



THE 14TH ANNUAL
101 BEST
WEBSITES
FOR WRITERS

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One of the most difficult chores for writers is sifting through the countless writing-related websites available in search of the gems that prove to be a valuable use of your time. That's why, for more than a decade, we've been busy scouring the Web for you, rummaging through every online resource imaginable to simplify your search and bring you the best of the best.

One hundred and one of the best, to be exact.

Introducing our 14th annual 101 Best Websites for Writers, carefully culled by members of WD's editorial team from this year's record-setting 4,350 nominations from WD readers and the broader writing community.

You'll find the list divided into nine sections: creativity, everything agents, online writing communities, general resources, writing advice, jobs and markets, publishing/mar-



Key to Site Features

- ✓ Advice for Writers
- 🍎 Classes/Workshops/Conferences
- ★ Contests
- 👍 Critiques
- 📡 E-Newsletters/RSS
- 💬 Forums
- * For Young Writers
- 💰 Jobs
- 📍 Markets
- 📧 On Twitter

1-6

CREATIVITY

1. **Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest** ★

bulwer-lytton.com

How often can you win an award for writing something terrible? That's exactly the challenge offered up by the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest. It's time you write something so bad, it's good.

2. **Easy Street Prompts** 📡 📧 **easystreetprompts.blogspot.com**

Give your muse a visual boost by perusing these photo- and video-based writing prompts until inspiration strikes.

3. **First 50 Words** 📡 **first50.wordpress.com**

Looking for a quick morning cup of writing? Stop by Virginia DeBolt's website, where she delivers new prompts regularly and asks you to write 50 words on each, following only one rule: "Don't judge, don't edit, just write."

keting resources, genres/niches and just for fun. New this year, in each section we've called out one site as the "Best of the Best"—truly worthy of a visit from virtually every writer. We've also included symbols with each listing so you can quickly locate sites that have exactly what you need: advice for writers, classes/workshops/conferences, contests, critique sections, e-newsletters/RSS

feeds, forums, content for young writers, job listings, markets for your work and a Twitter feed.

Use this indispensable roundup to customize and update your Web browser, data streams and desktops on all your networked devices—and the world's best support, information and community available will never be more than just a few clicks away.



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT 101: Don't see a favorite site 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 Dec. 1, 2012.

4. Six Sentences   
sixsentences.blogspot.com

Write an entire story in just six sentences (that's right, just six sentences) and submit it to this site. The best get published for all to see.

5. Six-Word Memoirs   
smithmag.net/sixwords

If you thought writing a story in six sentences was a tall task, try doing a memoir in six words! You might be surprised to find how such a confining limit can set your creativity free.



6. The Story Starter 
thestorystarter.com

With more than 1.6 billion opening lines loaded into its database, this site offers up enough ideas to last a lifetime—or at least get you through your toughest writing droughts. And if you have kids who like to write, point them to the sister site, Story Starter, Jr.: thestorystarter.com/jr.htm.

7-17

EVERYTHING AGENTS

7. Adventures in Agentland    
adventuresinagentland.blogspot.com

Run by Bradford Literary Agency's Natalie Lakosil (née Fischer), this newer blog takes an energetic approach to fielding practical questions about queries and submissions.

8. Agent Query    
agentquery.com

This site is a comprehensive database of reps and what they seek.

9. Association of Authors' Representatives 
aaronline.org

The AAR is the closest thing there is to an accredited membership organization for literary agents, and its site allows you to search for reputable representatives, read the canon of ethics AAR members have pledged to follow, and more.

10. Chip's Blog  
chipmacgregor.com

MacGregor Literary founder Chip MacGregor's deep knowledge of the business end of publishing, as well as the Christian books marketplace, add vigor to this informative site.

11. Janet Reid   
jetreidliterary.blogspot.com

The epicenter of straight-dope, no-nonsense agent advice from Janet Reid of FinePrint Literary Management.

12. Kidlit    
kidlit.com

This blog for writers of kids' books—from Andrea Brown Literary Agency's Mary Kole—just keeps getting bigger and better. It's a must-read for writers of juvenile fiction.

13. Literary Rambles   
caseylmccormick.blogspot.com

While not an agent-run site, this blog is a gold mine for children's and young adult writers seeking reps because of its long list of "agent spotlights"—comprehensive looks at individual agents seeking new clients in the genre.

14. Pub Rants    
pubrants.blogspot.com

Kristin Nelson, founder of Nelson Literary Agency, is the brain behind this amazing blog, which has addressed just about every facet of publishing and submissions. Having agented 13 *New York Times* bestsellers, Nelson is refreshingly willing to share specific advice—including real query letters from her own clients.

15. QueryTracker    
querytracker.net

This resource is designed to help you seek agents and track your progress on submissions. Be sure to check out the accompanying blog, too.



16. Rachelle Gardner   
rachellegardner.com

Though she recently switched from WordServe Literary Group to Books and Such Literary Agency, Rachelle Gardner's popular blog continues. Among the highlights: She regularly poses open-ended questions about writing and publishing, allowing for healthy discussions in the comments following each post.

17. Red Sofa Literary   
redsotaliterary.com

Dawn Frederick's blog earns its real estate on the home page of Red Sofa Literary by offering up lots of good submission tips alongside general advice for writers and "Red Sofa Chat" interviews with publishing pros and authors.

18-28

ONLINE WRITING COMMUNITIES

18. Absolute Write **absolutewrite.com**

Nearly every writer can benefit from stopping by the Absolute Write Water Cooler, a forum where advice and discussion flow freely among the site's 30,000+ members, many of whom have experience in fiction, freelancing, editing or related fields.

19. Backspace **bksp.org**

With a brag-worthy third of its members being published or agented writers, this writing organization (home to several *New York Times* bestselling authors) is worth a close look. While the thriving forum requires a subscription fee (\$40 annually), nonmembers can access its advice-filled articles, videos and more.

20. Critique Circle **critiquecircle.com**

Writers of all ages and genres are welcome in this active online writing workshop, where you'll also find resources for tracking submissions, generating characters and measuring progress on manuscripts.

21. Critters Workshop **critters.org**


This site hosts a serious critique group for writers of science fiction, fantasy and horror.


22. My Writers Circle **mywriterscircle.com**

Here you'll find excellent advice and valuable resources for improving your writing skills. Submit your material to the workshop section to receive honest and helpful feedback.

23. National Novel Writing Month **nanowrimo.org**

Join more than 250,000 writers in taking on the challenge of writing 50,000 words in 30 days during the month of November. Part of the fun is interacting with other participants on the forums and tracking your novel's progress with the online word counter.



24. Review Fuse  **reviewfuse.com**

As long as you're willing to write reviews of others' work, you can get impartial evaluations of your own through this site. For every four reviews you complete, you get three back—and all behind the privacy of a wall that only those with a (free!) membership can access.

25. Writers Cafe **writerscafe.org**

Join this free writing community to garner reviews from other writers and participate in discussions about the craft.

26. The Writer's Chatroom **writerschatroom.com**

Tune in to this site for real-time moderated chats that draw dedicated crowds; weekly staples include Celebrity Sundays and Open Chat Wednesdays. Check the schedule for upcoming speakers and events.

27. Writing.com **writing.com**


It's no surprise so many writers have made themselves at home on Writing.com, where you'll be amazed at how much you can do for free: Share your work, enter contests, join writing circles and participate in a number of other writing-related activities. You even get your own Writing.com email address!


28. Young Writers Online **youngwritersonline.net**

Writers in their teens and early 20s are invited to post, discuss and critique work on this active online forum.

29-31

GENERAL RESOURCES



29. The Review Review  **thereviewreview.com**

Looking for literary venues for your work, but overwhelmed by all the journals available? Get to know them by reading reviews of the latest issues of a wide selection of mags here.

30. ShawGuides **writing.shawguides.com**

Traveling toward your writing goals? Choose your destination wisely using

this extensive list of more than 1,000 domestic and international writing conferences and retreats.

31. United States Copyright Office ✓
copyright.gov

When it comes to protecting your work (and yourself), go straight to the source to learn everything there is to know about copyright.

32-48

WRITING ADVICE

32. Donald Miller ✓  
donmilleris.com

Bestselling inspirational author Donald Miller reaches out to his fellow “creators” by offering poignant advice on writing, inspiration and creativity.

33. Editorial Anonymous ✓
editorialanonymous.blogspot.com

This children’s book editor has chosen to remain nameless in order to offer honest advice on real submissions and answer readers’ questions with insider knowledge from the industry.

34. Grammar Girl ✓  
grammar.quickanddirtytips.com

Bestselling authority Mignon Fogarty tackles grammatical quandaries that even seasoned writers struggle with, answering difficult questions about punctuation, word choice, style and much more.

35. InkyGirl.com ✓ 
inkygirl.com

Writer Debbi Ridpath Ohi provides great tips, inspiration and a variety of tools for fellow scribes. She also maintains a strong social media presence, including a highly active and popular Twitter feed.

36. Long Story Short: An E-Zine for Writers ✓     
alongstoryshort.net

Editors of this e-zine just for writers generously offer sound writing and publishing advice to anyone who asks.



37. Nathan Bransford ✓    
blog.nathanbransford.com

As both a published writer and former literary agent, Nathan Bransford brings a uniquely balanced perspective in sharing his upbeat and sensible knowledge about publishing, along with great advice for fellow writers.

38. A Newbie’s Guide to Publishing ✓  
jakonrath.blogspot.com

Wondering how to make a living as a genre writer? Thriller writer J.A. Konrath offers strong opinions on how to do just that as he blogs about his ongoing experiments with both traditional and self-publishing.

39. Novel Rocket ✓   
novelrocket.com

Take your writing to new places with this fantastic collection of interviews and advice from published authors as well as literary agents.

40. Plot Whisperer for Writers & Readers ✓    
plotwhisperer.blogspot.com

Struggling with plot? Award-winning writer and writing instructor Martha Alderson knows just how to help.

41. Preditors & Editors ✓    
pred-ed.com

Don’t be fooled by fraudulent publishing ploys. Preditors & Editors offers a great service to all writers as it aims to educate you on what to look out for when seeking publication.

42. StoryFix ✓  
storyfix.com

Author and writing instructor Larry Brooks provides a no-nonsense guide to publication-worthy writing. This site offers expert advice on story structure, character development and other related topics.

43. Terribleminds ✓  
terribleminds.com/ramble

If you’re easily offended, this probably isn’t the site for you. But if you’re looking for practical and no-holds-barred advice from someone who’s been there, check out writer Chuck Wendig’s outspoken blog.

44. WOW! Women on Writing ✓    
wow-womenonwriting.com

This e-zine supports women throughout every step of the writing process and takes a well-rounded approach to the writing life, covering topics ranging from finding your niche to getting published—and presenting it all with a healthy boost of energy and creativity.

45. Writer Beware Blog ✓ 
accrispin.blogspot.com

This industry watchdog group keeps writers and publishing professionals alike up to date on the latest scams, hoaxes and schemes circulating around the industry.

46. Writer Unboxed ✓ 
writerunboxed.com

With a slew of top-notch contributors—ranging from leading literary agents to bestselling authors—this website offers valuable business and craft advice for all writers.

47. **The Writer Underground** ✓📡📧

writerunderground.com

Once known as The Copywriter Underground, this site has morphed into a resource about all types of writing. Writer and online marketing consultant Tom Chandler discusses his secrets for success and provides a weekly “Tweetfest” of the best news spotted on Twitter.

48. **Writing Forward** ✓📡📧

writingforward.com

The mission of Writing Forward is to “share helpful and inspiring creative writing tips and ideas to benefit the greater writing community.” Stop by to see how it’s doing just that.

49-61

JOBS & MARKETS FOR WRITERS

49. **All Freelance Writing** ✓💰📍📧

allfreelancewriting.com

This site’s job board is handily browsable by category, or you can search for specific paying freelance markets.

50. **Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism** \$

journalism.berkeley.edu/jobs/list/jobs

Be a student of opportunity! Dozens of pages dedicated to writing gigs from all over the country are listed here.

51. **Duotrope’s Digest** 📡📍📧

duotrope.com

Use this site’s detailed descriptions and growing market database to search for the perfect places to submit your work—and the submission tracker to monitor your results.

52. **Ed 2010** ✓🍎📧💰📧

ed2010.com

Aimed at helping aspiring magazine editors learn the secrets of the trade, this website offers writing and industry advice, as well as opportunities to meet up with magazine pros near you. You can also use the WhisperJobs section to find freelance and full-time magazine work.

53. **Editor & Publisher** 📡💰📧

editorandpublisher.com

Take a look at this site’s classifieds section for the latest in writing, editing and publishing job openings.

54. **Freelance Writing Jobs** 📡💰📧

freelancewritinggigs.com

New freelance opportunities are posted daily under the “Job leads” heading on this invaluable site.

55. **Freelance Writing Organization-Int’l** ✓🍎★📍📧

fwointl.com

Download this site’s free writing resources toolbar for one-click access to thousands of job listings and resources, and information on writing grants.

56. **FundsforWriters** ✓★📡📍📧

fundsforwriters.com

If you’re looking for information about grants, fellowships, contests and other ways to get paid to write, this site is for you.

57. **JournalismJobs.com** ✓🍎★\$

journalismjobs.com

Regardless of your experience level, you’re sure to find opportunities tailored to you among this site’s hundreds of job listings from around the world. Search by industry, position and/or location.

58. **The Market List** ✓📍

marketlist.com

Looking to publish genre fiction? This site specializes in market listings and resources for writers of children’s books, science fiction, mysteries and more.



59. **Mediabistro.com** ✓🍎★📡📍📧

mediabistro.com

If you’re seeking industry news, freelance work or information about the field, then this should be one of your first stops. Check out the job listings, news briefs, blogs and more.

60. **Online Writing Jobs** \$

online-writing-jobs.com

Although this site’s layout can be a little hard to navigate, the great search function makes up for it—as do the listings for hundreds of freelance opportunities that pay.

61. **Writer Gazette** ✓★📡📍📧

writergazette.com

This site offers easy access to contests, markets, advice and job postings. And it lives up to its name with extensive offerings of free articles on virtually everything writing-related.

62-74

PUBLISHING/ MARKETING RESOURCES

62. **The Book Deal** ✓📡

alanrinzler.com/blog

Stay up to date with the latest industry news through the keenly trained eye of publishing veteran Alan Rinzler.

63. The Book Designer   
thebookdesigner.com

This site offers plenty of self-publishing resources, including articles on marketing, e-publishing and planning your book, in addition to its offerings designed to help independently publishing authors understand the importance of great book design from cover to cover.




64. A Book Inside — How to Write & Publish a Book



abookinside.blogspot.com

When you're in need of a dose of excellent marketing and publishing advice, check in with author Carol Denbow. Her site features great tips and interesting author interviews.



65. BoSacks—Precision Media Group   
bosacks.com

A staple to this list (and many other “Best Of” compilations), media veteran Bob Sacks delivers some of the most poignant industry news around, alongside well-reasoned commentary. Don't miss his free daily e-newsletters, which are thought-provoking, enjoyable and educational.

66. Coalition of Independent Authors  
coalition-independent-authors.com

Have you self-published, or are you thinking about doing so? Then consider joining this group of self-published writers who created the Coalition of

Independent Authors to gain exposure for their work.

67. How Publishing Really Works    
howpublishingreallyworks.com

After three decades of navigating the publishing industry, this writer shares lessons learned about the biz.

68. Joe Wikert's Publishing 2020 Blog  
jwikert.typepad.com

O'Reilly Media Publisher Joe Wikert discusses the future of print, publishing and online media.

69. Mashable    
mashable.com

Read Mashable every day (and follow along on Twitter) to keep up with the constant changes in social media, technology and the Web.

70. OnceWritten.com    
oncedwritten.com

Novice writers can find support for getting started at Once Written, which offers a variety of writing prompts, critique opportunities and other helpful resources tailored to beginners.

71. Publetariat   
publetariat.com

This online news hub caters to small, independent presses and self-published authors. Be sure to check out the “Write” section for tips on improving your craft.

72. Seth Godin's Blog   
sethgodin.typepad.com/ seths_blog

Learn everything there is to know about self-marketing and platform-building from Seth Godin, an experienced and successful writer who is well recognized in the industry as an expert on the subjects.

73. We Grow Media   
wegrowmedia.com

A practiced authority on social media and audience building, Dan Blank offers helpful tips for writers hoping

to use social media to build a strong platform and increase readership.

74. Winning Writers    
winningwriters.com

Is your poetry or prose ready to compete? Sign up for this free e-newsletter to get info on about 150 different writing contests. Consider a paid membership (\$9.95 quarterly) to get access to more than 1,250 other opportunities.

75-95

GENRES/ NICHES

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT

75. Resources for Children's Writers       
resourcesforchildrenswriters.com

Check out this site for hundreds of links to helpful resources offering advice on crafting, publishing and marketing books for young readers.

76. Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators     
scbwi.org

This is *the* place to be for all writers of books for kids and young adults. Nonmembers can access all features except the forum (though membership, at \$60–100, is worth considering if you're serious about publishing in the genre).

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

77. Quantum Muse   
quantummuse.com

Full of user-created content, this site plays host to science-fiction and fantasy stories and artwork for others to read and rate. Featured writers can even receive monetary “tips” from generous visitors who enjoyed their work.

78. Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America    

sfwa.org

Stay up to date on the latest genre news, including book releases, awards and more from this serious organization dedicated to supporting the community of science fiction and fantasy writers. Only paid members, however, can access the site's forums. Membership ranges from \$60–100.

FREELANCE

79. The Renegade Writer



therenegadewriter.com

This site's take on a successful freelancing career is to throw out the rulebook and do what works for you. Stop by if you're up to the challenge.

HORROR

80. Horror Writers Association



horror.org/writetips.htm

Improve the spooky side of your craft with help from the Horror Writers Association's numerous books, links and articles on successful horror writing. Consider HWA membership (\$45–110) to gain special access to the forum.

MYSTERY

81. Mystery Writers of America



mysterywriters.org

Join this community of mystery authors to network and get the latest clues on what's going on in the genre. Even nonmembers can access info on classes and contests for free.

82. Mystery Writing Is Murder



mysterywritingismurder.blogspot.com

Writer Elizabeth Spann Craig sticks to a strict blogging schedule to bring readers insightful posts on what makes a successful mystery novel. Stop by on Sundays to catch her weekly "Twitterific" roundup.

ONLINE WRITING

83. Wealthy Web Writer ✓

wealthywebwriter.com

BEYOND 101:

WD's Family of Sites

WritersDigest.com: For everything writing-related, check out WD's freshly redesigned online hub of free articles and downloads. Make it your virtual writing home for useful craft tips, practical career advice, creativity-sparking prompts and more.

WritersMarket.com: Along with 9,000+ market listings updated daily, subscribers receive submission trackers, articles, industry updates and more. Annual, six-month and monthly paid subscriptions are available.

WritersDigestUniversity.com: Get one-on-one instruction from experienced authors and editors in the comfort of your own home. WDU classes start year-round and cover everything from grammar to novel writing to marketing.

Community.WritersDigest.com: Join more than 10,000 members (and counting) on WD's social network, where you can connect with like-minded writers any hour of the day.

WritersDigest.com/editor-blogs: Put a friendly face and voice behind the writing advice you need with our family of WD bloggers. They have you covered, with staff-led discussions of writing and publishing, agent news and more.

DigitalBookWorld.com: Focusing on e-publishing, DBW offers year-round education, networking and resources (online and off) for publishing professionals and their partners.

ScriptMag.com: Although it's new to the WD family, online resource *Script Magazine* is anything but a newbie in the scriptwriting world. For years it's been delivering essential advice and must-read news on craft, spec scripts, film festivals, how to make it in Hollywood, and more.

Expand your platform by learning tips and tricks for bringing traffic to your website and improving your blog's overall visibility.

POETRY

84. Poetry Daily ★ **poems.com**

Stay current on your craft with Poetry Daily, an anthology that shares great contemporary poems by a wide variety of poets. Each day, it features a new poem from recent books and literary journals; a year's worth of previous content is archived, as well.

85. Poetry Foundation ✓ **poetryfoundation.org**

The Poetry Foundation, the organization behind *Poetry* magazine, offers online resources that include podcasts, poems for children and the popular Harriet poetry blog.

86. Poetry Society of America ✓ **PoetrySociety.org**

The official website of the Poetry Society of America offers annual awards and contests. This organization is behind the popular poetic initiatives Poetry in Motion and Poem in Your Pocket Day.

87. Poets.org ✓ * **poets.org**

From the Academy of American Poets,

this website includes a poetry map, resources for educators and, of course, poetry. Sign up for free email updates, and receive a new poem each day.

88. Silliman's Blog ✓ 
ronsilliman.blogspot.com

There are quite a few great poetry blogs available for those interested in poetry, but this one stands out, featuring extensive advice to both novice and experienced poets.

ROMANCE

89. Romance Junkies ✓   
romancejunkies.com

Stay current on the genre with this site's spotlights of up-and-coming romance writers, book reviews, interviews and more. Then, visit the Writer's Corner, where you can find a critique partner, info on the Romance Junkies Writing Contest and links to articles on writing.

90. Romance Writers of America ✓   
rwa.org

Find a community of more than 10,000 romance writers and stay up to date on everything romance-related in the publishing world. All features but the forums are open to the public (RWA membership ranges from \$120–165).

SCRIPTWRITING

91. MovieBytes   
moviebytes.com

This is your one-stop spot for screenwriting contests and markets online. Subscribe to the e-newsletter to have the latest delivered to your inbox.

SPIRITUAL

92. Christian Storyteller ✓  
christianstoryteller.com

This not-for-profit support network promotes, educates and encourages Christian writers to embrace their spirituality through writing.

93. Resources for Muslim Writers ✓ 
muslimwriters.blogspot.com

With resources ranging from faith-

based organizations to scholarships to job opportunities, this site aims to help Muslim Writers take their writing to a higher level.



THRILLER

94. International Thriller Writers   
thrillerwriters.org

More than 1,300 members (including David Baldacci, Tess Gerritsen, Brad Thor and many other bestselling authors) represent 22 countries in this first-class organization dedicated to writers of thrilling suspense. Among its best offerings is the annual ThrillerFest event, boasting a star-studded lineup of speakers and instructors.

95. Murder By 4 ✓  
murderby4.blogspot.com

What happens when four suspense authors join forces and open up their writing lives on a blog? You get Murder By 4. And it's a must-follow for all aspiring thriller writers.

96-101

JUST FOR FUN

96. BookMooch 
bookmooch.com

Refresh your bookshelf with BookMooch by swapping your old books for new ones.

Connecting with other avid readers along the way is half the fun!

97. BrainyQuote 
brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/writing.html

Search through hundreds of quotes from famous sources speaking to the risk, struggle and reward of writing.



98. Daily Writing Tips 
dailywritingtips.com

Visit every day for helpful hints on grammar, word choice, punctuation, style and more. The advice will come in handy when you least expect it.

99. Merriam-Webster Word of the Day 
merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day

Expand your vocabulary one day at a time with this handy feature from the Merriam-Webster online dictionary.

100. Shakespeare's Den 
shakespeareden.com

Ever wanted a Charles Dickens action figure? Peruse this site and you'll walk away with a long wish list. (True, there are technically no freebies on this site, but even the window shopping is worth a visit.)

101. Squidoo  
squidoo.com

Become a "lensmaster" and share information about your nonfiction topic, or just scour this site for valuable information on all sorts of miscellanea. It's almost as addictive as reading Wikipedia. **WD**