

Overview and Impressions of the Publishing Company 2025 F

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Publisher 2025F has not introduced AI into its editorial work, mainly because doing so would result in duplicated effort. As a basic principle, almost all tasks are carried out manually by people. Even when AI is used for research, the information must be independently verified, which ultimately means that editors themselves end up doing the research. For this reason, and due to concerns about reliability, there are currently no signs that AI will be adopted. In the publishing process, editors mainly design the structure of books and commission authors accordingly, though approximately 30 percent of manuscripts are brought in by authors themselves. In terms of their publication portfolio, about 80 percent consists of university textbooks, with paper-based publishing as the core.

At the same time, it is not that there is no demand for e-books; rather, the company is still in the exploratory stage regarding how best to respond to such needs. At present, most electronic versions are essentially PDFs converted directly into digital format. Ideally, it may be preferable to add elements such as videos or audio content. While some textbooks are sold as a set that includes both a paper book and an e-book, universities themselves have not yet shown strong momentum toward broader adoption of e-books. As a result, it remains difficult for the company to shift to an e-book-centered approach.

Once a project is decided and work begins, communication between editors and authors is generally conducted via email. When editors develop a book proposal and approach authors to request writing, they try to meet in person whenever possible, though online meetings are also used when time or location makes face-to-face meetings difficult. Depending on the editor, existing relationships and connections inherited from previous editors form an important network. Editors may also independently cultivate new contacts. The process often begins with approaching someone with the idea of having them write a particular book, and if discussions go well, the relationship expands from there. Academic conferences can serve as valuable opportunities in this regard. In addition, some editors gradually expand their network through introductions from authors.

Because the company mainly publishes textbooks, its ties with universities, particularly in science and engineering faculties—are strong. Editors may directly promote textbooks to professors, making relationships with university faculty extremely important. Regarding the training of new employees, after initial training on job duties and professional attitudes, they assist with editorial tasks such as helping with proof corrections. Another aspect of training involves participating in joint workshops organized by publishing industry associations, where participants learn about the current state of the industry. This training is attended not

only by new employees but by all employees at least once. Occasionally, industry associations also hold study sessions on specific themes, and employees may participate depending on the topic.

Potential areas for AI adoption include checking consistency in terminology and creating figures, but at present AI is not considered capable enough for these tasks. When AI is used to create figures, the results may differ from what was intended, so it is often preferable to create them manually from the outset or commission external illustrators. As a result, the company works with a certain number of illustrators or has printing companies trace and create simple figures. In cases where it is faster to do so, editors themselves may create the figures. Given that editors interact not only with authors but with many different people, communication skills are one of the essential abilities required of them. Since there are occasions when they must approach people, they do not know, the ability to communicate effectively is indispensable. At a time when people are often said to be drifting away from books, it is necessary for the publishing industry to consider fundamental solutions to this issue.

Through this interview, it became clear that while AI is intended to make people's lives and work easier, there are companies like Publisher 2025F that cannot move forward with its adoption because it would create redundant work. While some companies are effectively using AI and changing their work styles in line with the times, in industries such as publishing, utilization can be difficult. As a result, differences in AI adoption emerge across industries, suggesting that all companies must consider what kinds of reforms are necessary today. I am concerned that in the future there may be excessive disparities between companies that use AI and those that do not. Companies without personnel who are knowledgeable about AI and able to use it effectively will likely find it difficult to adopt it quickly. Given this situation, I feel it is necessary to prevent AI-related advantages from becoming monopolized by specific companies.



*** The image generated by AI.**