Check out our 12th annual list for everything you need to help advance your writing.

BY BRIAN A. KLEMS AND THE WRITER'S DIGEST STAFF



KEY

TO SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Advice for Writers
- Classes/Workshops/ Conferences
- Contests
- Critiques
- Forums
- **Y** For Young Writers
- \$ Jobs
- M Markets
- Newsletters
- Con Twitter
- Podcasts

etween writing, reading, marketing, networking and (sometimes) sleeping, who has time to scour the Internet for good, solid writing information? So we asked the writing community at large to recommend the most valuable websites for the writing life—and the e-mails flooded our inbox in record numbers. It was no easy task wading through the more than 3,500 nominations, but we're betting you'll be glad we did.

The result—WD's 12th annual 101 Best Websites for Writers—is our most definitive list yet of the top online destinations for the resources, information and inspiration you need. Bookmark these URLs, and soon you'll be spending less time aimlessly searching and more time advancing your writing.

We've divided this year's list into nine sections: **creativity, writing advice** (a new category), general resources, jobs and markets, online writing communities, everything agents, publishing/marketing resources, genres/niches and just for fun. We've also included symbols (see the key below) with each listing so you can quickly scan to see if the site offers what you're looking for: tips, classes/workshops/conferences, contests, critique sections, forums, material specifically for young writers, jobs, markets, newsletters, a Twitter account and podcasts.

BRIAN A. KLEMS is the online community editor of WD.

NOMINATING 101

Don't see one of your favorites here? Wish we'd add a new category? Send your comments and nominations for next year's list to writersdigest@fwmedia.com with "101 Websites" in the subject line between now and Jan. 1, 2011.



Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest 🖔

bulwer-lytton.com

Hey novelists: Can you craft an opening line that's so terrible it's award-worthy? For the recognition you deserve, send it to this contest.

Creative Writing Prompts



creativewritingprompts.com

More than 300 writing prompts are at your fingertips on this site.

Easy Street Prompts 🗐 🖢



easystreetprompts.blogspot.com

Prefer visual prompts? Easy Street offers up a new image every day to spark your imagination. For inspiration in motion, there are video prompts, too.

Six Sentences 🖔 🗟 🗐 ೬





sixsentences.blogspot.com

Challenge yourself to write a story in six sentences and submit it here. The best get posted.

Six-Word Memoirs



smithmag.net/sixwords

The tagline: "Everyone has a story. Can you tell yours in six words?" Talk about a challenge.

WD MORE PROMPTS!

- Daily writing prompts: writersdigest.com/writingprompts
- 365 days of creativity: The Write-Brain Workbook

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A Newbie's Guide to Publishing



jakonrath.blogspot.com

Thriller writer J.A. Konrath shares what he's learned in the process of becoming a successful genre writer. He also links to about 300 recommended writing-related blogs, which



makes us wonder: Between blogging and reading so many others, how on earth does he have time to write?

Ask Allison 📮 🖔 🖿



allisonwinn.com/ask-allison

Have a writing-related question? Just ask magazine writer and New York Times bestselling novelist Allison Winn Scotch.

Chris Guillebeau 📮 🗐 💺



chrisquillebeau.com

The free download of 279 Days to Overnight Success is worth the visit alone. Other info for entrepreneurialminded writers—including articles, a blog and an e-mail newsletter-will keep you coming back for more.

Editorial Anonymous 루



editorialanonymous.blogspot.com

This blog by an unnamed children's book editor gives practical advice about everything from handling form rejections to promoting your book—all with a sprinkling of wit.

Editorial Ass 📮 🖿



editorialass.blogspot.com

This crowd favorite offers up tons of personality, plus a nice balance of posts from a source who's equal parts editor and book lover.



Evil Editor 📮 🗸

evileditor.blogspot.com

A straight-talking—and humorous editor dispenses tough-love advice on queries, synopses and the beginning pages of books.

Grammar Blog 📮 💺

grammarblog.co.uk

OK, so this site doesn't teach usage so much as it does poke fun at others who use it incorrectly. But it'll cheer you up on the roughest of writing days.



To read or listen to explanations of common grammatical conundrums, turn to top-notch language expert Mignon Fogarty.

InkyGirl.com 📮 🖔 💺

inkygirl.com

Amazingly active online, Debbie Ridpath Ohi offers tips, tools, inspiration and links for writers of all kinds. And the cartoons will make you chuckle. Her "Writer's Guide to Twitter" series is a must-read.

Long Story Short: An E-Zine for Writers 📮 🍎 🖔 🗸 🗐

alongstoryshort.net

This e-zine not only gives excellent writing tips, but also offers a personal touch that others don't: The editors of Long Story Short reply personally to

WRITING ADVICE CONT.

every author who queries for advice on how to improve their work.

Novel Journey 📮 🗐



noveljourney.blogspot.com

Receive great advice from this site's collection of interviews with authors, editors and freelancers. With 12 contributors, there is always new content to read.

Plot Whisperer for Writers and Readers 📮 🍎 🗐 💺

plotwhisperer.blogspot.com

The always inspiring Martha Alderson helps you tackle your plot problems.

Preditors & Editors ♥ 🍎 🖔 🗸 🗟 \$





invirtuo.cc/prededitors

Knowledge is the best defense against potential scams. Preditors & Editors lets you know who in the industry is trustworthy and who might not be.

Writer Beware Blog 📮 🧲



accrispin.blogspot.com

Every industry needs a watchdog, and this has long been one of publishing's most vigilant.

WD MORE ON PLOT:

Our best-selling fiction title, Plot & Structure by James Scott Bell, offers easy-to-understand techniques on every aspect of an engaging plot.

Writer Unboxed



writerunboxed.com

Get excellent craft advice on writing genre fiction from these fine folks, whose site is so good it's on the list for the fourth consecutive year.

Writing Tips Today 루



writing-tipstoday.com

From essay writing to thesis writing, this site has great information for writers, especially those who are still in school.



BEYOND 101: THE WRITER'S DIGEST **FAMILY OF SITES**

WritersDigest.com

Check WD's online hub for free tips and articles for writers of all genres, or to get information on our latest

contests and events. You can also find writing prompts, post writing-related questions and receive critiques on your works-in-progress on our forum.

WritersMarket.com

Alongside more than 8,000 market listings updated daily to help writers get published and get paid for their work, this site offers subscribers personalized submission tracking tools, helpful

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GENERAL RESOURCES

Book Cover Archive

bookcoverarchive.com

Scope out the best in cover design. (Especially useful for self-publishing authors making decisions about their own cover packages.)

Bookreporter.com 📮 🖔 🗐 💺

bookreporter.com

"Where readers and writers click," this site is for everyone who loves books—which makes it a great way to stay informed about your genre. The free e-mail newsletter offers up comprehensive coverage of new releases, plus author interviews and book reviews.

The Chicago Manual of Style Online 📮 🖟 🗐

chicagomanualofstyle.org/CMS_FAQ/ new/new_questions01.html

The Chicago Manual of Style editors answer readers' questions with unexpected humor.

Gawker 🟲

gawker.com

Though not as heavily focused on straight media coverage as it was in the past, this hilarious, snarky and controversial blog offers inside scoops on the journalism and book worlds, and is a great resource for story ideas.

Twitter 📮 💺

twitter.com

Follow writers, agents, publishers, literary journals and, of course, your favorite WD editors. This social network is turning into a great resource for information gathering and connecting with other writers. Try participating in #litchat, #writerwednesday, #storyfriday and more.

WD WD ON TWITTER:

Don't miss out: @WritersDigest regularly tweets the best writing advice articles online, plus special deals of the day.

United States Copyright Office 루

copyright.gov

Search this government site for everything copyright related, including definitions, questions and info about how to protect your work.

Wikipedia 💺

wikipedia.org

While not an end-all for fact checking by any means, Wikipedia is an excellent starting point for gathering information. Read enough material and you're bound to get some good story ideas.



publishing advice to prompts to poetry, our eclectic family of WD bloggers has you covered for all of your writing needs.

articles, industry updates and more. (Note: Two-year, annual and monthly membership rates are available.)

WritersDigestUniversity.com

Have you thought about taking a class that offers one-on-one instruction from a professional? WDU courses start throughout the year and cover everything from grammar to novel writing to marketing your work.

Community.Writers Digest.com

Visit WD's own social network of 3,500 writers (and rapidly growing). It's like Facebook, only dedicated specifically to writers just like you. (WD editors welcome friend requests!)

WritersDigest.com/blogs

From writing tips to cutting-edge

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ARKFTS



Duotrope's Digest M 🗐



duotrope.com

Fiction writers and poets, listen up: There are 2,800 markets waiting for you at Duotrope's Digest.

Ed (2010) 📮 🖟 💲 🖢

ed2010.com

This great, laid-back community of young magazine editors offers advice, networking events and constantly updated postings of journalism gigs.

The Freelance Writing Jobs Network 🛡 💲 🗐 ೬

freelancewritinggigs.com

This blog network and community for freelancers offers plenty of job leads, plus tips and advice on everything from fair pay to health care.

Funds for Writers 📮 🖔 🕜 🔘 🗐





fundsforwriters.com

This great source of grants, fellowships, contests, awards and markets also offers your pick of three free newsletters, including one dedicated to kids who want to write.

JournalismJobs.com \$ 🖢



journalismjobs.com

An ideal place to find media jobs, this site also offers a media news feed.

MediaBistro 📮 🍎 🖔 💲 🚳 🗐

mediabistro.com If you're a freelance writer, this is one of the finest resources at your disposal for industry news, jobs, feature

Writer Gazette 📮 🖔 💲 🚳 🗐 writergazette.com

articles, blogs and more.





Here you'll find writing-related articles, freelance job postings, tips, contests, resources and a section of magazines to pitch.

WD 8,000 MARKETS!

For more than 90 years, Writer's Market has served as the comprehensive source of places to get published. It's now searchable at WritersMarket.com.

ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Absolute Write









absolutewrite.com

New design, same great content. The forum is home to freelancers, novelists, bloggers and more.

Authonomy 📮 🗸 🖟 🗐 ೬ authonomy.com



Developed by book editors at HarperCollins, this online community for writers, readers and publishers allows you to upload your

manuscript for free and have others take a look at it. There's also a shot at landing a book deal: HarperCollins editors read the most popular manuscripts—and have even signed a few for publication.

Backspace 📮 🍎 🗟 🗐 💺







bksp.org

Backspace features articles, columns and news from industry insiders. For access to the forum—which hosts literary agents, editors and authors you'll have to cough up a small annual fee. But it could be a wise investment: 47 of the original 110 members have been published.

Critique Circle 🗸 🖟

critiquecircle.com

Critique Circle is an online workshop for writers of all genres (science fiction, fantasy, romance, children's, horror, suspense and others) and includes tools for manuscript progress, submission tracking, character generation and more.

Critters Workshop



critters.org

Serious science fiction, horror and fantasy writers meet here to exchange critiques.

The Internet Writing Workshop

internetwritingworkshop.org

The Internet Writing Workshop offers critiques delivered right to your e-mail inbox. The only cost is a minimum participation requirement of your own submissions and critiques (depending on which group you join).

Mike's Writing Workshop 🗸 🗟



groups.yahoo.com/group/ mikeswritingworkshop

More than 9,000 writers call Mike's Writing Workshop home. Here you can post work, ask questions and discuss ways to improve your writing.

My Writers Circle ♥ ✓ 🖟 \$



mywriterscircle.com

This popular forum boasts review boards for prose, poetry and scriptwriting. Ask questions and get feedback, have others critique your work, find job opportunities and more.

National Novel Writing Month



nanowrimo.org

No more excuses: NaNoWriMo chal-

lenges you to write a 50,000-word novel in November. This site allows you to track your progress and connects you with other participants from around the world so you can compare work and cheer one another to the finish line (last year's count was 167,150 writers).

Writer's BBS 🗸 🗟 🕚





writersbbs.com

Members can participate in any of the more than 50 active forums, and the site also offers writing challenges to keep you motivated.

The Writer's Chatroom







writerschatroom.com

Sundays are devoted to chats with up-and-coming and famous writers, while Wednesdays are an open free-for-all. Talking shop doesn't get much more lively than this!

Writing.com 🍎 🖔 🗟 💺







writing.com

This creative community offers up inspiration, tools to build online writing portfolios and a chance to connect with others.

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EVERYTHING

Agent Query 👎 🗟 🐠 💺





agentquery.com

Agent Query is a free, searchable database of agents. Before you query any agent, check out its extensive article on formatting tips.

Association of Authors' Representatives 루

aaronline.org

The AAR is a great place to vet prospective agents, as all members of this not-for-profit organization must abide by a strict canon of ethics.

Chip MacGregor 📮 💺



This literary agent has an amazing handle on the Christian books market and the business of writing and promoting your work.

Dystel & Goderich Literary Management 📮 🖔 🖢

dglm.blogspot.com

With many agents contributing, this newly revamped blog is coming on



EVERYTHING AGENTS CONT.

strong with helpful articles and other informative pieces.

Kidlit.com ■ 🖔 🖢

kidlit.com

Children's writers' agent Mary Kole, associate at the Andrea Brown Literary Agency, has jumped into her new blog headfirst, with contests, tips and advice galore.

Nathan Bransford 📮 🖔 ե

blog.nathanbransford.com

An agent as well as an author going through the steps of getting his own deal, Bransford dispenses smart, sensible advice and an optimistic outlook about the future of books, all in a personable, approachable way. Check out his new forum where writers can meet and talk.

Query Shark 📮 🗸 💺

queryshark.blogspot.com

Agent Janet Reid critiques fiction queries (for free), dishing out honest—though sometimes brutal—advice and edits. Submit your query and she may take a bite out of it.

Query Tracker 📮 🖟 🐠 💺

querytracker.net

Not only does it list more than 1,200 agents, this site also helps you track your queries.

Rants & Ramblings on Life as a Literary Agent 📮 🖔 🖢

cba-ramblings.blogspot.com

Three years running, this is an amazing blog full of articles about craft and business alike. Rachelle Gardner is generous with insights and inspiration about what it takes for writers to land representation and get published today.

WD

WD UP-TO-DATE AGENT INFO!

Don't miss the best online resource for Q&As with literary agents, as well as new agency alerts! Visit:

guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog

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PUBLISHING/MARKETING RESOURCES

abookinside.blogspot.com

Get writing, publishing and marketing advice from this blog by Carol Denbow, author of several books on those very topics.

Author Tech Tips 📮 💺

authortechtips.com

From social networking to blogging to podcasting, this amazing site breaks down everything into basic explanations and advice for all the non-techies out there. (Even if you're

a Web 2.0 wizard, we still recommend checking it out.)

BoSacks 📮 🗐 🖢

bosacks.com

This is the home of publishing veteran Bob Sacks' "Heard on the Web: Media Intelligence" newsletter, which delivers industry news and opinions on cutting-edge topics from a variety of sources.

Holt Uncensored 루

holtuncensored.com

Patricia Holt doesn't post as often



as we'd like, but when she does, look out. She's an outspoken advocate for writers in the publishing industry, and isn't afraid to call things the way she sees them. You might not agree with everything she says, but she's sure to get you thinking.

The Intern 📮



An honest, humorous, wise look at the good, bad and ugly sides of publishing from someone who knows the muck and mire well: an intern.

Michael Hyatt 📮 🖢

michaelhyatt.com

This publishing pro (and Thomas Nelson CEO) has spent more than 25 years in the industry and posts regularly about it. His "Advice to First-Time Authors" piece is a must-read for new (and even veteran) writers.

OnceWritten.com 🖔 🗸 🗟 🗐



With a slick new design, OnceWritten. com gives writers a chance to have their books reviewed. We really enjoy the Publishing My First Book section, where traditionally published authors share their experiences.

Open Publishing Lab

opl.rit.edu

This group from the School of Print Media (Rochester Institute of Technology) is developing opensource applications for publishing with the goal to "empower individuals and communities to easily tell their stories as never before."



O'Reilly TOC 🖟 \$ 🗐 🖢 🕞

toc.oreilly.com

This collaborative blog brings together experts and analysts from across the publishing world.

Publetariat 📮 🖟 ೬

publetariat.com

Founded by author April L. Hamilton, Publetariat is an online community and news hub built specifically for self-published and other independent authors and even small indie imprints.

Seth Godin's Blog 📮 🗐 💺



sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog Learn how to promote yourself and your work from a writer who moonlights as a marketing master.

Winning Writers 🖔 🗐 💺





winningwriters.com

Check the validity of poetry contests or enter the site's own competition (which pokes fun at scammers by requesting the "best humor poem that has been sent to a 'vanity poetry contest' as a joke").

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GENRES/NICHES

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT

Cheryl Klein 📮 💺

cherylklein.com

This repository of in-depth writing and publishing advice is brought to you by a senior editor at Scholastic's Arthur A. Levine Books.

WD MUST-HAVE 101 GUIDE

You Can Write Children's Books by Tracey E. Dils

This book has been the go-to resource for more than a decade. Learn the essentials of writing and publishing for this specialized market!



Cynsations 📮 🖢

cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com

Author Cynthia Leitich Smith's blog offers a wealth of resources for children's and YA writers, including an exhaustive archive of editor, agent, publisher, publicist and art director interviews.

The Purple Crayon 루 🗐 💺 underdown.org





Editor Harold D. Underdown maintains this website chock-full of articles and resources for children's writers.

Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators





scbwi.org

The SCBWI is the must-join organization for anyone who wants to publish material for young readers. The recently relaunched site now includes an online community, and much of the site's useful information is available for nonmembers, too.

GENRES/NICHES CONT

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America 📮 🍎 🖔 ե

sfwa.org

If you're a published writer in this genre, you'll find the news, notes and support you need from an organization whose members have included such greats as Isaac Asimov, Anne McCaffrey and Ray Bradbury.

FREELANCE

The Copywriter Underground 루 🧲



One professional freelance copywriter shares thoughts on the industry, the pressures of writing and how to succeed.

Freelance-Zone.com







freelance-zone.com

Covering all things related to the independent writing life, this site is valuable for part-time and full-time freelancers alike.

The Renegade Writer Blog





therenegadewriter.com

Find freelance success by following the advice of these two renegades.



HORROR

Horror Writers Association







horror.org/writetips.htm

For more than 20 years, HWA has been helping writers scare their way to the top of the bestseller charts.

MYSTERY

Mystery Writers of America



mysterywriters.org

MWA plays home to mystery and suspense writers all over the country. Whether you've published in the genre or are aspiring to, this group will help you connect with other likeminded novelists.

Mystery Writing Is Murder 📮 🧲





mysterywritingismurder.blogspot.com This mystery-writing mom talks about good guys, bad guys, plot twists and more.

POETRY

JPiC Forum for Writers 📮 🗸 🗟 jpicforum.info





Debate, discuss and critique work from poets around the world.

MoonTown **₹** 🖁 🖟 🕜 🗐







moontowncafe.com

Network with thousands of poets and read, listen to and watch poetry of all kinds—rhyming, free form, haiku and more.









Poetry Out Loud 📮 🍎 🖔 🕜 🟲 🗟 poetryoutloud.org

This program encourages young people to learn about great poetry by inviting the "dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater into



the English class." Last year more than 300,000 students competed in the 2009 Poetry Out Loud performance competition.

Poets.org 📮 🗟 🗐 🖢 🖯









poets.org

The Academy of American Poets' award-winning website features thousands of poems, poet biographies, essays, interviews and more. You can also create your own online anthologies filled with text and audio.

Wild Poetry Forum 📮 🗸 🗟 wildpoetryforum.com





This uncensored forum allows poets to let loose and share their work. It's a great site to workshop your poems with other poets.

WD POEM-A-DAY CHALLENGE

If you're a poet (even a closeted one), don't miss our annual poetry challenge at blog.writersdigest.com/poeticasides

ROMANCE

Romance Divas 📮 🍎 🖔 🗟



romancedivas.com

These divas encourage romance writers to support one another, which is why it makes our list for the sixth straight year.

Romance Junkies 📮 🖔 🗸



romancejunkies.com

With book reviews, author interviews, contests and more, the junkies will give you your romance writing fix.

Romance Writers of America



rwanational.org

More than 10,000 members make this organization the largest for the genre.

SCRIPTWRITING

Drew's Script-0-Rama



script-o-rama.com

If you want to write screenplays or teleplays, you have to read themand this site is a massive database of scripts for all to see.

John August 📮 🖢

johnaugust.com

Screenwriter John August, who's written numerous produced movies (including Tim Burton's Big Fish), shares his wisdom on the craft and business. His "10 Hints for Index Cards" is a great (and quick) read.

Scriptwriters Network 📮 🍎 🗐 👵





scriptwritersnetwork.org

This is one great place to meet



WD KICKSTART YOUR CAREER

Writer Mama by Christina Katz

You've probably dreamed of quitting your day job and writing full-time. This book shows you the path to a successful and profitable freelance life—even if you have the hectic schedule of a parent.

scriptwriting friends and contacts who can help you on your journey.

SPIRITUAL

Christian Story Teller 📮 🖔 🗐





christianstoryteller.com This is a great site for Christian writers

looking to network, market their work and support others in the genre.

Resources for Muslim Writers



muslimwriters.blogspot.com

A marvelous set of resources for Muslim writers, with links to organizations, scholarships, competitions and more.

THRILLER

International Thriller Writers



thrillerwriters.org

Some of the biggest names in writing—Steve Berry, James Rollins, Sandra Brown, Lee Child—are a part of this fun organization that helps thriller writers succeed.

Murder*By*4



murderby4.blogspot.com

Follow four thriller/suspense authors who all share unique perspectives on the genre.

WOMEN'S WRITING

Literary Mama 📮 💺

literarymama.com

Moms who write should bookmark this site, which features fiction, nonfiction, poetry, profiles and moreall written by mothers.

WOW! Women on Writing







wow-womenonwriting.com

Women writers supporting women writers throughout the writing process.

JUST FOR FUN

BookMooch |

bookmooch.com

Is your personal library overflowing with books you don't need anymore? Trade them on this site for books you want.

Cool Stuff 4 Writers 📮 🖔 🗐 🖢







coolstuff4writers.com

The author interviews are reason enough to visit—though you'll also want to see the site's Book Doctor, who answers publishingrelated questions.

DailyLit 🖟 🗐 🖢

dailylit.com

Not sure how to fit your reading life into your hectic writing life? DailyLit can help by sending you short book installments by e-mail or RSS feed on the days and times you want.

LibraryThing 🗟 💺

librarything.com

A network for book lovers to catalog and review what's on their shelves, and also the source of the recurring You Are What You Read feature in InkWell (spotlighting the personal libraries of literary greats).

Wordsmith



wordsmith.org

The A.Word.A.Day e-newsletter is a must for people who love words. And without the Anagram Server, we might not know that among the anagrams for Writer's Digest are "Weirdest Grits" and "Ridge Twisters." WD