



Author AI Adoption and Workflow Survey

A survey exploring how indie and commercial authors utilize generative AI across their writing, publishing, and marketing workflows.

 Not shared



Primary genre

- ☐ Romance
- ☐ Sci-Fi/Fantasy
- ☐ Mystery/Thriller/Crime
- ☐ Horror/Dark Fiction
- ☐ Literary/Contemporary
- ☐ Non-Fiction/Memoir
- ☐ YA/Middle Grade
- ☐ Other

Published titles

- ☐ 0 (querying/pre-publication)
- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-9
- ☐ 10-24
- ☐ 25+

Publishing model

- ☐ Full-time indie (primary income)
- ☐ Part-time indie (supplemental income)
- ☐ Hobbyist/non-commercial indie
- ☐ Hybrid (indie and traditional)

Net author revenue, past 12 months (USD)

- ☐ Less than 1K
- ☐ 1K-9,999
- ☐ 10K-49,999
- ☐ 50K-99,999
- ☐ 100K-249,999
- ☐ 250K+
- ☐ Prefer not to disclose

Current generative AI use

- ☐ Never used; no intention
- ☐ Tried, then stopped
- ☐ Business/marketing/admin only
- ☐ Planning, structural feedback, or editorial diagnosis
- ☐ Drafting prose, scenes, or line-level text

AI tools used

- ☐ General LLMs
- ☐ Fiction suites
- ☐ Local open-source models
- ☐ Image generators
- ☐ Voice/audio tools
- ☐ Generative grammar/editing tools

Manuscript workflow

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Will never consider
Worldbuilding	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pacing/plot/timeline diagnosis	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outlining	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scene transitions/hooks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dialogue/dialect	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sensory/setting description	☐	☐	☐	☐
Full-scene/chapter drafting	☐	☐	☐	☐
Copyediting/proofreading	☐	☐	☐	☐

Publishing and packaging workflow

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Will never consider
Blurbs/synopses	☐	☐	☐	☐
Category/keyword/market research	☐	☐	☐	☐
Newsletters/social posts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ad copy	☐	☐	☐	☐
Retail cover art	☐	☐	☐	☐
Retail audiobooks	☐	☐	☐	☐

Do you tell readers when generative AI was used creatively or editorially?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Only if required by a platform
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Case-by-case when generated text reaches the final draft

I keep my AI use private because I fear criticism or boycotts from readers or peers.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly agree

How do you complete retailer AI disclosure forms?

- ☐ Declare all AI use
- ☐ Declare only retained AI text/art
- ☐ Mark heavily edited AI drafts as human-created
- ☐ Avoid retailers requiring disclosure

What net effect will generative AI have on indie-author income over the next 3-5 years?

- ☐ Strong positive
- ☐ Slight positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Slight negative
- ☐ Strong negative

What are your top concerns about generative AI in commercial publishing?

- ☐ Unconsented copyrighted training data
- ☐ Marketplace flooding/discoverability
- ☐ Reader distrust of self-publishing
- ☐ Subscription-pool devaluation
- ☐ Loss of craft/voice/depth
- ☐ Privacy/manuscript leakage
- ☐ No major concerns

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