

What Is the Title Page Verso? A Parts of the Book Guide

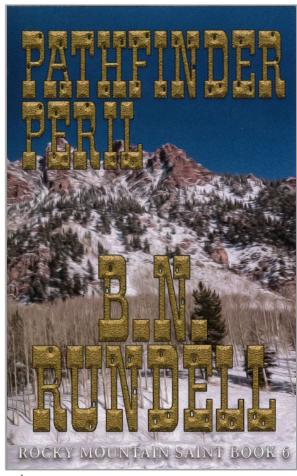
The library world is full of jargon and acronyms. While not intended to be puzzling, mysterious phrases, they very much can be until explained. Cataloging is no exception and is ripe with seemingly nonsensical terms. FRBR? Nomen? Title page verso?

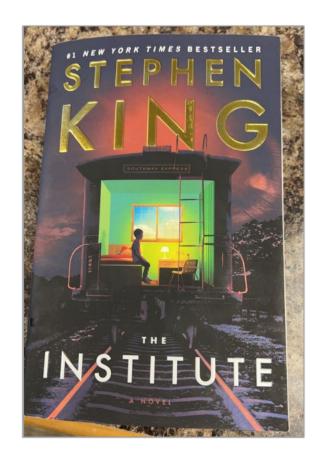
Creating terms and labeling specific parts of a book can be beneficial when talking about a book—it helps keep everyone on the same page. But the terms can be confusing and are certainly not readily understood. But that's okay. This guide will visually break down what each part of a book is called so you know exactly where to look for information when cataloging.

On the Outside

Front Cover

This is the front cover, and it often lists the title and author of the book. It might sometimes list the author of a foreword, series information, special bonus content, and other things you might see on a bibliographic record. Use it to verify information, but this is not the preferred source to find title and author information.

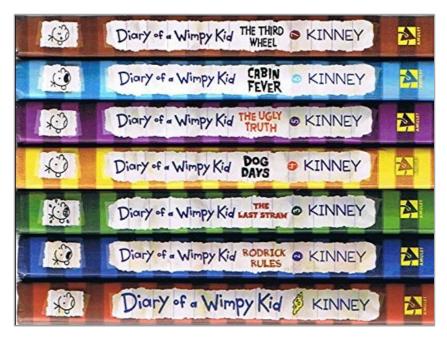




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Spine

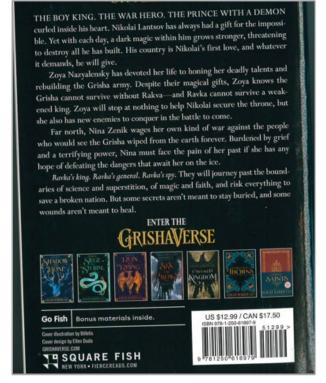
The spine is the side of the book. You'll typically find the title and author listed here. More importantly, you might find series information for a book on the item's spine.



Back Cover

The back cover can vary in how much information is available. It might contain a summary of the book. It often lists the ISBN (which you should verify matches the one listed on the title page verso). It might also list series information and bonus content, like discussion guides.





On the Inside

Title Page

This is the title page. It is at the very beginning of the book and is the preferred source to find the title and author information—this page is what a cataloger creating an original record will transcribe when adding the 245 field to a record. If there is no title page, then use what is given on the front cover. The title page is also the preferred source when determining publisher information for the 264 field. If no publisher information is listed on the title page, or if there is no title page at all, look to the title page verso.

Series information, or even a publication date, might also be found on the title page.



What if there's a page in front of the title page that has *just* the title listed? Ignore that. It's publisher's attempting to look fancy and means nothing to catalogers.

Title Page Verso

This is the meat and potatoes of cataloging. This page lists detailed publication information such as:

- Copyright date, which can double as the implied publication date when nothing specific is given
- Publication date
- Detailed publisher information
- Publication history
- Edition statement(s)
- The preferred source of the ISBN
- Contributor information, such as translators and artists
- And so much more! This is the catchall page where publishers throw everything they want to tell you about the item

Typically, the title page verso can be found immediately after the title page or opposite the title page. If you can't find it there, check the back of the book. Especially with children's books, the title page verso might be the very last page.

Sometimes the verso page might consist of nothing more than a copyright date. This is particularly true of self-published works.

From the first Dutch edition by Theo van Hoijtema adapted and edited by Erwin Burckhardt

Other titles (also available in German): Celestino Piatti's Animal ABC Piatti for Children

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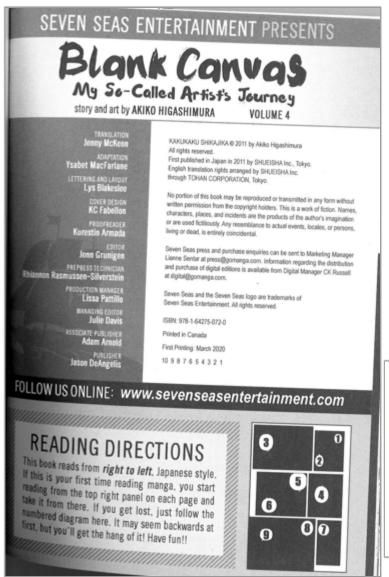
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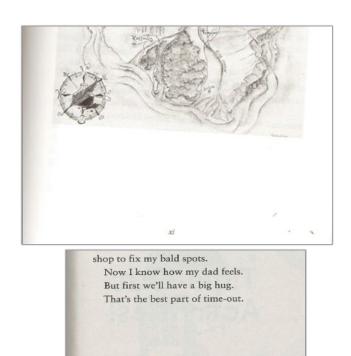
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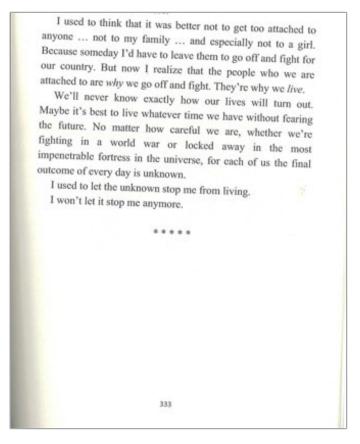
Final Numbered Page

Anytime sequential numbering stops in a book, that is considered a final numbered page. A book may have one final numbered page, or several. For example, a book could have preliminary pages that end with Roman numeral ix, a numbered page that ends on an index numbered 220, and bonus content that ends on page 13. We would need images of all three of those final numbered pages so this information can be added to the 300 field, like so: "ix, 220, 13 pages."

The easiest way to find the final numbered page, or pages, is to start at the back of the book and slowly flip your way towards the front. If the last page at the back of the book ends on an impossibly low number given the size of the volume, then your item probably has bonus content and pagination might end again further in.

For a more detailed look at pagination, check out the *Pagination Considerations in Cataloging* guide: https://alsi.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en-US/search/ asset/8828/0





Finally, manga comics can be very tricky. Some manga's might be unnumbered, but some might also number only a handful of pages, with the final numbered page randomly placed 30 pages from the last page of the book. With manga, it's generally a good idea to flip through the book a couple of times to be certain there are no numbered pages.



Manufacturing Page

Popping up more often, especially with self-published works, is a page at the very end of the book that gives brief manufacturing information. This page is not needed for cataloging. While there is a way to add manufacturing information to a bibliographic record, it is not a current best practice, nor can this information be used as an implied publication date. So, when submitting a cataloging request, save yourself some energy and omit this page during the submission process.



Those are the basics behind the parts of a book. Most books will follow this general format. However, we all know that publishers sometimes enjoy getting creative and might hide information elsewhere. If you ever have a question about a book you're cataloging, or about this guide, please reach out to the RSA Cataloging Department at either help@rsanfp.org or 866-940-4083.