Quick Tips: Title Page & Copyright Page

Title Page

The title page is different from the cover of the book. The cover wraps around all the interior pages in the book. The title page is typically the first page inside the book.

Some authors and publishers choose to include an optional half title page as the first page of the book. The half title page only displays the title. The back side of the half-title page would either be blank or list additional works by the author and then be followed by the full title page.

The full title page displays the title, the subtitle (if using), the edition, volume, or series information (if applicable), the authors/contributors of the work, the name of the publisher, and the publisher location.

Copyright Page

The copyright page typically goes on the reverse side of the full title page. The copyright page displays information such as title, author, copyright statement, rights/licensing statement, publisher name and contact information, edition, impression, International Standard Book Number (ISBN), Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN), permissions, credits, printing location, paper durability statement, and author’s or publisher’s note.

The copyright statement displays the ownership of the intellectual property in the work and is typically formatted: Copyright © year of copyright, copyright holder’s name. The copyright statement is usually followed by a rights such as “All rights reserved.” or a licensing statement such as “This work is licensed under a CC BY 4.0 license.” These statements provide guidance on what users are—or are not—allowed to do (copying, revising, redistributing). While US Copyright Law protects “original works of authorship,” authors may wish to register their copyright ownership with the US Copyright Office.

The ISBN is a unique number for every edition and format of a book and is used to link data associated with the book. ISBNs in the US may be purchased from Bowker. Books sold in a retail environment may be required to have an ISBN.

The LCCN is assigned by the Library of Congress. Publishers may apply to the Library of Congress for a Preassigned Control Number. Publishers may be required to send copies of the book to the Library of Congress for cataloging once printed.