



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

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This guide is available here: <https://support.librariesofrsa.org/project/parts-of-the-book-guide/>

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Introduction

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?

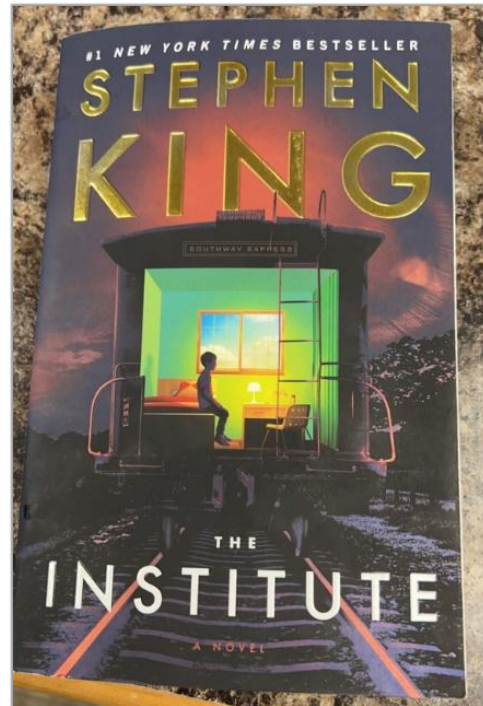
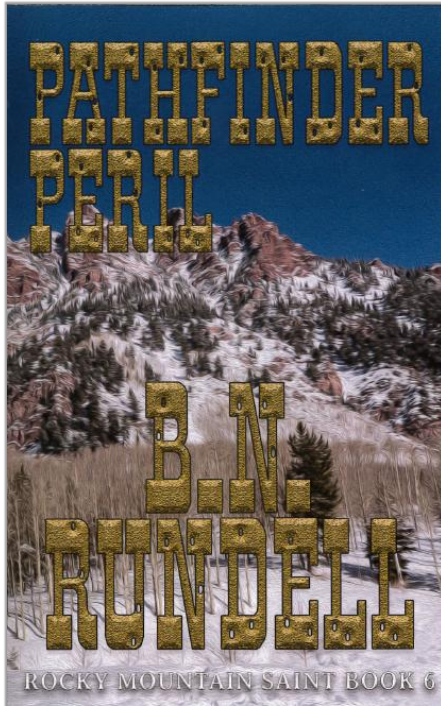
While creating terms and labeling specific parts of a book can be beneficial as it helps keep everyone on the same page, it can be confusing. This guide will visually break down what each part of a book is called – plus highlight information you can find there – so you know exactly where to look for information when cataloging.

Most books will follow the general format outlined in this guide. However, publishers are sometimes creative and might hide information elsewhere in the book. If you have a question about a book you're cataloging or about this guide, please reach out to the RSA Bibliographic Services Department at either help@librariesofrsa.org or 866-940-4083.

On the Outside of the Book

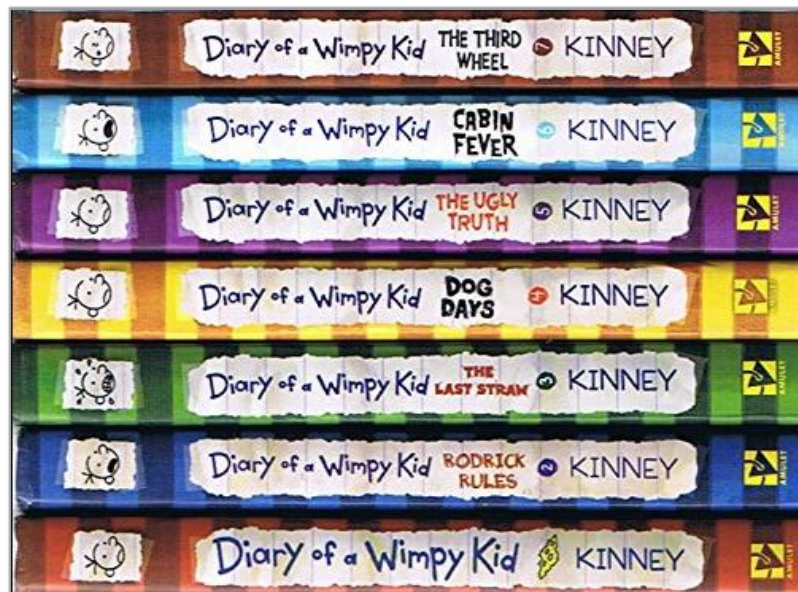
Front Cover

The front cover 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 information you might see on a bibliographic record. Use the front cover to verify information, but it is not the preferred source to find title and author information.



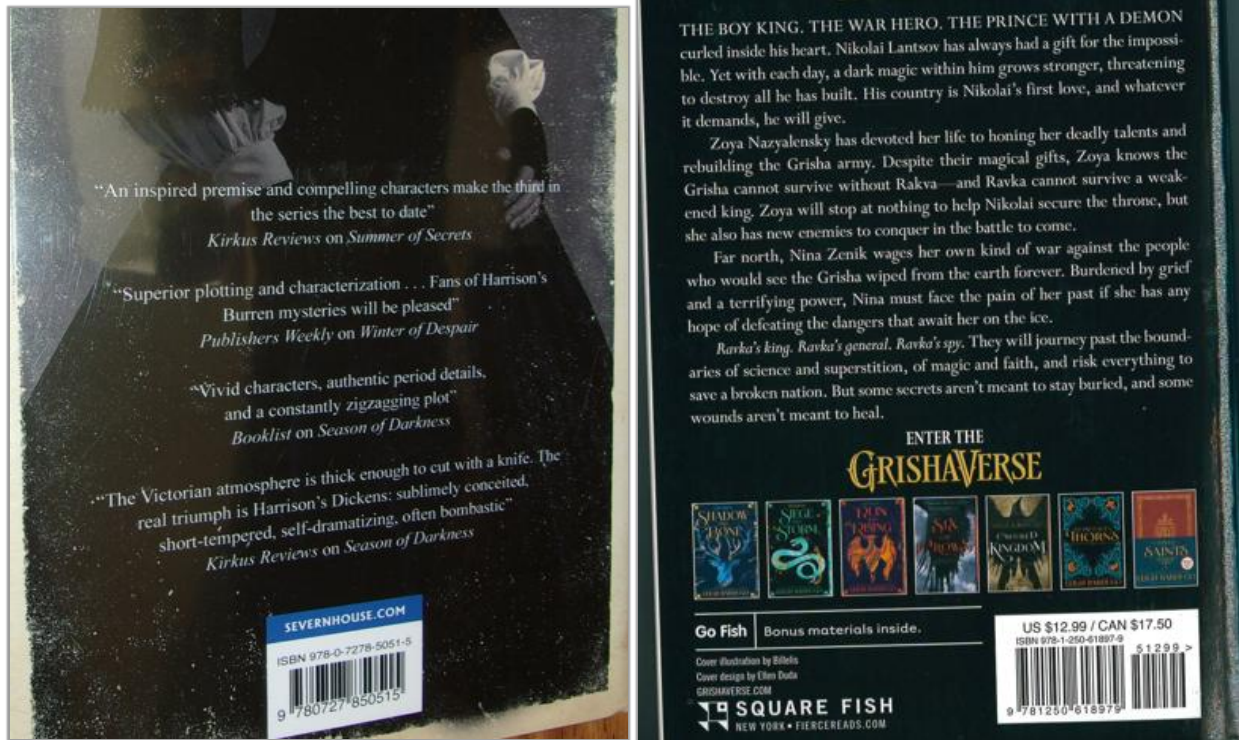
Spine

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 on the 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 printed on the title page verso because that is the preferred source for ISBN. The back cover might also list series information and bonus content, like discussion guides.



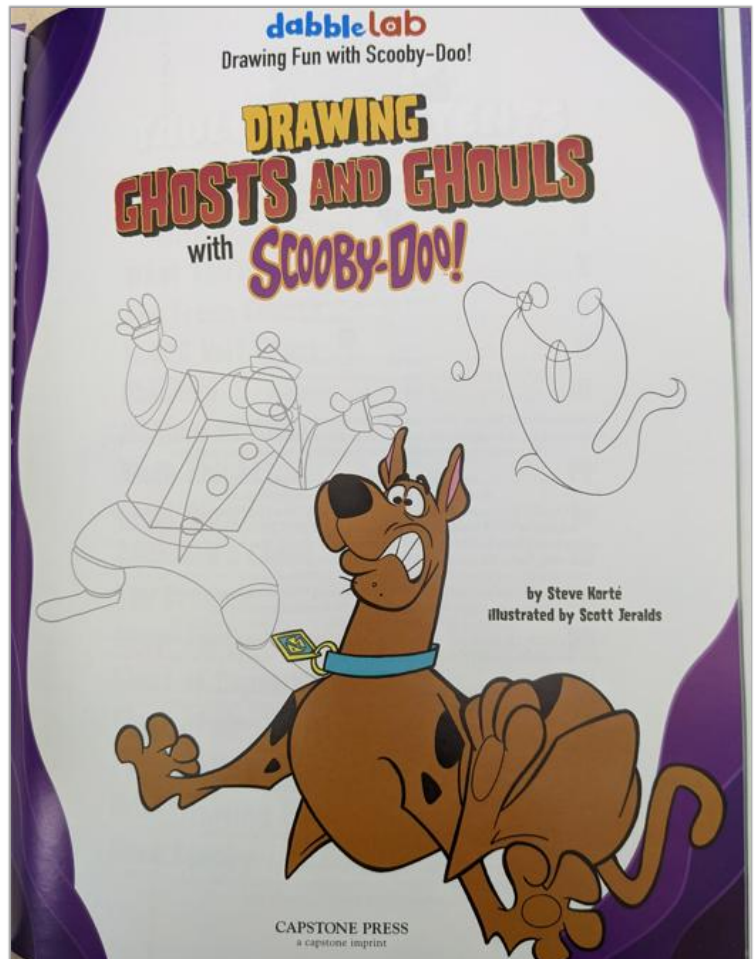
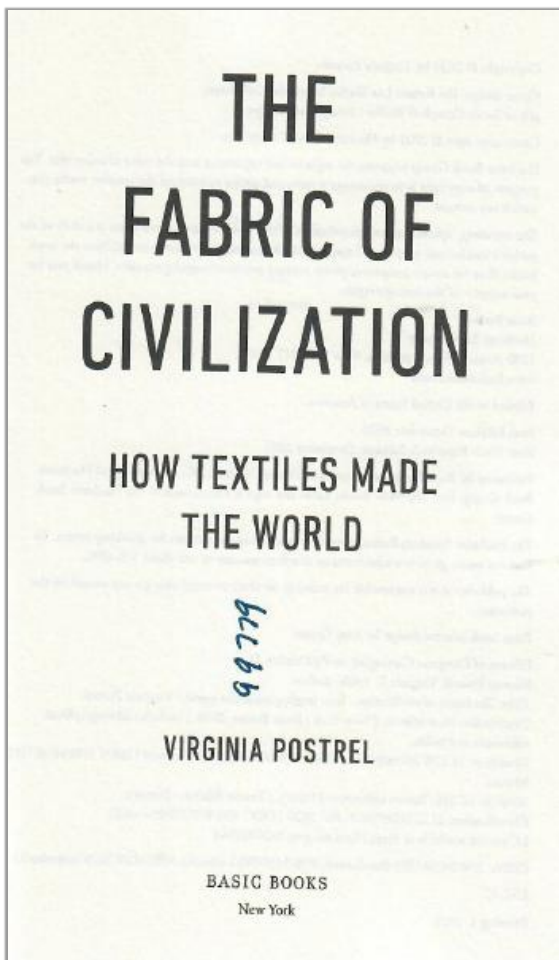
On the Inside of the Book

Title Page

The title page is at the very beginning of the book and is the preferred source of title and author. The title 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 at 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? That page is safe to ignore when cataloging.

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 share information they want to tell you about the book.

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 books.

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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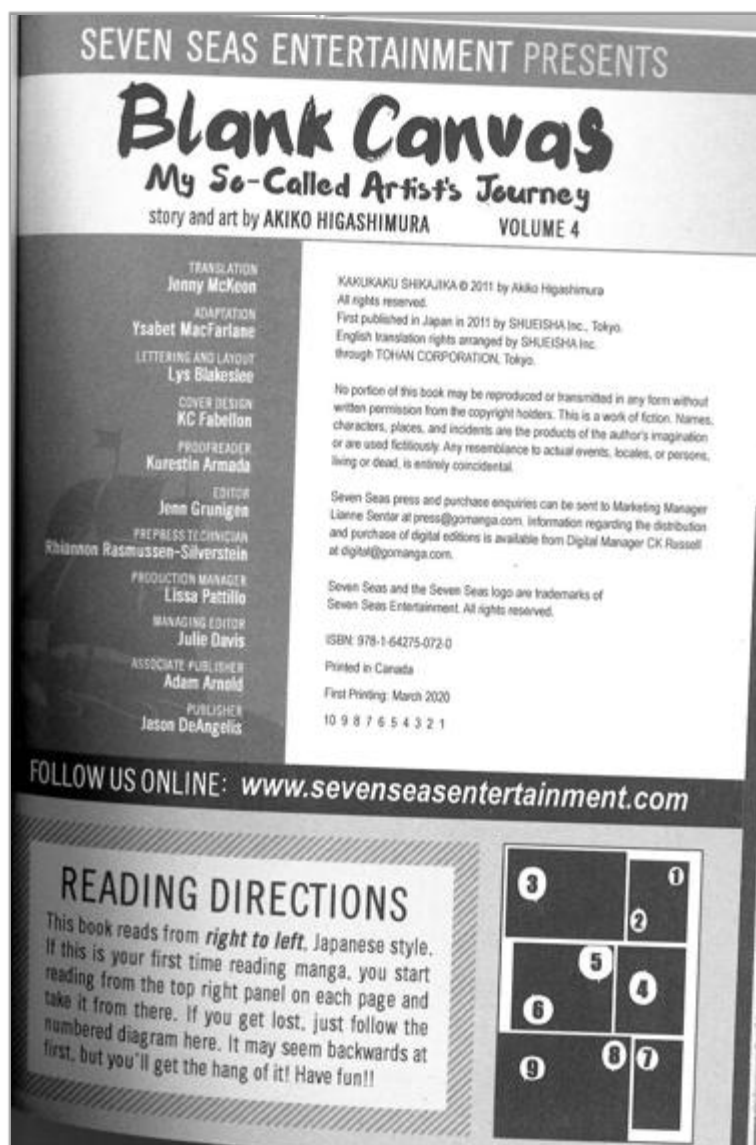
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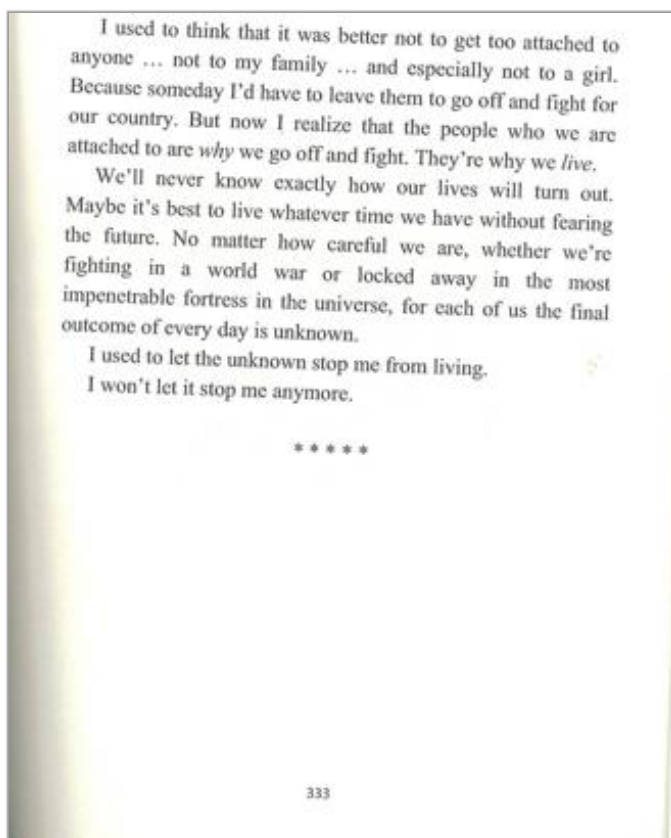
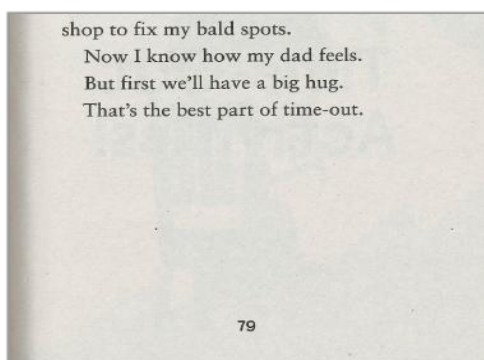
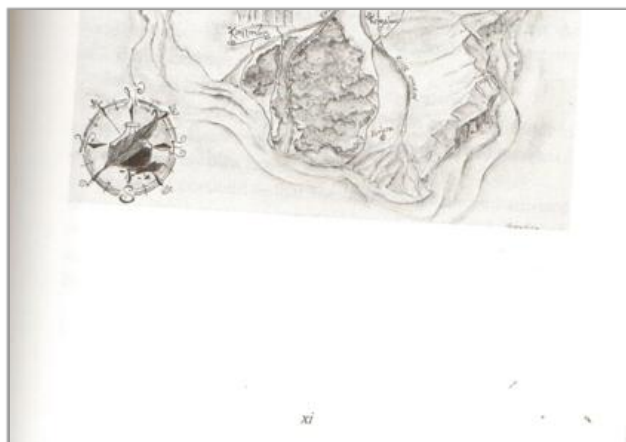
Under no circumstances will any blame or legal responsibility be held against the publisher, or author, for any damages, reparation, or monetary loss due to the information contained within this book. Either directly or indirectly.

Final Numbered Page

Anytime sequential numbering stops in a book it 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. All three of those final numbered pages should be listed in 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](#).



Finally, manga comics can be tricky. Some manga's might be unnumbered, but some might also number only a handful of pages, with the final numbered page randomly located a sizeable chunk of 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

Occurring more often, especially with self-published or print-on-demand books, is a page at the very end of the book that gives brief manufacturing information. 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. The manufacturing page can be safely ignored when cataloging.

