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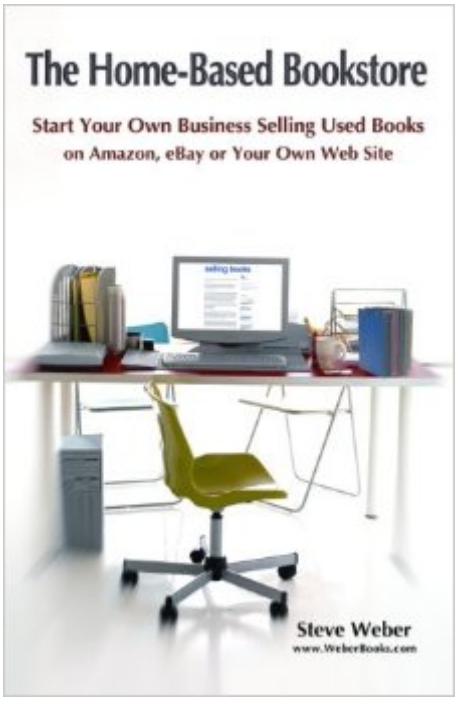
The Home-Based Bookstore: Start Your Own Business Selling Used Books On , EBay Or Your Own Web Site



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Synopsis

Want to discover the most profitable, lowest-risk idea for your home business? It's selling used books online, which is growing 33 percent annually, according to a new study by U.S. publishers. Learn how to start your business part-time, then expand at your own pace. This step-by-step guide, written by one of the most successful and highly rated sellers on and eBay, includes everything you need to know:

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (228 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

`The Home-Based Bookstore' is written by Steve Weber, who solicited this review from me and supplied me with a copy of his book. I expect this will not influence my review, but it is good for you to know this up front.Before I opened this book, I posed some questions I thought the book should answer. These questions, with the author's response follow:1. What are the criteria for choosing .com, eBay, or one's own site for selling a particular title?The author clearly prefers over most other options, although he gives some good reasons for setting up your own web page.2. How do you pick titles to sell? Some obvious examples, such as Stephen King hardcovers are really poor second hand sellers.The author gives some very general suggestions on which titles to pick and which titles to avoid. I agree with him almost entirely, although I can think of some exceptions to most of his titles to avoid; however, that is based on special knowledge of certain fields such as cookbooks.3. How do you acquire interesting titles cheaply? Whenever I browse a second hand bookstore, 99 out of 100 titles are pure junk. I have yet to find, for example, an important out of print

cookbook at any used bookstore.The author provides many good sources, including every one I could think of, plus one or two I did not think of.4. How do you track your stock so you can quickly determine whether or not you have a title OR where you may be able to acquire a title for a book hunter.The author gives many useful answers to this question, including some new technology options that really surprised me, based on accessing the Internet through your cell phone.5.

The Home-Based Bookstore doesn't claim to be complete and comprehensive, so it's probably not fair to give it only four stars because it skimps on some useful information.For example, Mr. Weber recommends giving the customer a tracking number but doesn't make it clear how to get one. I'm sure this is idiotically simple to anyone familiar with postal transactions. That's probably why Mr. Weber didn't give a hand-holding description of the process.I was clueless. I took my first shipment to the post office and asked for a tracking number. The clerk started pulling out forms for costly and complicated types of service and began to spout arcane postal jargon. I couldn't cope with the information overload so I shipped my books without the all-important tracking number.My next trip I learned that you have to get DELIVERY CONFIRMATION. Look for the small lime-green form. It has a bar code label (with tracking number) that you attach to your parcel.I could have used some help with book terminology, i.e., the verbiage to put into the "comments" field of your listing. If you browse the listings, you see myriad descriptive terms. Is there a right or wrong way to list your book? The book does not address the topic.The book is rife with listings for pricing and inventory software, online postage services, and the hand-held scanners you can use for automated scouting at book sales. It's puzzling that the author would present these listings without commentary regarding which ones he found useful, or if he used them at all.The author could have summarized how he was able to quit his job in three months and sell books full time.

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