

Singapore Book Awards 2027

Rules & Category Guidelines

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Category guidelines



ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. Books must be:
 - a. Available in print in Singapore;
 - b. Written in English (with the exception of the Mother Tongue categories);
 - c. Published in Singapore between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026;
 - d. Published in Singapore by a trade imprint formally established in Singapore (see section 2 below).
 - e. Available for sale at retail bookstores in Singapore, including online retail bookstores established in Singapore, and not owned in whole or part by the publisher. (Entries for the Custom Publishing category are exempt from this requirement.)
2. The book publisher must:
 - a. Have its principal place of business in Singapore and be subject to Singapore registration and regulation, including the primary liability to pay tax in Singapore on all of its trading activities as a book publisher. A copy of the company/business ACRA certificate, dated within three months of the submission date, may be requested for verification purposes; and
 - b. Fulfil either of the following criteria for the submitted book:
 - i. Possess a Singapore International Standard Book Number; or
 - ii. The main author, or a majority of the authors in the case of a collection, must be Singapore citizens or permanent residents.
3. The publisher of the book must be operational at the time its entry is submitted. The book will only remain eligible for as long as its book publisher is operational through the various stages of the awards up to the time of the announcement of the winner at the Presentation Award Ceremony, although this is subject to the discretion of the Book Awards Committee.
4. Each book publisher is entitled to submit up to a maximum of three (3) book titles per category.
5. Each title cannot be submitted for more than one book category (with the exception of Best Cover Design and Best Marketing Campaign).
6. Non-members are also allowed to submit, and will be encouraged to apply for membership with SBPA.
7. Publishers are required to inform the authors and seek their consent that their titles would be submitted for the Singapore Book Awards.

REGISTRATION FEES

There will be a registration fee of S\$55 per title per category for SBPA members. Non-members will have to pay a registration fee of S\$110 per title per category.

DECLARATIONS

By submitting titles for the Book Awards, you agree to the following:

1. The decision of the Book Awards Committee as to whether the book is eligible is final and binding.
2. The Executive Committee of the SBPA reserves the right to nominate one more title submitted for any category for consideration by the Book of the Year judging panel. The Book of the Year judging panel's decision on the Book of the Year remains final and binding.
3. The submitted books meet the criteria for publishing and authorship.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE & TIMELINE

General

1. Completed online entries should be submitted by **30 November 2026**.
2. Each applicant (publisher/author) can nominate up to **three (3)** titles per category only.
3. Each title cannot be submitted for more than one book category (with the exception of Best Cover Design and Best Marketing Campaign).
4. **Six (6)** hard copies of each title per category must be delivered to the SBPA Secretariat by Friday, **4 December 2026**. If the publisher's title is shortlisted for the Book Awards, additional hard copies may be required for marketing purposes. Books should be delivered to:

Singapore Book Publishers Association Secretariat
120 Hillview Ave, #05-06/07 Kewalram Hillview
Singapore 669594

Please label the parcel clearly:
"Singapore Book Awards Entry 2027 – XXX (Name of Publisher)"

5. **Titles scheduled for publication in December 2026:** Publishers with titles that are scheduled to be published in December should **email the SBPA Secretariat in advance** to indicate their intention to submit the title for the 2027 Singapore Book Awards. To be eligible for consideration, **six (6) physical copies must reach the SBPA Secretariat by Friday, 8 January 2027**.

Online Entry Forms

The online form can be accessed [here](#).

In the online form, each imprint should [fill out and upload this nomination document](#) providing the following information on each title:

1. First publication date and ISBN
2. Justification for each book explaining why it should be considered.
3. A brief description of the submitted title(s). The text would be used for the programme booklet accompanying the Book Awards Ceremony if the title is shortlisted.
4. Names of the authors, illustrators, and/or cover designers/design team/marketing team (for relevant categories)
5. A high-resolution, full colour image of the book cover (minimum 300dpi).
6. For Best Cover Design and Best Marketing Campaign categories: please provide detailed explanation of the design, campaigns and programs, with any supporting information necessary.

Shortlisted Titles

If a book is shortlisted, book publishers must use their best endeavours to ensure that they are available for publicity and events from this stage. Book publishers may be asked to provide extra copies for display.

Book Awards Ceremony

All shortlisted book publishers must purchase tickets to attend the Book Awards Ceremony in April 2027 to receive the certificates presented to all shortlisted titles and/or the prizes presented to the winners. If they are not available, publishers must send a representative.

Details of the ceremony will be released at a later time. Please look out for updates on our Instagram @SBPA and emails.

For all inquiries, please contact the SBPA Secretariat at info@singaporebookpublishers.sg

Finalists and Winners

Finalists will be announced prior to the Book Awards Ceremony on SBPA's official channels. Winners will be announced at the ceremony.

The Singapore Book Awards will make available official sticker labels which finalists and winners can choose to use on the covers of their books after the announcements have been made public.

One finalist certificate and one winning trophy will be presented to the respective recipients at the Book Awards Ceremony.

The publisher can order and purchase additional copies of finalist certificates and winner trophies by writing to the SBA committee (info@singaporebookpublishers.sg) AFTER the Book Awards Ceremony.

2027 Award Categories

With the exception of Best Cover Design and Best Marketing Campaign, each title can only be submitted for a single category. Please consider which category the book best fits before submitting.

The overall **Book of the Year** award title will be selected from the award winners of the categories.

Category	Eligibility	Examples
Best Literary Work	Works of literary merit that are either fictional or poetic in nature, written for adult readers or general audiences.	Novels, poetry collections, short story collections
Best Non-Fiction	Non-fiction books that are primarily text-based, written for adults or general audiences.	Memoirs, creative non-fiction work, academic work, essay collections
Best Illustrated Non-Fiction	Generally known as ‘coffee table’ books. Non-fiction books with a heavy focus on art, photography, or any visuals, to convey its content, written for adults or general audiences.	Coffee table books, illustrated memoirs
Best Graphic Novel	Book-length work told in <i>sequential art</i> for middle grade, young adult, or adult audiences. (No picture books or chapter books).	Graphic novel, comic, illustrated memoir
Best Professional Title	Titles focused on enabling working professionals to advance their professional knowledge and skills.	Self-help and skill books, investment & management guides, industry guides, etc
Best Food Book	Fiction and non-fiction books centered around food and/or food heritage.	Cookbooks, food memoirs, food history, food culture, food photography and art
Best Educational Supplement	Supplementary materials for secondary/supportive curriculum learning, for students K-12 (primary to JC level).	Educational magazines, assessment books, guidebooks, readers
Best Textbook	Textbooks and accompanying workbooks developed for curriculum usage in schools, for K-12 use (primary to JC level).	Curriculum textbooks and workbooks

Best Custom Publishing Title	Specially commissioned book projects from public or private organisations or corporations (not individuals) for promotional, branding, or educational purposes, distributed to their target audience. Does not necessarily have to be available for retail sale.	Anniversary books, corporate books, promotional books.
CHILDREN'S CATEGORIES		
Best Young Person's Non-Fiction	Non-fiction titles for children aged about 7-18.	
Best Young Person's Fiction	Text-based fiction and poetry titles for readers aged roughly 7-18.	Novels, poetry collections, short story collections
Best Children's Picture Book	Fiction and non-fiction picture books for children approximately aged 0 through 6 years old.	
Best Children's Chinese Language Book	Fiction and non-fiction books for children approximately aged 0-12 years old in Chinese or bilingual (including Chinese).	Novels, poetry collections, short story collections, picture books, translated titles.
Best Children's Malay Language Book	Fiction and non-fiction books for children approximately aged 0-12 years old in Malay or bilingual (including Malay).	Novels, poetry collections, short story collections, picture books, translated titles.
Best Children's Tamil Language Book	Fiction and non-fiction books for children approximately aged 0-12 years old in Tamil or bilingual (including Tamil).	Novels, poetry collections, short story collections, picture books, translated titles.
NON-EXCLUSIVE CATEGORIES (Books may be submitted for these categories in combination with one of the categories above)		
Best Book Cover	Cover that is attractive, genre-aligned, and meaningfully and creatively represents the book's content.	

Best Marketing Campaign	Creative and resourceful marketing and publicity strategies and activities for a title, within the publisher's constraints. Bearing in mind the different capacities of bigger and smaller publishers, this award focuses on creativity as opposed to extensiveness. Highlights could include merchandise display, social media campaign, media coverage, marketing strategy, book events. In addition to the description of events, you may also compile and submit a document (PDF, docx, ppt) of supporting media or links.
Book Champion Award	A peer-nominated individual or organization that has made a special contribution to publishing and promoting Singapore published books during the year. This award will be nominated by SBPA members, with one winner and no finalists.