

FAQ for Espresso Book Machine

What is the Espresso Book Machine?

The Espresso Book Machine® (the “EBM”), is a book robot that prints, binds and trims bookstore quality paperbacks in minutes and can access a database of more than 3,000,000 books, many out of print or hard to find.

Create an original work, upload it to the machine or select a pre-existing title to print, and within a few minutes a book emerges, with a full-color cover, trimmed to an exact size and indistinguishable from the publisher’s version.

Where is it located?

The Espresso Book Machine is located on the 2nd floor of the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, California.

What are the specifications of a Books-on-Demand book?

Binding: Perfect-bound, with a full-color paperback cover

Interior: Black and White

Page-Count: 40 to 800 pages

4.Trim Size: Infinitely variable between 5” x 5” to 8” x 10”

I have a self-publishing project in the works. Can I use the Espresso Book Machine to publish my own book?

Yes. If you’ve written a novel, how-to, family or community history, cookbook, memoir, journal, course materials, conference handbook – the only limit is your imagination. You provide us with two print-ready PDF files: one for your book’s interior pages and one for the cover, formatted the way you want them to look.

Can the book be illustrated?

Yes, the book can be illustrated. Please check our submissions guidelines for hints on how to scan photographs and illustrations.

Color or Black and White?

The cover will be in color (300 dpi) and the interior pages will be in black and white.

Do you offer cover designs?

Not at this time. Eventually we hope to have templates you can download for free. Cover design is very important so you may want to contact a freelance graphic designer. We have provided a list of freelance editors and designers in the resource section.

Can I make modifications to my book?

Yes. After the initial set-up and the printing of the proof copy, you may make modifications to your work. There will be a second set-up fee of \$10 plus the cost of an additional proof copy (based on price per page).

Do you edit?

No. We do not offer editing services but we can put you in contact with professional editors. If you need help formatting your documents, creating a personalized cover, and/or converting your documents to print-ready PDF files, a professional editor or designer can help.

Can I wait in store for the book to be printed?

At this point, we may are not able to print most books immediately. We hope to print all “proof” copies while you wait though. The book will be ready depending on how many other orders are in line ahead of you and how many copies you need. When your book is ready we’ll call and either arrange for you to pick them up or, we can deliver them to your local Sacramento Public Library branch.

What is the quality of a book produced by the EBM?

There is no difference between a book produced by the EBM and a book from a regular publisher. They are indistinguishable in appearance and quality.

What is the minimum and maximum numbers I can print at one time?

Print 1 copy, 10 copies, 100 copies or 300 copies or anywhere in between. The benefit of the Espresso Book Machine, though, is not having to print hundreds of copies at once and stacking them in the living room until they're ready to sell.

How long will it take to print my book?

The process only takes 4 to 5 minutes to print, bind and trim a book. However, set-up of the files may take longer and completing the full print run requires more time. Existing demand also influences delivery time. The Publishing Assistant will be able to provide a delivery date when you submit your files. We ask that you make an appointment with the Publishing Assistant when you are ready to print. We are not accepting walk-ins at this time.

Does anyone else in Sacramento have the Espresso Book Machine®?

I Street has the only Espresso Machine in Sacramento. In fact, there are only two other located in California. And, we have the newest machine West of the Mississippi.

I have more questions. Is there someone I can contact?

Send your questions to istreet@saclibrary.org

Do I have to pay California sales tax for books I order?

If you are an independent publisher and can provide a valid re-sell license you do not pay sales tax. Otherwise, we'll collect sales tax when you order your books.