep-ish Dive

IAN LAMONT

FOUNDER, 130 MEDIA CORP.

AUTHOR: LEAN MEDIA: HOW TO FOCUS CREATIVITY, STREAMLINE PRODUCTION, AND CREATE MEDIA THAT AUDIENCES LOVE



What is i30 Media?



Overview

5 Things Every Publisher/Author Should Know About Amazon

Amazon Fundamentals

Developing Ancillary Products

Amazon Advertising

Amazon Seller

DISCLAIMER

- I don't work for Amazon
- It's up to you to make your own decisions & follow Amazon's terms
- Policies may change at any time
- Some programs may work differently for you
- It's possible to lose a lot of money



5 Things Every Publisher & Author Should Know About Amazon

1. Books are a small part of its business.



"I sell books"

"I sell whatever I want"

Amazon revenue (2018)

AWS: \$25.6B

3PS: \$42.8B

All publisher revenue (inc. non-Amazon)

\$26.2B (2017)

Sources: Forbes, Motley Fool, AAP



2. Some Amazon programs are great

Amazon Advertising

Lets small publishers get their books at the top of search results.

Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP)

Publish ebooks to the Kindle platform, get paid a high royalty rate

Amazon KDP print (formerly Createspace)

- Publish print-on-demand (POD) books without holding inventory
- Distribute books to Amazon.com and international sales channels

Amazon Seller Central

- Publishers can sell excess inventory or second-hand books on Amazon.com
- Publishers can also create and sell non-book products on Amazon.com
- Fulfilment by Amazon (FBA) option allows goods to be shipped by Amazon



3. Some Amazon programs are not so great

Audible

- Audiobook platform purchased by Amazon >10 years ago
- 13-hour book = 75 royalty (excluding narrator cut)

KDP Select

- Locked in to Amazon can't sell ebooks elsewhere
- Fraction of a cent per page read
- Relentlessly scammed and exploited, honest authors lose money



4. Publishers come last on the food chain

- 1. Its own growth comes first
- 2. Customers come second
- 3. Publishers/authors/sellers/partners last

Takes a cut of all sales

If there's a problem, wants you to pay for it

If there's a "feature," wants you to pay for it

- KDP ebook content delivery fee
- Amazon Advertising
- Early Reviewer Program
- Amazon Seller/FBA
- Warehouse fees



5. But you have a big opportunity!

- 1. Some truly powerful programs to build your business
- 2. What you learn from Amazon can be transferred elsewhere
- 3. Excellent way for indie publishers to test stuff & build brands!



Fundamentals

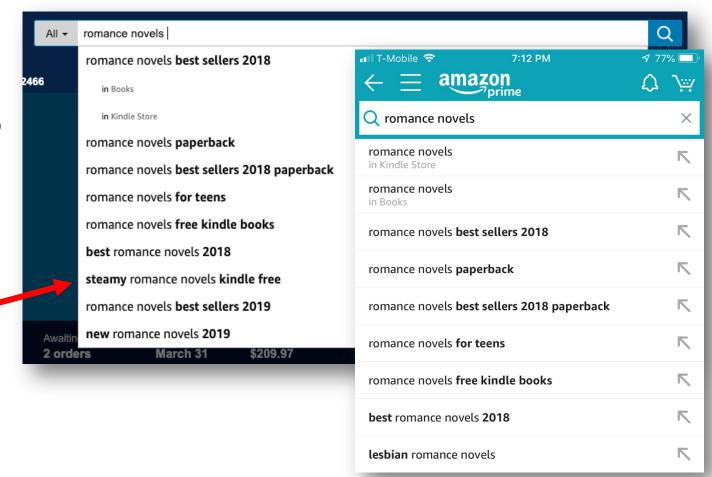
DISCOVERY, PAID SEARCH, CONVERSION

Amazon's search engine

Web

Don't forget mobile!

"Smartphones are expected to drive nearly half of shopper traffic on the web"



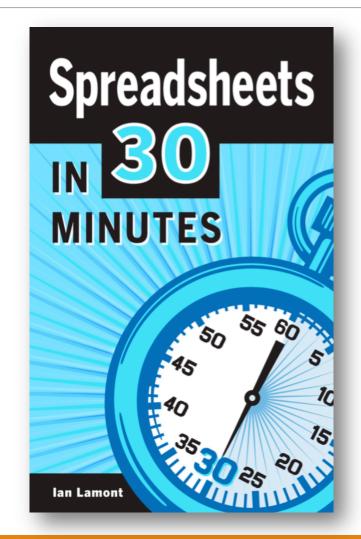


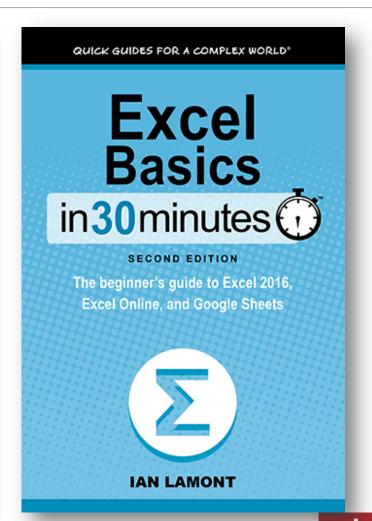
So what?

This data has value!

Intent to buy

Testing new keywords







Amazon detail page view (DPV) optimization

Why it's important

- More revenue for you
- Better organic search ranking

Target rates

- Click through rate (CTR) search results or ad encourages people to click to learn more
- Conversion rate (the page itself converts browsers to buyers)



What goes into a DPV that converts well?

Image

Title

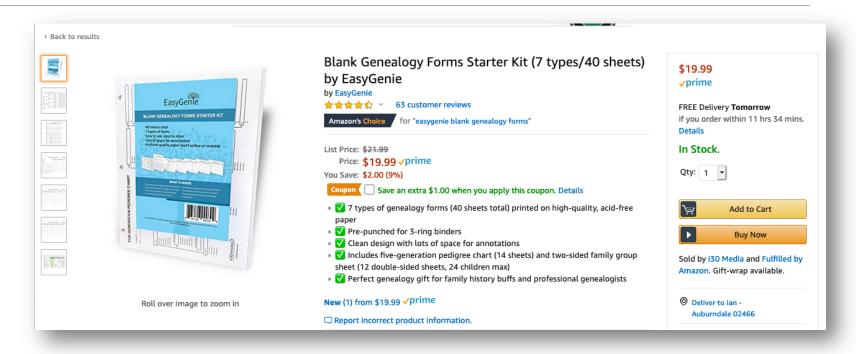
Price/availability

Prime

User/reader reviews

Clear description

Expert reviews



Detail page meets expectations!



Descriptions

DO'S

10 second rule

Summarize, tease, but don't give away

Highlight awards, qualifications of author

Comparison/why your product is better

HTML formatting

Bullets and emojis

DON'TS

Long paragraphs

Play-by-play plot synopsis

Obvious keyword stuffing

Ask your authors to write descriptions

(Unless they are skilled marketers)



HTML example

Top-selling guide to Google Docs, Drive, Sheets, and Slides!

UPDATED! Do you have 30 minutes to spare? It's all you'll need to get up to speed with Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides, Google's free online productivity suite and Microsoft Office alternative. The software is at the core of Google Apps and G Suite. **Millions of people use Google's apps every day on their Chromebooks, PCs, and mobile devices.** You, too, can use Drive, Docs, Sheets, and Slides to perform all kinds of tasks:

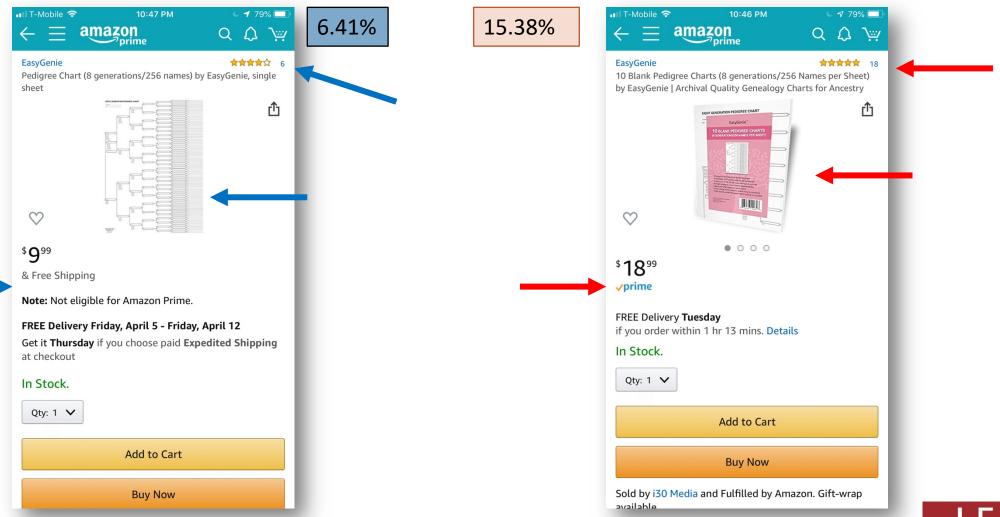


Same product, 2 different conversions

Download v												
	(Parent) ASIN	(Child) ASIN	Title	SKU	Sessions	Session Percentage	Page Views	Page Views Percentage	Buy Box Percentage	Units Ordered	Units Ordered - B2B	Unit Session Percenta
	B01M5J3GLF	B01M5J3GLF	Blank Genealogy Forms Starter Kit (7 types/40 sheets) by EasyGenie	163091	1,257	33.94%	1,845	33.63%	100%	172	1	13.68%
	B071NL7Q23	B071NL7Q23	10 Blank Pedigree Charts (8 generations/256 Names per Sheet) by EasyGenie Archival Quality Genealogy Charts for	173231	663	17.90%	998	18.19%	98%	102	0	15.38%
	B072LWTGX3	B072LWTGX3	Pedigree Chart (8 generations/256 names) by EasyGenie, single sheet	<u>173302</u>	359	9.69%	505	9.21%	97%	23	0	6.41%
	B07C7N57P8	B07C7N57P8	19 Blank Fan Charts with Family Members (9 Generations/267 Names)	183611	157	4.24%	207	3.77%	100%	15	0	9.55%



Side by side



Reviews

Obviously important

Vital for driving sales

Impacts advertising costs

Why else are reviews important?

How to get legitimate reviews

- Book frontmatter or backmatter
- Goodreads Giveaway
- ARC programs
- Amazon Seller Early Reviewer Program
- Amazon Seller Ask customers
- Product review insert or "note from the author"



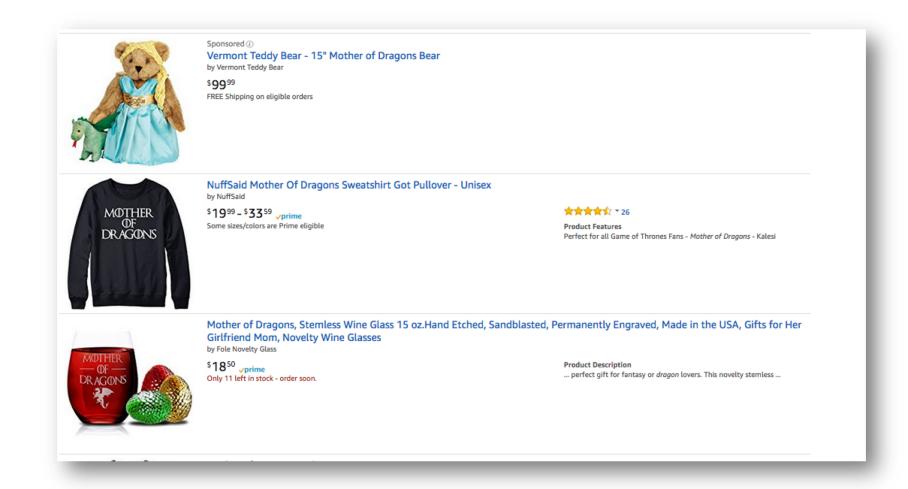
A review you never want to see





Ancillary Products

What do these have in common?



Themed educational products



The Magic School Bus: The World of Germs

by The Young Scientists Club

★★★☆ ✓ 64 customer reviews | 4 answered questions

Price: \$14.85 **/prime**

FREE Delivery Thursday

if you order within 4 hrs 8 mins. Details

Buy \$35.00, get a discount on selected products 1 Applicable Promotion *

Only 12 left in stock - order soon.

Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- · Educational and fun for kids
- Great hands on learning kit
- Encourages creative learning Kit has everything you need
- Ms. Frizzle from The Magic School Bus makes science an exhilarating experience
- · Young Scientists will grow bacteria and fungi, test antibiotics, use yeast to inflate a balloon, and much, much more
- Mulitple award-winning science kits that make science fun, educational, and hands-on
- All kits are put on the market after it has passed the ulitmate test-approval by multiple teams of Young Scientists
- Show more

Compare with similar items

Specifications for this item

Assembly Instructions	FALSE
Brand Name	The Young Scientists Club



Why do this?

OPPORTUNITY

Book market is slow-growth arena

Many merch categories strong and/or growing

Sales of non-book merchandise to supplement book publishing income

Indies move fast and try new ideas!

BECAUSE WE CAN! (ESPECIALLY NOW)

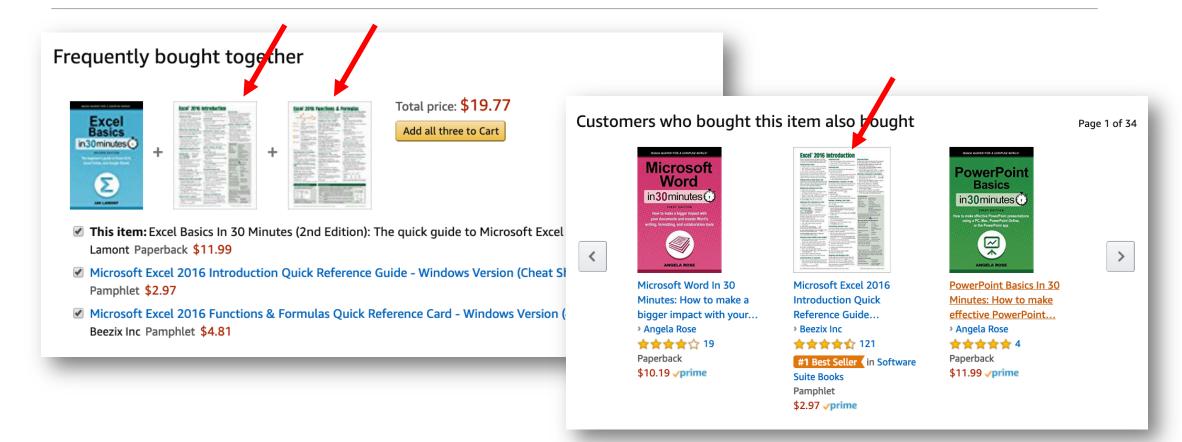
Access to low-cost platforms

- Amazon Seller
- eBay
- Website

Not starting from zero – we already have IP!



"Frequently bought together" & "Also boughts"





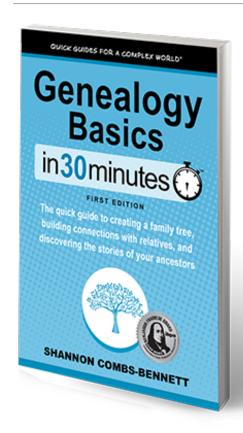
Why should someone else profit?

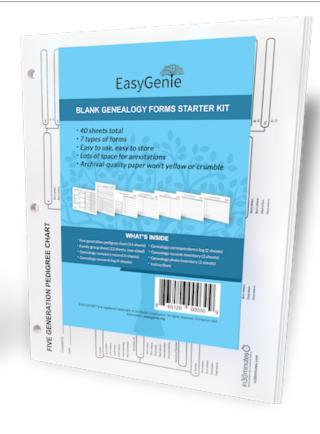






Complementary products based on books







2015

2016

2019



Evaluating market for ancillary products

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

What do your existing readers want?

Is there sufficient demand?

Possible to develop new customers?

HOW TO FIND OUT

Checking out competition

Also-boughts/Frequently bought together

Reviews of those products

Reviews of your products

Surveys to mailing list

Discussions with readers

Preorder page on website



Production considerations

What products can you develop?

How can you differentiate them?

Product types

- Branded merchandise
- Complementary products
- <u>Paid</u> digital products

What skills does your team have?

What skills do partners have?

What do your authors bring to the table?

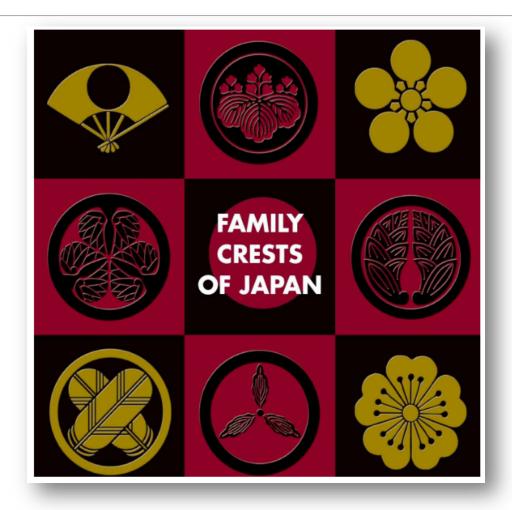
What do you need to outsource?

What assets do you need to purchase?

How long will it take?



Product brainstorming exercise

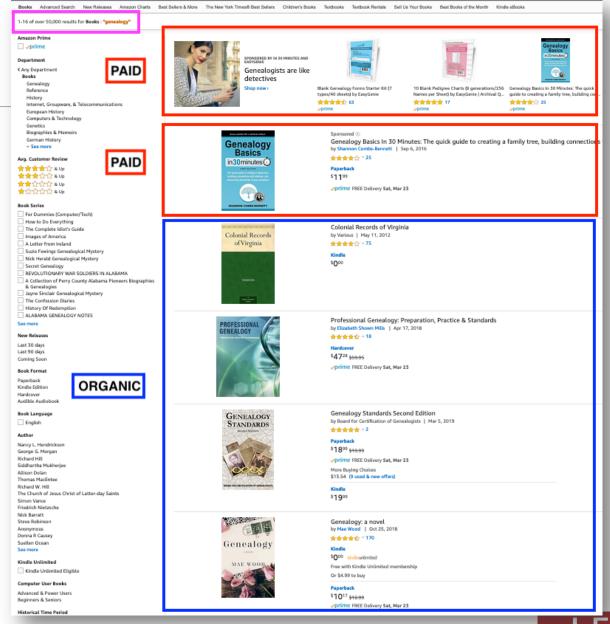


(courtesy Stone Bridge Press)



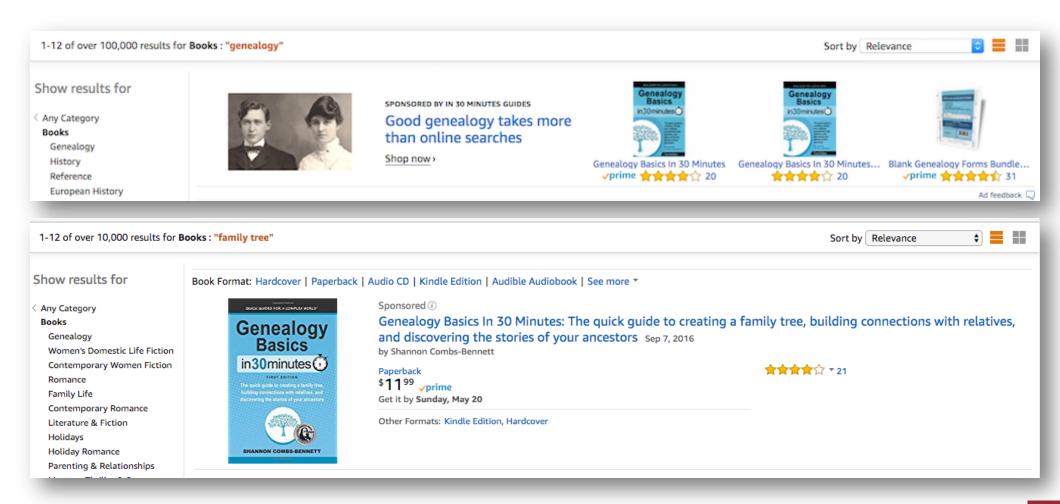
Amazon Advertising

Organic vs. Paid





"Sponsored Brand" vs. "Sponsored Product"





Detail page carousels



Organize Your Genealogy: FamilySearch.org: How to Strategies and Solutions ur Family History... for Every Researcher > Drew Smith

食食食食食 64 Paperback \$17.67 yprime



Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide > Diana Elder

★★★★★ 48 Paperback \$18.99 yprime



Genealogy Standards Unofficial Guide to Second Edition Ancestry.com: How to Find Your Family History on.... 会会会会会 2

> Nancy Hendrickson 会会会会会 29 Paperback \$18.35 <pri>prime



Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com: How to Find Your Family History on.... Nancy Hendrickson 青青青青前 187 Paperback 55 offers from \$2.62



The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your... Kenyatta D. Berry 会会会会会 18 Paperback \$13.38 yprime



Genealogy For Dummies (For Dummies (Computer/Tech)) Matthew L. Helm 会会会会会 64 Paperback. \$18.35 vprime



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Page 1 of 5

The Family Tree Problem Solver: Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing... Marsha Hoffman Rising 会会会会会 123 Paperback

\$23.50 vprime

Sponsored products related to this item



Unofficial Ancestry.com

Workbook: A How-To

The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Rese... Kenyatta D. Berry ★★★★★ 18 Paperback



\$13.38 yprime



Unofficial Guide to

250 Laws of Love: A relationship is like a tandem blke. It is not possible for one ... Petr Casanova

250 Laws of Love explains how to create a happy relationship. The book is a collection of the most common relationship threats and their solutions.

Kindle Edition \$9.99



Our Family Tree Peter Pauper Press 青青青青倉 28 Hardcover \$13.49 vprime

consisting of 10 different 会会会会会 27 Paperback \$17.99 yprime

Activity Guide: Fun &

Mrs. Autumn McKay

280 pages of fun and

with your toddler or

educational activities to do

preschooler/200 activities

with your t...



Board for...

Paperback

\$18.99 vprime

Official Guide to Ancestry.com, 2nd edition educational activities to do George G. Morgan 食食食食食 83 Paperback \$21.12 \prime



Secret Genealogy IV: Native Americans Hidden In Our Family Trees (Secret Genealogy ... Suellen Ocean

A quide for finding Native American genealogy. Read "Secret Genealogy IV, Native Americans Hidden in Our Family Trees," before you begin your search.

会会会会会 20 Kindle Edition \$4.98



Finding Your German Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide (Finding Your Kevan M. Hansen 青青青青章 30 Paperback \$8.36 <prime



Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources, Third Edition 会会会会会 70 Hardcover \$40.49 vprime



U.S. Catholic Sources: A Family Genealogy Queries 3-Book Bundle: 'G' 'H' T' Diocesan Research Guide ***** Sumames (Southern Genealogical Research) Paperback \$14.95 yprime R. Stephen Smith

Are your southern ancestors here? These family research volumes focus on surnames starting with G, H or I.

会会会会会 1 Kindle Edition \$3.99

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What is Amazon Advertising?

Self-serve ad platform for paid placement on Amazon

Ads may show up on Amazon.com or Amazon app (and maybe other places, too)

CPC model (cost-per-click)

- Not CPM (cost per 1,000 impressions)
- You set your maximum bids and budgets



Why use Amazon Advertising?

Go to the head of the line, above organic search/also-boughts!

Target people who have intent to buy

DIY – don't need to hire anyone!

Measure the results of campaigns

Spend a lot, or a little (still some bargains!)

Fine-tune campaigns, do split-testing, etc.

Directly compete with other titles

Use other authors' names and titles as keywords



How Amazon Advertising works

Publishers & other vendors sign up OR access through other Amazon creator account

Use the website to select ad type

Choose the book/product you want to advertise

Select how ads are targeted (e.g., keywords, competing products)

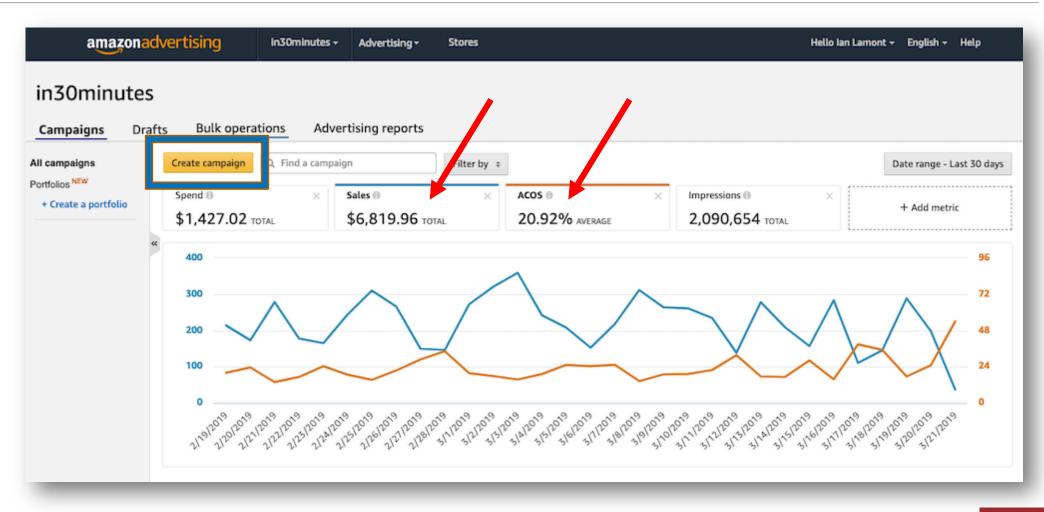
Upload/enter additional assets (taglines, etc.)

Enter bids and budget

Enter timing details



Evaluating campaigns via the dashboard





Campaign/keyword metrics

											Col	umns
Active	Keyword	Match type 🕕	Status	Suggested bid 🕕	Bid 🕦	Clicks 🕦	CTR 📵	▼ Spend 📵	CPC 📵	Orders 📵	Sales (1)	ACOS 📵
	Total: 85					81	0.32%	\$42.02	\$0.52	15	\$162.25	25.90%
	powerpoint for dummies	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.75 \$0.25-\$0.94 Apply	\$ 0.95	50	3.97%	\$26.17	\$0.52	12	\$123.28	21.23%
	office 365	Exact	Delivering	\$0.46 \$0.29-\$0.94 Apply	\$ 0.95	6	0.07%	\$4.46	\$0.74	1	\$7.99	55.82%
	office 365	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.75 \$0.29-\$0.94 Apply	\$ 0.75	3	0.05%	\$1.98	\$0.66	-	-	-
	powerpoint for macs	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.75 \$0.75-\$0.75 Apply	\$ 0.75	3	3.66%	\$1.67	\$0.56	-	-	-
	microsoft powerpoint	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.53 \$0.25-\$0.75 Apply	\$ 0.75	2	0.51%	\$1.30	\$0.65	-	-	-
	powerpoint presentations	Exact	Delivering	\$0.53 \$0.53-\$0.75 Apply	\$ 0.75	3	0.41%	\$1.26	\$0.42	-	-	-
	powerpoint for dummies	Exact	Delivering	\$0.25 \$0.14-\$0.25 Apply	\$ 0.75	2	1.08%	\$1.20	\$0.60	1	\$18.99	6.32%
	administrative assistant	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.34 \$0.20-\$0.51 Apply	\$ 0.51	3	0.08%	\$1.00	\$0.33	-	-	-
	how to give a speech	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.31 \$0.31-\$0.46 Apply	\$ 0.31	2	1.04%	\$0.62	\$0.31	-	-	-
	microsoft powerpoint	Exact	Delivering	\$0.25 \$0.14-\$0.53 Apply	\$ 0.75	1	0.78%	\$0.58	\$0.58	-	-	-
	powerpoint presentations	Phrase	Delivering	\$0.75 \$0.53-\$0.75 Apply	\$ 0.75	1	0.17%	\$0.46	\$0.46	1	\$11.99	3.84%



Understanding dashboard metrics

Budget: Maximum spend per day

Impressions: How many times your ad appears

Clicks: How many times someone clicked the ad

CTR: Click-through rate. The rate of people clicking the ad (clicks/impressions)

Spend: How much you spent in a specific time period

Orders: Successful orders

Sales: Amazon's gross sales

ACoS: "Average cost of sales" (your cost of <u>Amazon's</u> sales, not just your own!)



Amazon Seller & Amazon FBA/FBM



What is Amazon Seller Central?

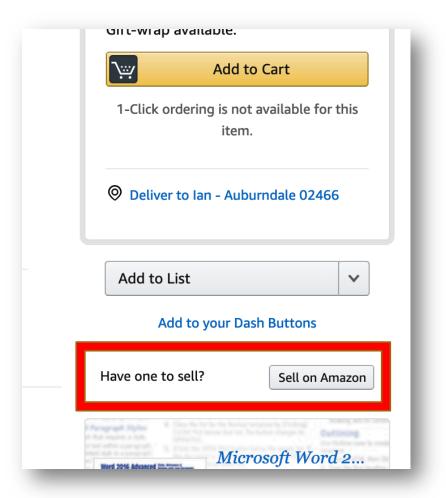
Program to sell stuff through Amazon

Overlaps with Advantage, Vendor Central

Many types of new goods

Branded goods you create

New and used books





FBM vs. FBA

FULFILLMENT BY MERCHANT (FBM)

Sell all kinds of products

Non-book merchandise & used books

You handle shipping (Amazon has discount)

Items are <u>not</u> Amazon Prime

Fee based on size and weight

Free account FBM sales cost extra

FULFILLMENT BY AMAZON (FBA)

Requires pro account - \$40/month

Ship goods to Amazon warehouses

Amazon ships to customers

Items are Amazon Prime

Special marketing programs

FBA fee depends on size, weight

Shipping, warehouse, account fees extra



FBM vs. FBA fees

FBM FEE EXAMPLE (PRO TIER)

\$1.50 for a \$10 non-book product (15%)

• Shipping: ~\$3.50

\$3.75 for a \$12 book (31%)

• Shipping: ~\$4.25

Free tier: Add 20%

FBA EXAMPLES

\$10 non-book product

\$2.41 FBA fee, \$1.50 shipping (total \$3.91)

\$24.99 product (> 1 pound)

\$4.76 FBA fee, \$3.75 shipping (total \$8.51)



Amazon Early Reviewer Program

Currently \$60

Up to 5 reviews for new products

Can also use for products with <5 reviews

Try it for books

Acid Refuse the familiary coloradation	Acid Reflux & Heartburn In 30 Minutes: A guide to acid reflux, heartburn, and GERD for patients and families Parent SKU PP-003B-VEY9 ASIN 1641880074	0	10/7/18	1 ×	Successful Running	Billed \$60.00
Personal France particular p.20 recent	Personal Finance For Beginners In 30 Minutes, Volume 2: How to build savings and investments to secure your financial future Parent SKU G7-AHQ0-DR0U ASIN 1939924413	0	10/7/18	0 ~	Enrolled Running	-
	Pedigree Chart (8 generations/256 names) by EasyGenie, single sheet Parent SKU 173302 ASIN B072LWTGX3	0	10/7/18	0 ~	Enrolled Running	-
	Google Drive Reference and Cheat Sheet: The unofficial cheat sheet reference for Google Drive Parent SKU J8-D23B-7WH1 ASIN 193992443X	0	10/7/18	0 ~	Enrolled Running	-
<u> </u>	EASYGENIE Fan Chart with Family Members (9 Generations, 267 Names), Single Sheet Parent SKU 183782 ASIN B07CGDN7VC	0	10/7/18	0 ~	Enrolled Running	-
	10 Blank Fan Charts with Family Members (9 Generations/267 Names) Parent SKU 183611 ASIN B07C7N57P8	0	10/7/18	3 ~	Successful Running	Billed \$60.00
	Blank Two-Sided Family Group Sheets for Genealogy (40) Parent SKU 183473 ASIN B07CZP3XSG	0	10/7/18	5 ×	Successful Completed on 3/22/19	Billed \$60.00
1	EASYGENIE Genealogy Kit for Kids (31 Sheets) Screen-Free Activity Pack for Boys and Girls Parent SKU 183853 ASIN B07F2KY2KT	0	10/7/18	1 ×	Successful Running	Billed \$60.00



Amazon Seller Account: Coupons



Blank Genealogy Forms Bundle (50) by EasyGenie

by EasyGen

\$19⁹⁹ vprime
Get it by Monday, Feb 5

More Buying Choices \$19.99 (2 new offers)





10 Blank Pedigree Charts for Genealogists (8 generations/256 names per form) by EasyGenie

by EasyGenie

\$18⁹⁹ verime

Get it by Tuesday, Feb 6

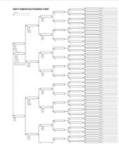
More Buying Choices \$18.99 (2 new offers)



Save 15% with coupon

Product Description

... family research! EasyGenie's custom genealogy forms were ...



Pedigree Chart (8 generations/256 names) by EasyGenie, single sheet

by EasyGenie

\$Q9

FREE Shipping on eligible orders Only 3 left in stock - order soon.

Product Features

... See the EASYGENIE Pedigree Chart Bundle for more savings! ...



Amazon Seller: Pros for publishers

Sell used books or overstock

Sell book-related merchandise

Great way to showcase your brand (if you have one!)

Coupons, lightning deals, and other special marketing programs

Special options for brands

Contact buyers to resolve problems, ask for honest feedback, etc.



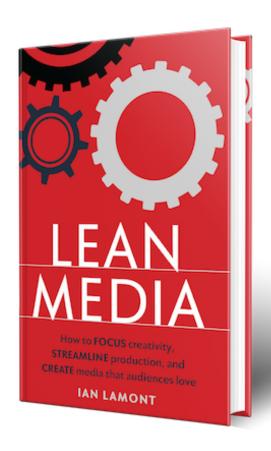
Amazon Seller: Cons for publishers

- Account, warehouse, other fees
- You can't create a book page (you have to piggyback onto other listings)
- You may be competing with people with no scruples about quality/piracy

- Merch detail pages limitations
- Product restrictions
- People can review <u>you</u>
- In the event of a dispute, you lose
- UPC numbers and codes for nonbook merchandise: \$250/ten via GS1, \$50 annual "maintenance fee"



More information



leanmedia.org

Facebook.com/leanmediaorg

Twitter: @ilamont or @leanmediaorg

