CATEGORY

Publisher of the Year

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What are the judges looking for?

We want to find the general trade publisher that had the best year in 2024, from sales or award success, or simply by publishing well across all of its lists and maximising rewards for their authors.

Who can submit?

Any UK or Irish publisher, publishing group, or publishing division within a larger entity may enter this award. There is no minimum sales requirement, but please note publishers need to demonstrate an ability to sell at scale across the UK and Ireland and create commercial bestsellers. Publishers unable to demonstrate charts success are unlikely to be shortlisted in this category. There is no sales threshold for this, but strong indies are encouraged to submit to the Independent Publisher of the Year award. Evidence of commercial success across a range of sectors is important for this award, as is bestseller success.

What to submit?

Please submit, via the awards site, a zippedfile, containing a single PDF of up to 2,500 words covering the requirements listed here. The PDF can include supporting graphics but should not exceed 15 pages total. Please also incude within this file:

- a hi-res image of the publisher's logo
- staff and author images
- relevant book jackets.

If you experience any problems please email awards@thebookseller.com

Other guidance

- Judging period: January to December 2024
- Indexed financial figures permissible where actuals are not legally permissible
- Our submission site works best with file sizes lower than 50MB. If you encounter any difficulties, please email awards@thebookseller.com

Please include

Business and sales success

- Evidence of the commercial success of the publishing programme in 2024. Judges will look to make like-for-like comparisons with other shortlisted companies, so please be as transparent as possible
- Details of the number of books published and how this has changed, as well as any company acquisitions made during the period
- Please outline any business strategies employed to counter the changing marketplace, and how these impacted your publishing strategy.

Author development

- Details of the success with bestselling writers, brand-names, or other significant authors, including their development over the year
- Details of the discovery of creative and commercially significant debut authors
- Evidence of author retention and investment in backlist development
- Evidence, such as testimonials, of author satisfaction
- Evidence of the development or discovery of authors from traditionally under-represented background

Marketing, publicity and design

- Book prizes/awards won or for which your books have been shortlisted
- Evidence of innovation in the promotion, design and marketing of books in all formats, including digital
- Evidence of collaborations or partnerships which extended reach or had a positive social impact
- Evidence of how the publisher has contributed to initiatives to grow the market, encourage reading and improve literacy levels

Diversity & inclusion

- Evidence of a Diversity & Inclusion scheme
- Evidence of embedding D&I throughout the employee experience, including flexible work arrangements, staff retention and promotion.
- Participation in cross-industry initiatives

Sustainability

- Evidence of a sustainability scheme.
- Participation in cross-industry initiatives.
- Outlining how senior staff have been made accountable for sustainable action.

Artificial Intelligence

• Please outline your strategies and policies for making use of the emerging technologies in the area of AI. This can include business success, the adoption of new guidelines, or the effective introduction of AI within your business