# Ebook Production Tools

Comparison of Some Tools:
http://ebooks-software-review.toptenreviews.com/

## KindleGen and KindlePreviewer

Free -
https://kdp.amazon.com/help?topicId=A3IWA2TQYMZ5J6
Pros:
- Builds to precise Amazon specs
- Easy to use (if you're comfortable with command line)
- Previewer closely matches most Kindle device views
- Accepts Word, HTML & ePub input
- Works on PC and Mac
Cons:
- Command line interface to build
- Output is Kindle format only

## Jutoh

$39 basic — http://jutoh.com/
Pros:
- Can play with demo before you buy
- Kindle, ePub, and iPad output
Cons:
- Complex, non-intuitive

## Sigil

Donate — http://sigil-ebook.com/
Pros:
- Can edit components without importing
- Great for editing existing ePub books
Cons:
- ePub output only, no other formats
- HTML or ePub input only
- Very developer oriented

## Calibre

Free/donate — http://calibre-ebook.com/download
Pros:
- Lots of people use it, lots of guides online.
- Kindle and ePub outputs
- Great for managing personal library and changing formats for your personal eReader.
Cons:
- You cannot fully control the visual display (for example, Table of Content display).
- The controls for manipulating output are difficult to use.
- Clunky for repeated builds while testing the results.
- Overrides your CSS in unpredictable ways.

## iBook Author

Free - http://www.apple.com/ibooks-author/
Pros:
- Great support for "interactive" books (….apps)
- Easy to use
Cons:
- Runs only on OSX machines
- Output only iPad or PDF format
- "glitchy"

## Adobe InDesign

~$20/month —
http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign.html
Pros:
- Free trial
- Powerful
- Kindle, EPub, and iPad output
Cons:
- Difficult (and print oriented)
- Expensive

## Smashwords (aggregator-distributor)

Free - (pays you royalties, keeps 35%)
https://www.smashwords.com/auth
Pros:
- Builds from your clean, imported Word file
- Multiple formats (not Kindle)
- Distributes to multiple stores
- Distributes to Barnes & Noble, Apple, Kobo, Scribd **and** Page Foundry, Baker & Taylor Blio, Flipkart (India), Oyster, txtr (Germany), *plus* Library channels: Library Direct, Baker & Taylor Axis 360, Overdrive
Cons:
- No error messages when it spits back your ePub file
- Less control on visual results; Clunky upload interface
- Complex, wordy documentation
- Quarterly payments
- Inconsistent/unpredictable "shipping" schedule

## Draft2Digital (aggregator-distributor)

Free - (pays you royalties, keeps 35%)
https://draft2digital.com/
Pros:
- Builds from your clean, imported Word file
- Minimal input file requirements
- Multiple outputs (not Kindle)
- Distributes to Barnes & Noble, Apple, Kobo, Scribd
- Monthly payments; faster publication
- No copyright page requirements
Cons:
- Fewer distribution targets