This is a guide to some of the resources available within the British Library Business & IP Centre relevant to the graphic design industry.

Inside you will find sources of information such as market research (statistics, trends and developments), key companies, trade magazines, newsletters, and Internet sources.

This guide will be useful to anyone starting a business within the graphic design industry and also for those wanting to further their knowledge within this area.
The Cobra database contains practical fact-sheets on all aspects of starting, running and managing a small business – including information on writing business plans, marketing and company structures.

It also covers the practical aspects of how to start and run particular types of businesses – outlining necessary skills, regulations, licences & legislation as well as highlighting other sources of information and advice available.

**Business Opportunity Profiles (BOP)**

- Advertising Agency: BOP480
- Artist: BOP455
- Calligraphy Service: MBP346
- Design Agency: BOP470
- Graphic Designer: BOP035
- Greetings Card Maker: BOP144
- Illustrator: BOP177
- Mural Artist: MBP177
- Web Designer/Developer: BOP347
- Wedding Stationery Maker: BOP476

**Business Information Fact Sheets (BIF)**

- Copyright to Protect Your Work – A Guide to Using: BIF218
- Graphic Designer – Choosing and Using A: BIF013
- Logo – A Guide to Creating A Business: BIF266
- Registering and Protecting Your Product Designs – An Introduction To: BIF249
- Website Designer - Choosing and Using a: BIF326
Small Business Help Books

This is a collection of books containing practical information for those starting and running a business. Located within the Business & IP Centre.

100 more things every designer needs to know about people / Susan Weinschenk [SBH. PDIP.1]
Applies the latest research in psychology, neuroscience, brain research, and social psychology to the design of technology products, including websites, apps, wearables, and artificial intelligence.

The business of being an artist / Daniel Grant [SBH BT.131]
Contains information on how artists can learn to sell their work with an understanding on the principles of marketing and sales. Topics covered include: Exhibition opportunities for emerging and mid-career artists, and how to set prices for artwork.

Creating a brand identity: a guide for designers / Catharine Slade-Brooking [SBH. PDIP.14]
This practical handbook contains exercises and examples to highlight the key activities undertaken by designers to create a successful brand identity, including defining the audience, analysing competitors, creating mood boards, naming brands, designing logos, presenting to clients, rebranding and launching the new identity.

The creative business guide to running a graphic design business/ Cameron S. Foote [SBH BT.138]
A manual for running and maintaining a successful graphic design business. The four sections cover organization, marketing, personnel and operations, and provide the necessary tools unique to the specific management styles and operation agendas of a design firm. A complete appendix of business forms is also included.

The Creative Entrepreneur: business made beautiful for artists, makers and designers / Isa Maria Seminega [SBH. PDIP.59]
A guide to building a successful creative business. The Creative Entrepreneur takes you step-by-step through the process and offers actionable, straightforward advice.

The Essential Guide to Business for Artists and Designers by Alison Branagan (A. & C. Black, 2011) [SBH PDIP.60]
Comprehensive book covering business and start-up skills, including start-up practicalities, self-employment, funding and sponsorship; marketing and promotion; legalities, contracts, finance, e-commerce, innovation and future trends.
The Graphic Designer’s Business Survival Guide by Lawrence Daniels (American Management Association, 2013) [SBH BT.143]
General guide to setting up a graphic design business, covering practical aspects, marketing, management, growth. Includes practical tools and templates.

Illustration that works: professional techniques for artistic & commercial success / Greg Houston [SBH BT.68]
A “straight-to-the-point everything-you-need-to-know” guide to the world of professional illustration for aspiring artists and recent art-school graduates. This book explains why illustration is so important to the way we see and communicate today, and how it can be done effectively in an infinite number of styles.

Make your own luck : a DIY attitude to graphic design & illustration by Kate Moross (foreword by Neville Brody) [SBH PDIP.37]
Features chapters on how to thrive in art school, developing your own style, how to self-promote, collaboration with other artists, how to deal with ‘copycats’, and when to consider working for free. (The author) also touches on the fine points of music packaging and videos, how to find an agent, and looks back on the touchstone moments that helped shape her career.

A Pocket Business Guide for Artists and Designers by Alison Branagan [SBH PDIP.4]
This handy pocket guide answers the most pressing questions artists and designers will have when setting up an art practice or creative business. The book is divided into five sections that will help artists and designers achieve success and make money from their work: business, promotion, legal, money and last thoughts.

Starting your career as an illustrator / Michael Fleishman [SBH BT.120]
Through direct and candid conversations with scores of professionals up and down the career ladder, this book offers rich perspectives of illustrators (and their cohorts) at and away from the drawing board. Topics include how to: create a portfolio, make initial contacts, develop a financial plan, price your own work, market on the web, and more.

Success by design: the essential business reference for designers by David Sherwin (Cincinnati, Ohio: How Design; Newton Abbot, 2012) [SBH PDIP.53]
A guide to starting up a design business, covering a variety of elements from invoicing to company culture. Includes worksheets and charts, as well as thoughts from successful designers, project managers, studio directors and client service professionals.
Other books within the British Library’s collection

These books can be ordered via Explore the British Library.

100 things every designer needs to know about people / by Susan Weinschenk [General Reference Collection YK.2011.a.39015]
A guide for designing more intuitive and engaging work for print, websites, applications, and products which matches the way people think, work, and play using research and practical examples.

Creative truth: start & build a profitable design business / Brad Weaver [General Reference Collection ELD.DS.92260]
A guide for starting, building, and enjoying a profitable design business. Topics include learning how to price your work and manage your time, to setting up your business and defining your market. Includes a companion website that offers up-to-date resources, articles, tools, and discussions, allowing readers to continue learning as they grow.

Examines, via interviews with experienced practitioners, the types of careers available to aspiring graphic designers, covering web, television, film, publishing, advertising, corporate, editorial, and other design disciplines.

Surveying entrepreneurial designers who have developed their designs into a variety of product ranges, including books, furniture, clothes, magazines and homeware. Includes a number of case studies and interviews from the United States and Europe.

Guide to writing and research for designers. Includes sections on strategic writing, targeting an audience, pitching, editing, and research.

Market Research & Statistics

If you are planning on starting a business you will need to be aware of the latest trends, developments and opportunities within your industry – all of which can be found from market research.

These reports also cover market size & forecasts, consumer demographics & attitudes, the key players & products and will often include SWOT and PEST analysis showing areas of strength, weakness, opportunities and threats.
Online news and journal resources

Many articles on the design industry - from business and academic journals as well as newspapers - will be available from our electronic sources: Business Source Complete (EBSCO), Factiva and ABI Inform Global.

As news articles are updated regularly, these will be useful in finding information on the latest trends and developments.

Trade Magazines and Newsletters

Trade magazines are useful for gaining inside knowledge, recent trends, industry news, company profiles, reviews of new products and services. Some contain annual reviews and company contact lists. Available via electronic resources or ordered via Explore the British Library (please ask for help).
Directories
Contain lists of companies and industry contacts. Some have annual industry reviews, and specialist articles.

Art & design licensing source book (Max Publishing, 2017) [(B) DIR 741.60941 BUS]
Directory of art and design brands advertising their work for licensing, as well as contact details for agencies and potential licensors.

Creative Review Handbook (Centaur Media) [ BIPC (B) DIR 741.60688
Source book for photography, illustration, CGI and creative services.
**Logobook** (Ludovic Houplain, Taschen, 2013) [BIPC (B) DIR 741.6 BUS]

Logo design reference guide, featuring approximately 7,000 logos organised alphabetically, with information about the designers, year of creation, country, brand, and company.

**Internet Sources**

Websites containing free sources of industry statistics, information and contacts.

**ACID (Anti Copying in Design)**
Membership organisation raising awareness of intellectual property matters for the creative industries. Offers mediation services and advice on legal matters.
http://www.acid.uk.com/

**Artquest**
Provides support for London’s visual artists and craftspeople.
http://www.artquest.org.uk/

**Artsthread**
Online educational tool designed to connect students, graduates, universities and industry, exclusively within the field of design.
http://www.artsthread.com/

**Chartered Society of Designers**
Professional body for designers with a royal charter to support professional design practice.
http://www.csd.org.uk

**Cockpit Arts**
Cockpit Arts supports and promote talented designer-makers from all backgrounds through all stages of their career.
http://www.cockpitarts.com/

**Copyright User**
Aimed at making UK copyright law accessible to creators and users, with FAQs, videos, and explanations of UK copyright. Features tailored sections for the creative industries.
http://copyrightuser.org/

**Creative & Cultural Skills**
The sector skills Council for advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, literature, music, performing and the visual arts.
http://www.ccskills.org.uk

**Creative Finance Network**
Website detailing the more common varieties of finance for creative industries alongside current funding opportunities and where to find them.
http://creativefinancenetwork.co.uk/
Creative Review website
Advertising, design and visual culture website, with news, articles, resources and job listings.
http://www.creativereview.co.uk

DACS - Design and Artists Copyright Society
Not-for-profit visual arts rights management organisation. Site has details of campaigns and useful factsheets on aspects of copyright for artists.
http://www.dacs.org.uk/

D&AD
Educational charity representing the global creative, design and advertising communities.
http://www.dandad.org

DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates
Official statistics measuring the contribution made by the Creative Industries to the UK Economy. It contains statistics on gross value added, exports, employment and numbers of businesses within the creative industries.

Design Business Association (DBA)
Trade association for UK design businesses.
http://www.dba.org.uk

Design Council
Public body promoting design. Services to the industry plus publications, research, networking.
http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/

The Design Trust
Resource to help professional designers & craftspeople to create and run businesses.
http://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/

International Society of Typographic Designers (ISTD)
A professional membership body for typographers, graphic designers and educators.
http://www.istd.org.uk

It's Nice That
Website championing creativity across the art and design world. Updated daily with at least nine new articles, it attracts an international readership of around 350,000 unique users a month.
http://www.itsnicethat.com/

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