

Arthur Attwell

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SUMMARY

Arthur has worked in publishing for over 25 years as an editor, publisher, designer, technologist, consultant, and entrepreneur. He is the co-founder and managing director of Electric Book Works, an award-winning publishing studio. As a consultant, he specialises in publishing strategy and technology, and works with businesses and institutions around the world.

He co-founded healthcare publisher Bettercare; children's book publisher Book Dash; and Paperight, an award-winning initiative in distributed print-on-demand. He is the host of How Books Are Made, a podcast about the art and science of making books.

Arthur worked for multinational publishers in South Africa and England before starting EBW in 2006. He has presented at conferences and contributed to publishing resources around the world, including writing Encyclopaedia Britannica's 'ebook' entry. He is a Shuttleworth Foundation alum.

EXPERIENCE

Electric Book Works

Co-founder and Managing Director
May 2006 – Present (16 years)

Electric Book Works (electricbookworks.com) is an award-winning publishing studio. We develop, design, and deliver print and digital books that create change.

Bettercare

Co-founder, board member, former chairperson
Jun 2007 – Present (15 years)

Bettercare (bettercare.co.za) provides open-access, self-learning textbooks for healthcare professionals in developing countries.

Book Dash

Co-founder, board member, former chairperson
Apr 2014 – Present (8 years)

Book Dash (bookdash.org) believes every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. We work with creative professionals to create high-quality, open children's books that anyone can freely translate, print, and distribute. Book Dash has distributed over two million free books to children.

Paperight

Founder and Managing Director
Aug 2009 – Mar 2015 (5 years)

Paperight (paperight.com) was an award-winning initiative that provided a library of books for copy shops to print quickly and legally.

Curious, Whetstone & Frankley

Co-Founder
Jan 2008 – Jan 2009 (1 year)

Curious, Whetstone & Frankley was an art gallery in Cape Town dedicated to showcasing emerging artists.

Pearson

Senior Publisher
Jul 2004 – Nov 2005 (1.5 years)

Commissioned textbooks and related learning materials for high school learners and teachers.

Oxford University Press, UK

Assistant Commissioning Editor, Economics
Jul 2003 – Jul 2004 (1 year)

Assisted with commissioning and oversaw the production of OUP's scholarly Economics and Finance frontlists.

Freelance

Consultant, writer and designer
Sep 2002 – Jun 2003 (10 months)

Edited, designed, and co-wrote a book about HIV for children and a series of 18 case studies on small South African businesses for Tabeisa, a non-profit based in Coventry, UK.

Oxford University Press South Africa

Commissioning Editor
Dec 1999 – Aug 2002 (2 years)

Published higher-education books in health, social and natural sciences, humanities, tourism, education, and other areas.

Editor

Jan 1998 – Nov 1999 (2 years)

Copy editing and project management in OUPSA's higher-education division.

Amnesty International

Founder and chair, Amnesty International University of Cape Town branch

National Committee member, Amnesty International South Africa

1995–1998 (4 years)

Early casual employment

Publishing research, editing, and manuscript review

Bookseller, Exclusive Books, Claremont

1995–2000 (5 years)

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, University of Cape Town

In Creative Writing (Poetry)

Feb 1998 – Dec 2000

Awarded with distinction

BA (Hons), University of Cape Town

Majored in English Literature and Latin

Feb 1994 – Dec 1997

Awarded with distinction