



Inventory File Requirements

Bowker collects inventory, price and availability information for our Books In Print and Global Books In Print databases. Inventory feeds can be viewed from a Stock Availability tab on the Books In Print website and indicate to Bowker customers which of your warehouse locations have stock on hand or on order, and what the price would be for that stock.

We ask for a separate feed from your bibliographic data feed for several reasons—

- To receive more timely updates on price and availability. While a bibliographic feed may be sent in ONIX once per month, an inventory feed may arrive in text delimited format one a day or once a week.
- Identify specific geographic locations for a wholesaler or distributor so customers view and order from their local warehouse.
- Ability to overwrite the complete set of data each time a new file arrives. With our bibliographic database, we aim to add layers of new information to old in order to house the most complete information about a title. Inventory feeds are designed to replace old information with more timely data.
- This type of feed serves wholesalers well because Bowker does not usually accept bibliographic updates from wholesalers, only publishers and appointed distributors for a publisher.

Bowker Specifications

- ISBN data should be sent per our agreed upon frequency (e.g. daily, weekly or monthly).
- Include all active and forthcoming titles. Do not include titles that are out of stock with no planned reorders.
- Bowker reviews the quality of the information within the file as well as the format of the file before accepting a new feed.
- Bowker prefers you use our standard file specifications.
- To avoid gaps in coverage, discuss with your Bowker contact whether or not you should be supplying an ONIX or Excel bibliographic file in addition to your inventory file.
- Bowker stores data for the US, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and South Africa. You may provide price information for all applicable markets in your inventory file.
- Files should be submitted via e-mail to the Publisher Relations department. If you do not have a current contact, please send to Patricia.Payton@bowker.com. FTP submissions are only allowed if Bowker has previously confirmed we can accept the test file in this way.

What Publishers Can Expect

All files submitted to Bowker for the first time undergo a testing phase before they are accepted into production. Once files have been accepted into production, further testing will not be needed unless serious data issues come to light.

1. Send a sample file for testing that meets our standard file specifications. If you already have a similar file feed established within your company, please send it in text delimited along with file specs outlined in the e-mail.
2. Once the file is compared to our specifications, the sample file will be analyzed for quality of content in the data fields. Specific changes/improvements may be requested before testing proceeds.
3. The file will be run in Bowker's test environment to ensure data will load properly.
4. After the initial file has been tested and approved for production, Bowker will contact you to establish a mutually-agreed upon schedule and agree on termination of previous feeds.
5. Future files may be FTP'd after a delivery schedule has been established. If no FTP is available at this time, files should be sent to the contact provided.

6. Once a format and a method of transmission have been established, send all subsequent files in the same way. Notify Bowker, in advance, of any changes.

Standard File Specifications

File Positions	Data Element	Additional Guidelines
Basic Title Information		
1-13	ISBN	ISBN10 or ISBN13 accepted. Unhyphenated ISBNs only.
14-21	available date	Enter the date the publisher or supplier expects to SHIP the title. Format is YYYYMMDD, (i.e. 20070515 for a title published May 15, 2007). The SHIP date is equal to or prior to the PUB DATE.
22-24	time to ship	Enter number of days needed to pick, invoice and ship product.
25-32	return date	For a returnable item, the publisher may provide the date by which all returns of that item must be made. Date must contain month, day, and year and should be entered as YYYYMMDD.
33	returnable indicator	Codes are Y (Yes), N (No), S (Strippable), C (Conditional)
Price Information		
34-39	price1	Enter the retail price, without dollar or other currency symbols, and using an explicit decimal point.
40	price type1	Indicate if price is retail (R) net (N) or school (S).
41-43	currency1	Specify the currency in which the price is quoted. Use a separate pair of columns for each price/currency combination (add columns as needed); common currencies: USD (United States), CAD (Canadian), GBP (UK), AUS (Australia), NZL (New Zealand)
44-48	discount1	Enter the proprietary code representing the discount grouping or schedule for a product. It is most often what would be printed in a catalog. The codes are specific to the publisher or supplier and can contain up to 5 characters (alpha & numeric).
49-54	price2	Repeatable data elements for additional price information like net price or school price in addition to retail price. Or use this for additional country information like Canadian price.
55	price type2	
56-58	currency2	
59-63	discount2	
64-69	price3	Repeatable data elements for additional price information like net price or school price in addition to retail price. Or use this for additional country information like Canadian price.
70	price type3	
71-73	currency3	
74-78	discount3	

Stock Level Information		
79-88	address code	Supply codes for each warehouse location and provide code translations to Bowker with your file.
89-96	leave blank	
97-103	quantity on hand	Indicate actual quantity on hand at the time the file is created or use fields 111-113 below.
104-110	quantity on order	Indicate actual quantity on order at the time the file is created or use fields 114-116 below.
111-113	on hand ranges	If you would prefer to indicate a range rather than a specific quantity, please indicate Y in the field position noted for each quantity. Position 111=Y for 1-25 units, Position 112=Y for 26-100 units, Position 113=Y for >100 units.
114-116	on order ranges	If you would prefer to indicate a range rather than a specific quantity, please indicate Y in the field position noted for each quantity. Position 114=Y for 1-25 units, Position 115=Y for 26-100 units, Position 116=Y for >100 units.
117	on hand indicator	If you would prefer just to indicate if stock is on hand, use A=Available for purchase or X=In Stock. Otherwise leave field blank. Not needed if you populated positions 97-103 or 111-113.
118	on order indicator	If you would prefer just to indicate if stock is on hand, use A=Available for purchase or X=In Stock. Otherwise leave field blank. Not needed if you populated positions 104-110 or 114-116.
Additional Warehouse Location Information		
119-128	address code2	Repeatable data elements for additional warehouse on hand/on order quantities.
129-136	leave blank	
137-143	quantity on hand2	
144-150	quantity on order2	
151-153	on hand ranges2	
154-156	on order ranges2	
157	on hand indicator2	
158	on order indicator2	