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
between 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.
**CREATIVITY**

**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**
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.

**MORE PROMPTS!**
• Daily writing prompts: writersdigest.com/writingprompts
• 365 days of creativity: The Write-Brain Workbook

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**WRITING ADVICE**

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

**Editorial Anonymous**
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.

Grammar Girl grammar.quickanddirtytips.com
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 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/preditors
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.

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 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
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.

United States Copyright Office
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.

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

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

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

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 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 articles, blogs and more.

Writer Gazette writergazette.com
Here you’ll find writing-related articles, freelance job postings, tips, contests, resources and a section of magazines to pitch.

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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.

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

MediaBistro
If you’re a freelance writer, this is one of the finest resources at your disposal for industry news, jobs, feature articles, blogs and more.

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

8,000 MARKETS!
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MANUSCRIPT
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.

ONLINE WRITING COMMUNITIES

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

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

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 _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 _chipmacgregor.typepad.com
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
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**  
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.

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**A Book Inside: How to Write and Publish a Book**  
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**  
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
internspills.blogspot.com
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
oncethenritten.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 open-source 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
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”).

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
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
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
copywriterunderground.com
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 like-minded 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
jpiformum.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.

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

**SCRIPTWRITING**  
Drew’s Script-O-Rama  
script-o-rama.com  
If you want to write screenplays or teleplays, you have to read them—and 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

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**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, non-fiction, poetry, profiles and more—all written by mothers.

WOW! Women on Writing  
wow-womenonwriting.com  
Women writers supporting women writers throughout the writing process.

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**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.

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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  
coolsstuff4writers.com  
The author interviews are reason enough to visit—though you’ll also want to see the site’s Book Doctor, who answers publishing-related 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.”

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**JUST FOR FUN**