

Publishers & Writers Monthly

The Newsletter of Publishers & Writers of San Diego

September 2024

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Publishers & Writers of San Diego (PWSD) is a professional association of the San Diego publishing community. PWSD educates business-minded self-publishers and authors through networking, guest experts, open discussions, and field trips.

Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month (except November and December). If held in person, they take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon, usually at the Carlsbad Dove Library (1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011). If held virtually, they take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Always check meeting information in the newsletter for current location and times.

Meeting: Saturday, September 28, 2024

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Location: Webinar—Zoom (watch for details)

Topic: "Organizing Your Writing and Publishing

Life"

Speaker: Kathi Burns

Please watch for the link in the meeting notices sent to your email inbox twice during the next few days before this FREE online meeting.

We all know that any little thing can get in the way of doing the "hard stuff"—in the life of a writer and publisher. The hard stuff includes sitting down to write or revise and market your published work. These tasks, and many others, are the essentials to successful publishing. Professional organizer Kathi Burns will offer strategies to organize your writing and publishing life so that you can get down to the business that works. From managing the paperwork—even understanding what you should keep track of to run a successful business—to creating a space that "invites the muse," Kathi will share the tips, practices and ideas that she has learned from writing her own books. Every writer or publisher needs this presentation.

About the Speaker: Kathi Burns, owner and founder of Organized and Energized! is a Board Certified Professional Organizer, author, and speaker. Her mission is to help clients end overwhelm, energize, and transform their lives by creating systems they can embrace and stick to. Kathi has published three books and created numerous



online training programs. She's been featured in Oprah Magazine, Martha Stewart Living, Entrepreneur, and more.

President's Message



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By Karla Olson President, Publishers & Writers of San Diego

Thank you, as always, to Jeniffer Thompson. I've been in this business for a very long time, and I've been attending Jeniffer's presentations for a long time as well, but I *always* learn something new. She's so on top of author branding and marketing, consistently coming up with innovative ideas. Jeniffer, thank you for sharing. If you email Jeniffer at J@monkeycmedia.com, she'll send you her slides. It's not quite as good as being there in person, but I guarantee you'll find something interesting.

Online on September 28, 2024, we welcome professional organizer and former member Kathi Burns, from Organized and Energized!. Kathi is going to offer ways to manage and organize all the other stuff—the stuff that gets in the way—of your writer and publisher life. The paperwork, the workspace, and the headspace all need to be optimized for the best creative work you can do, whether that's writing or marketing. Kathi offers ways to stop getting distracted by the small stuff and the tasks around the edges so you can devote more time and energy to what you do best. Be sure to join us.

This meeting is online. You'll find the Zoom Link here.

Please support PWSD by making sure your membership is up to date. We do have expenses around hosting the meetings and sending out the newsletters, so your contribution through membership is very helpful and appreciated. We'll send out an update if your membership needs renewal or, if you are not sure, you can contact Robbie@bookstudiobooks.com.

Please be sure to join us online on Saturday, September 28 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

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President's Message—continued from previous page

PWSD News

A couple of notes about meeting etiquette at webinar meetings held next February and at successive even-numbered months. Please be sure you are muted while our speaker is presenting, as background noise is distracting for all other participants. If you have a question during the presentation, put it in the chat, and the host (me!) will monitor the questions.

Please save general questions for the Q&A at the end of the presentation. The host will call on you and ask you to speak if your question needs clarification.

The meetings are not recorded. Instead, most speakers have been sharing their slides, so be sure to go to the <u>blog</u> to find presentations by many of our past speakers.

PWSD Membership

In-person meetings are \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. We are happy to continue offering virtual meetings free to participants, but we hope you will support PWSD in the following ways:

- 1. **Make sure your membership is up to date.** Watch your inbox for a notice if your membership has expired. (If you wish, email Robbie@bookstudiobooks.com and he will check your membership.) *Note: we are likely to raise the membership fee in the next few months (darned inflation!), so renew your membership now.*
- 2. **If you are not a member, please consider joining.** Right now, membership is only \$47 per year, which helps us to get the best speakers and provide other benefits to our members. Go to PublishersWriters.org to join.
- 3. Tell your publishing and author friends and colleagues about PWSD and invite them to join us!

When you join PWSD, in addition to the reduced meeting fee, you get many other benefits, as listed on page 5. You can easily join by clicking on the link to PayPal on our website, or send a check, made out to PWSD, to P.O. Box 387, Ventura, CA 93002.

- 1. Make sure your membership is up to date. Watch your inbox for a notice if your membership has expired. (If you wish, email Robbie@bookstudiobooks.com and he will check your membership status.)
- 2. If your membership is up to date, please consider paying the meeting fee even at virtual meetings. You can do this at PublishersWriters.org and clicking on RSVP.
- **3. If you are not a member, please consider joining.** Membership is only \$47 per year, which helps us to get the best speakers and provide other benefits to our members. Go to PublishersWriters.org to join.

4. Tell your publishing and author friends and colleagues about PWSD and have them join us!

IBPA Membership

If you have launched on your publishing journey and you don't yet know about IBPA, which can be a great support for you, I encourage you to explore the benefits of joining. This is the national association that includes such regional affiliates as PWSD. You can find information on their very robust and informative website at IBPA-online.org/. IBPA membership is very affordable, and to make it even better, PWSD members get a \$30 discount. Just enter PWSDibpa30 in the coupon code.

IBPA has a monthly Roundtable that I highly recommend. It allows publishers of all shapes and sizes to share success strategies and brainstorm publishing challenges. I often attend and find them very valuable. Also, IBPA has recently created an education hub called PubSpot, which assembles, in one easy-to-navigate site, all the invaluable information IBPA offers about how to succeed in publishing. From editorial to distribution and more, check out all the great articles and webinars that will help you succeed on your publishing journey.

"PWSD likes Facebook!"

Visit us on Facebook today

to let us know you like us
and join the conversation!



Care to Join Us?

Save more and learn more: Attend PWSD meetings at reduced member rates! Yearly dues are only \$47—one of the most economical memberships available. As a member, you save \$10 at every PWSD meeting you attend, versus the \$20 nonmember meeting fee. (Get meeting details for PWSD in each newsletter issue.) And take a look in the next section below at all the other extras you get as a member!

Member Welcome and Reminders

If you're a new or returning member, welcome to the PWSD family! Congratulations on joining Publishers & Writers of San Diego, the only publishing group in San Diego County focused on the business of publishing and writing! You have made a wise investment, as you'll see later on this page.

Subscribe to PWSD in order to optimize your membership: Receiving the email that accompanied this newsletter does not mean your name has been added to the regular notice distribution list. Go to PublishersWriters.org and click on the button that looks like what you see at right. This is necessary for you to receive any and all notices from PWSD.

Free PWSD Newsletter

Subscribe to the PWSD Newsletter Subscription is free: get monthly articles from our speakers, writing tips, announcements, upcoming events, and more.

Get found in the PWSD online member directory: Email your new or revised bio & headshot to Webmaster@publisherswriters.org as soon as you can, for valuable publicity! Our website is very highly ranked on Google, which means you will get broader exposure by being part of the member directory at PublishersWriters.org/member-directory. You must be an up-to-date member to be in the directory. Unsure when you should renew? Email Robbie@bookstudiobooks.com and he will let you know.

Get a snazzy permanent name badge to wear at on-site meetings: Your badge will be available at inperson meetings. (Please remember to turn it in as you leave.)

Participate in occasional regional collaborative marketing efforts: If you're subscribed (see above), you'll be notified of these events whenever they occur.

Get a 30% discount on IBPA membership and optionally apply for a scholarship to IBPA's annual Publishing University: If you've launched your publishing journey, join the Independent Book Publishers Association at IBPA-online.org/ and use PWSDibpa30 as the code to get your discount.

Want to be profiled in PWSD's newsletter? Contact Andrea Glass at Andrea@writersway.com. If your membership is current, she will provide you with nine simple questions to answer. Then, along with your answers, send her your full contact information, a head shot, and one or two other images, such as book covers or action shots, and she will publish your finished profile in *Publishers & Writers Monthly*.

Do you have newsletter feature articles or ideas? Send them to Managing Editor Glenna Bloemen at gab11853@aol.com. We are currently seeking feature articles for the upcoming issues of the newsletter. If you've read something great or have an idea or an article that you believe would be of interest to your fellow members, please submit it to Glenna. Thank you for your continued support.

How BISAC Improvements Are Impacting Indigenous Publishing

Wiley Barnes

Reprinted with permission. This article was first published in April 2024 by the Independent Book Publishers Association, <u>IBPA-Online.org</u>.

Many independent publishers are aware of the importance of metadata and how it is used to discover new and existing books. There are questions we ask about our titles: How do bookstores find my books? Where would this book be located in a bookstore? Until recently, I did not quite understand how important subject codes are in this industry.

As an independent publisher, supporting book metadata is a necessity and should be a part of routine maintenance—and this includes backlisted titles. Publishers should also be aware of subject codes and their importance in the marketplace, specifically those from Book Industry Standards and Communications (BISAC). The BISAC Subject Headings are a list of subject descriptors represented by an alphanumeric code and are administered by the Book Industry Study Group (BISG). These codes are an essential part of metadata, providing a key role in purchasing decision-making by retailers and libraries whether managed by a publisher individually or by a wholesaler or distributor, and relate to where a work might appear on a bookstore shelf.

Chickasaw Press, a First American and tribally owned independent publisher, specifically focuses on books about Chickasaw history and culture. Prior to the 2023 release of the BISAC Subject Headings list, books on Indigenous subjects—ours included—were, at times, difficult to categorize among the limited number of Indigenous subject codes. For many of our books in the past, existing codes left us to choose between a general subject code with very little specificity or a code that did not pertain to anything Indigenous. So, I was beyond excited when I was approached in July 2022 by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee from the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) to participate in the expansion of Indigenous book coding proposed to the BISAC committee. Not only was this a chance to learn more about BISAC codes; it was an open opportunity to potentially help others who may have been in the same situation as Chickasaw Press when it came to coding.

This was not an easy task, and it required much research and metadata analysis. Input was needed from others who had vested interests in publishing Indigenous books—a community that includes 574 federally recognized tribes within the United States alone, not to mention those of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada. These Indigenous communities each have their own unique language/dialect, history, and culture, so identification and inclusivity are of the utmost importance.

Another working group was established for the sole purpose of gathering information from others in the North American industry. The group was thoughtfully titled, "Decolonizing Subjects," by the well-organized and passionate Lauren Stewart from BookNet Canada. She assisted in establishing partnerships between Chickasaw Press and a network with 17 others, including representatives from Library and ArchivesCanada/Government of Canada, Goose Lane Editions, Medicine Wheel Publishing, House of Anansi Press, and Groundwood Books, to name a few. Over the next year, we would establish partnerships with them to begin tackling additions, deletions, and changes to the BISAC Subject Headings, particularly for Indigenous titles. This working group and the leadership of Stewart was instrumental to the process, and without this collaboration, none of the changes and additions would have transpired. We began meeting in November 2022 and met every few weeks until we began presenting our requested changes and additions to the BISAC Subject Committee in June 2023.

Our group started off small and slow, as the earlier meetings were focused on the existing 2022 codes for Indigenous books, which was limited to just 30 codes across 5,200+ codes on all genres in both fiction and nonfiction; adult, children's, and young adult. We looked at the gaps in subject headings, particularly for books that were difficult or impossible to code with specificity. We also looked at problematic, dated, and potentially offensive codes. There was also time spent exploring how to approach labels for Indigenous peoples such as First Nations, Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island, First Americans and Native Americans, as "Native American" could not be applied to Canada at all. Not all issues, terminology, and suggestions for subject code additions/changes were able to be presented to the BISAC committee, nor were we able to resolve every issue at hand, but those changes and additions that were approved by BISG and the BISAC committee exceeded our working group's expectations.

There was a multitude of terminology learned as it pertained to BISAC, such as what constituted a subject code, what constituted a subject code tree, and how subject codes are ultimately treed. The general rule in creating codes, as we understood it, stated that if 100 books exist within a given subject, that may very well justify a code addition. This ended up being one of our main guidelines in examining subjects and establishing justification for adding or revising subject codes.

The process of choosing codes and proper headings begins with identifying one of the 54 major headings (e.g., Fiction, History, or Cooking) as a starting point and then finding the subheading that most aligns with the book's content. Best practice states to choose one main code and no more than three additional codes to identify a title's content. Early on, one issue we faced was that many books marketed to diverse readers involve multiple languages, and "multilingual" is not a subject. This is because BISAC is supposed to address a book's content. The book may not be "about" multiple languages, but the content is told in multiple languages, and existing categorization does not adequately support language formats well.

Many Indigenous books include language, and this becomes challenging for publishers like Chickasaw Press, as our children's books tend to include the Chickasaw language. Our books might be teaching basic Chickasaw vocabulary, but it is not the main content of the book, so this is where the three-code methodology is important to the discoverability of most of our titles. For example, in the retail world, we would not want a Chickasaw children's book about a rabbit and a snake to be

shelved in the language studies section of an adult nonfiction shelf simply because the story contains Chickasaw vocabulary. These obstacles and subject questions always resulted in the statement that more codes were needed. The ultimate goal was to develop new subject codes that reflected a book's content appropriately and to ensure publishers would actually use and benefit from such additions.

In the 2023 edition of the BISAC Subject Headings list, many important codes worth noting were added across all subjects, but one area of Indigenous content that was really able to expand was Fiction. In past years, subject code "FIC059000 FICTION/Indigenous" was the single code used for Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island or First American fiction books. This code was turned into "FIC059000 FICTION/Indigenous/General (see also Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island *or* Native American)." The resulting general subject code allows for it to be treed where other (Indigenous) subject codes can appear, 15 more subject codes to be exact. A few examples of these fiction Indigenous subject codes are:

FIC059020 FICTION/Indigenous/Elders

FIC059050 FICTION/Indigenous/Historical

FIC059060 FICTION/Indigenous/Horror

FIC059070 FICTION/Indigenous/Indigenous Futurism

FIC059100 FICTION /Indigenous/Oral Storytelling and Teachings

FIC059110 FICTION/Indigenous/Science Fiction

FIC059120 FICTION/Indigenous/Women

Juvenile Fiction, Juvenile Nonfiction, Young Adult Fiction, and Young Adult Nonfiction followed suit with similar new subject codes that fell under a general Indigenous grouping but could fall in line with subjects of Indigenous picture books, whether that be animal stories, cautionary stories, family life, health and healing, life stories, history, or oral stories. These aspects of storytelling are deeply important to many Indigenous, First American, First Nations and Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island cultures, making them a subject of many of the books published for children.

When choosing subject codes at Chickasaw Press for nonfiction history books prior to the 2023 new code list release, we were limited to just one code: "History/Indigenous Peoples of the Americas." Other time period options that offered us some specificities were "History/United States/19th Century" followed by "History/United States/Civil War Period (1850-1877)," but these were problematic, as they are solely from a colonial perspective. We were able to add eight additional subject codes for history, all specific to an Indigenous lens. The singular code "HIS028000 History/Indigenous Peoples in the Americas" was changed to "HIS028000 History/Indigenous/General" and treed with the following:

HIS02810 History/Indigenous/Creation & Origins

HIS02820 History/Indigenous/Migration

HIS02830 History/Indigenous/Archaeological Stages & Interpretations of Oral History HIS02840 History/Indigenous/Contact, European Invasion & Exploration

HIS02850 History/Indigenous/Colonial History & Interaction with Nations, Tribes, Bands & Communities

HIS02860 History/Indigenous/Modern

HIS069000 History/Indigenous/Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island

HIS07000 History/Indigenous/Native American

Many other areas received new subject codes, too. One of interest for Chickasaw Press was religion. Our title "Anompilbashsha' Asilhha' Holisso: Chickasaw Prayer Book" was previously difficult to code correctly. Several codes in this area were added, and we are now able to use the new main code "REL124030- RELIGION/Indigenous/Scripture & Prayerbooks." This code allows our book to be discovered for its precise subject content and, in the end, results in less confusion over what the book is actually about and increased discoverability.

Over several months, the Indigenous working group met and identified numerous recommendations in an attempt to reconcile colonial terminology and better reflect Indigenous worldviews, resulting in 135 new codes and the restructuring and reclassification of an additional 184 codes. Moreover, new inclusions to the BISAC Merchandising Themes now represent exciting promotional opportunities. The Indigenous working group, IBPA's DEI Committee, and the BISAC committee were all instrumental in seeing this work come to life, introducing the availability of several more codes to Indigenous books. However, there are still many lessons to be learned, best practices to be established, and further changes to be made among the BISAC list and many other industry standards and practices. Though the work is incomplete, IBPA remains diligent in advocating for the reconciliation of subject codes in all spaces of DEI throughout the publishing industry.

Wiley Barnes of Chickasaw Press holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Oklahoma State University. He has spent 23 years forging a career in publishing, writing, printing, photography, and graphic design, with the last 15 years at the Chickasaw Nation. He is also a member of the IBPA DEI Committee.

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Announcements by and about Members

We know you have many events scheduled in the upcoming months to promote your books. Please share with your fellow writers so they can attend. Send your schedules to: gab11853@aol.com.

Calendar of Events

Some conferences and workshops could go online or be cancelled, due to pandemic or other considerations, so check the newsletter or event websites for updates.

Writers Rising 2024 October 25–27, 2024, Hollywood, CA or online

Give yourself the gift of joining other serious writers in the full immersive experience of Writers Rising 2024. We've booked a world-class venue, the famous Ray Dolby Ballroom in the heart of Hollywood, for an unforgettable experience of learning, networking, and transformational deep work.

The livestream experience includes real-time access to all general sessions and activities, a virtualonly host, livestream-only activities, and a virtual lounge where you can connect with other livestream guests.

The live event in Hollywood lets you write with top-tier authors, collaborate with other writers like you, interact with Q&A and audience sharing, attend writing workshops, and get access to full video replays of all general sessions.

For more information, visit https://awritingroom.com/retreat24/.

Southern California Writer's Conference February 14-16, 2025, San Diego, CA

Any number of how-to books combined may not give a writer the one priceless bit of clarity that can make the difference between being published successfully or not. Rejection by an editor or agent seldom yields the reason as to why a manuscript doesn't grab them, and almost never reveals how it can be fixed to ensure that it ever will. Founded and run by professional writers the SCWC

provides veteran and emerging talent with authoritative guidance to help distinguish those manuscripts that are ready for market consideration, having facilitated well over \$4 million worth of first-time authors' book and screen deals. With extended one-on-one evaluation of advance submissions and dozens of read & critique and practical information workshops to choose from, the SCWC is among the only conferences specifically tailored to empower writers of every level with the vital tools, networking and industry prowess needed to sell their work. And since our surroundings afford it—and we certainly encourage it—plenty of other opportunities await those attending to sidle up next to editors, agents, executives, and others joining us to discuss things on a more intimate level.

Regardless which path to publication you are pursuing, whether you're a writer just starting out, a writer unable to determine why your work's not working, a writer simply in search of answers, a writer wanting feedback on what you've written, or just a writer who wants to hang with other writers and publishing professionals in a safe, supportive community, do yourself a favor and join us for our 39th Annual Southern California Writers' Conference San Diego. Your words are worth it!

Limited to 175 conferees. Discounted pre-registration opens June 1st. For more information go to: https://writersconference.com/sd/.

San Diego Writers Festival April 5, 2025, Coronado, CA

Celebrate the craft of writing by joining the 6th Annual San Diego Writers Festival coming up on April 5, 2025! For more details: info@sandiegowritersfestival.com.

Resources for the Publishing & Writing Community

Have more resources to share? Please email them to Newsletter Editor Glenna Bloemen at gab11853@aol.com, and we will be happy to include them in this list.

Best Literary Agents Seeking Submissions in San Diego	<u>Blog.Reedsy.com/literary-agents/san-diego/</u>			
California Resources for Writers	WriteByNight.net/California			
California Writer's Club				
City of San Diego Public Library SanDiego.gov/pub	blic-library/news-events/localauthors/resources			
Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA)	<u>IBPA-online.org</u>			
IBPA's Distributors and Wholesalers (distinctions and list)	<u>IBPA-online.org/page/distributors</u>			
IBPA's Hybrid Publisher Criteria	<u>IBPA-online.org/page/hybridpublisher</u>			
IBPA's Industry Standards Checklist for a Professionally Published Book	<u>IBPA-online.org/page/standardschecklist</u>			
Independent Writers of Southern California	<u>IWOSC.org/writer-resources/</u>			
Mystery Writers of America	<u>MysteryWriters.org</u>			
Radio Guest List (free subscription for interview offers delivered to your email inbox) RadioGuestList.com				
Romance Writers of America	<u>RWA.org</u>			
San Diego Writer Resources	SanDiegoBookAwards.org/resources			
San Diego Writers Ink	SanDiegoWriters.org			
Sixty Writers Conferences for Authors, Bloggers, and Freelancers				
The Top Online Writers' Conferences				
	<u>Top-25-online-writers-conferences-in-2021</u>			
University of San Diego-Creative Writing				
The Writers for Hire—Ghostwriting and Books				
The Writers Room				
Writing Conferences and Events <u>NewPages.con</u>	n/writers-resources/writing-conferences-events			

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