



Editor

Traditional Publishing



University
of Idaho

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Introduction

I chose the career path for editing in the traditional publishing industry because it's my own career goal. What I found were statistics that any professional looking to enter the field would find useful.

I focused my research on employment projections, education requirements, and wages to illustrate whether the industry is growing or not, and whether career prospects are good for prospective editors. The questions I began with are:

- What is a book editor's job like?
- How much does a book editor earn?
- What is the demand for book editors?
- How much education do book editors need?
- What is the job retention of book editors?
- What's the average commute for book editors?

Methodology

I gathered the relevant data mainly from the US Department of Labor website, but also from CareerOneStop website.

I clipped the relevant web pages and saved them into a Research Dossier using Evernote to organize the information along with my own notes on the subject and some questions I wanted to answer.

I began by looking for information about editing, then focusing on what type of editing I meant, to get a more accurate result. I found a page for editing with the designation that it did not include internet publication.

Results/Discussion

To begin, I wanted to answer the question: What is a book editor's job like?

I found that there are many facets to editing that can be quite different from one another, despite sharing the title. Sports Editor, Features Editor, Web Editor, Legal Editor, Science Editor, Editor, Newspaper Copy Editor, Business Editor, News Editor and Acquisitions Editor are a few of the individual career titles under the "Editor" designation. These types of editors can either be freelance, or work with existing publishing establishments.

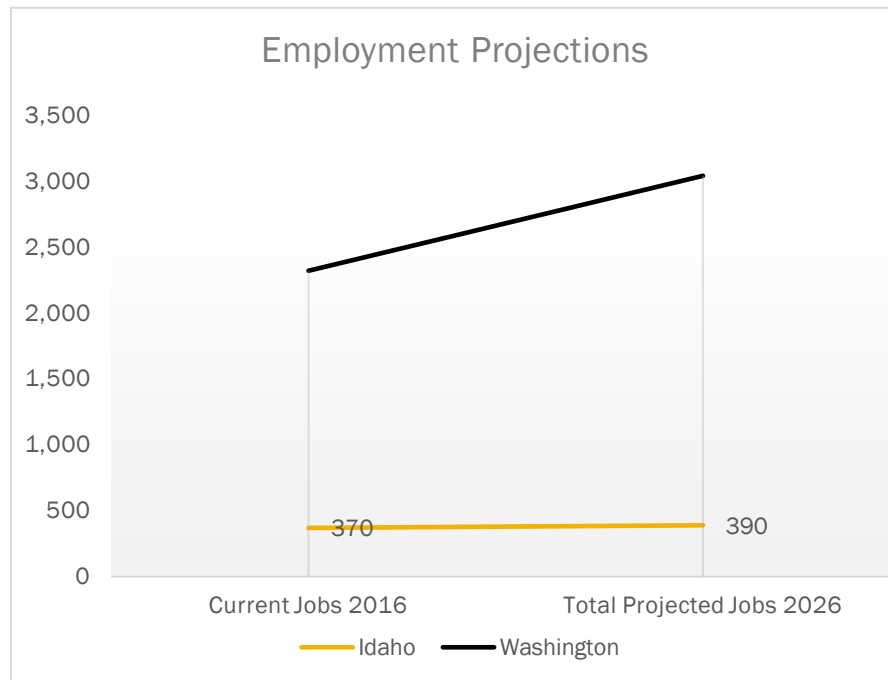
Activities listed for what an editor might do in a day are as follows:

- Edit written materials.
- Verify accuracy of data.
- Determine presentation subjects or content.
- Coordinate activities of production personnel.
- Write informational material.

As for my initial question of: What's the average commute for book editors? I could not find any commute information at either the state or national levels.

Employment Projections

In order to answer the question of demand, I looked at information given for projected job openings in the next 7 years. This information can be found in figure 1. The projections for the state of



Washington and Idaho both are higher than the national projections, which anticipates a decrease in editing jobs by -1%.

I looked for information to determine the average retention of individuals in an editing career but found no information to help answer this question.

figure 1

Education Requirements

How much education do book editors need?

Most of the information I found at both the state and national level stated that a Bachelor's degree and less than 5 years of experience was required for an entry level position. This information can be found in figure 2. The webpage at CareerOneStop also specified skills and abilities prospective editors would need to have to apply to their everyday duties:

- Reading Comprehension - Reading work-related information.
 - Near Vision - Seeing details up close.
- Writing - Writing things for co-workers or customers.
 - Written Comprehension - Reading and understanding what is written.

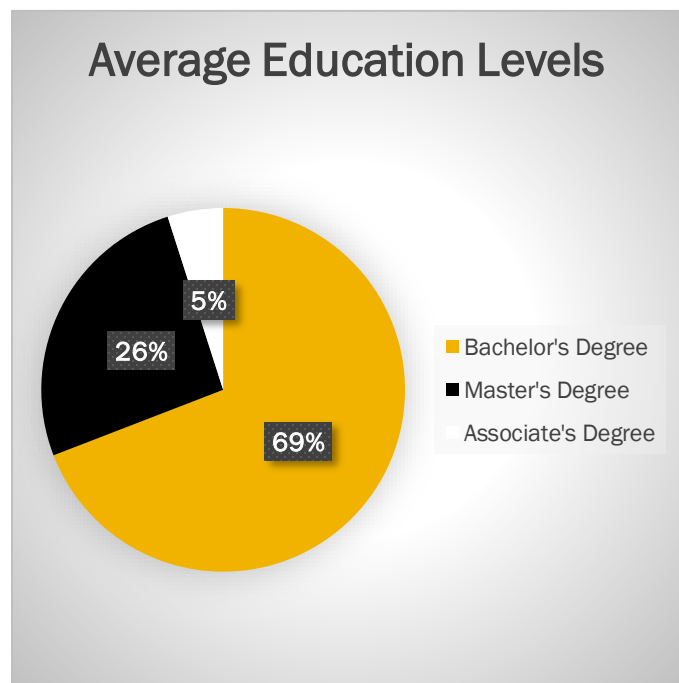


figure 2

- Written Expression - Communicating by writing.
- Critical Thinking - Thinking about the pros and cons of different ways to solve a problem.
- Active Listening - Listening to others, not interrupting, and asking good questions.
- Speaking - Talking to others.
 - Oral Comprehension - Listening and understanding what people say.
 - Speech Clarity - Speaking clearly.
 - Speech Recognition - Recognizing spoken words.
 - Oral Expression - Communicating by speaking.
- Fluency of Ideas - Coming up with lots of ideas.

Wages

Editors get paid a median salary between \$43,000-\$59,000 per year. The national average is higher than either Idaho or Washington. The differences and similarities between the states can be seen in figure 3.

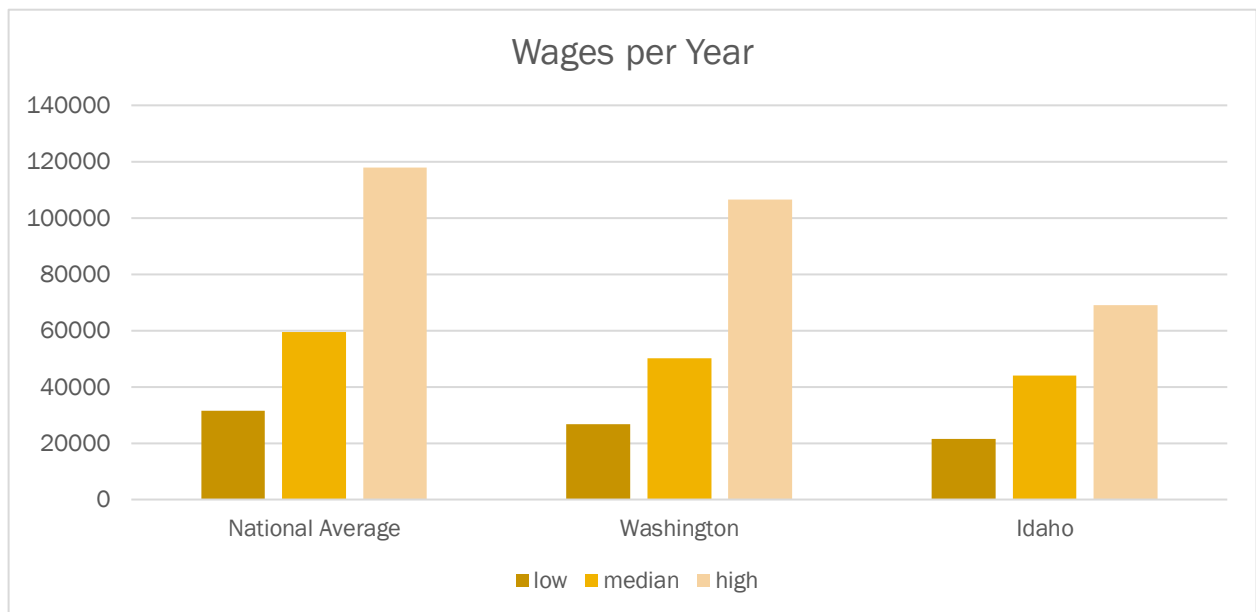


figure 3

Conclusion

Based on the gathered information, a career in editing looks promising, but with many factors to keep in mind. Wages vary depending on the state in which you work, though they agree on the levels of education required for the position. Washington has the most promise for growth and is the better option of the two states.

For more information, consult UI Career Center services on how they can help you explore this career.

Bibliography

CareerOneStop. US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/careers/occupations/Occupation-profile.aspx?keyword=Editors&onetcode=27304100&location=83814> (Sept 26, 2019).

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