

# Writer's Digest: 100 Best Websites

The Craft of Writing · By Simon Townsend · 4 min read

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The Best Websites for Writers

## Category: General reference

### AwardWeb

URL: [dpsinfo.com/awardweb/index.htm](http://dpsinfo.com/awardweb/index.htm)

A large collection of literary awards information with an emphasis on science fiction.

Biography.com

URL: [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com)

20,000 personalities are listed here. Find out how long they lived, their major achievements and get a short biography.

### Encyclopedia Britannica

URL: [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

The site had a bumpy beginning, but its content is worth a computer restart or two. You can view any Britannica article free and get links to other relevant Web sites and books.

Encyclopedia.com

URL: [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com)

The 1994 version of the Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia has 14,000 articles and 170,000 links.

### FedWorld Information Network

URL: [www.fedworld.gov](http://www.fedworld.gov)

If the federal government has issued a report or kept a statistic on your chosen topic, you can find it through this site.

## **History Channel**

URL: [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

Enter your search for any topic, any time, and a historical highlight is yours. The site also features a This Day page, with information on what happened on a given day in Wall Street, automotive, Civil War or tech history.

## **Infomine**

URL: [infomine.ucr.edu](http://infomine.ucr.edu)

Infomine was built by more than 30 college librarians and is especially helpful in academic searches.

## **Old Farmer's Almanac**

URL: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

North America's oldest continuously published periodical has the same folksy feel online that it does in print. There's a general store, and plenty of discussion forums.

## **OneLook Dictionaries**

URL: [www.onelook.com](http://www.onelook.com)

Your word search ends here. The site draws from more than 500 dictionaries.

## **Postage Rates Worldwide**

URL: [www.geocities.com/wallstreet/exchange/1161/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/wallstreet/exchange/1161/index.htm)

Basic information on international rates and links to postal service pages for more information.

WhoWhere?

URL: [www.whowhere.lycos.com](http://www.whowhere.lycos.com)

The site consistently has up-to-date information, from phone numbers to addresses to e-mail addresses.

## **Category: Specialized reference**

### **Acronym Finder**

URL: [www.acronymfinder.com/](http://www.acronymfinder.com/)

Perfect for the Net-inspired barrage of alphabet soup. Has more than 126,000 acronyms with their meanings and allows for reverse lookup by keyword search.

[Bibliofind.com](http://Bibliofind.com)

URL: [www.bibliofind.com](http://www.bibliofind.com)

Choose from more than 9 million used and rare books offered directly from booksellers. Add titles you couldn't find to your personal want list at the site, and Bibliofind will e-mail you if the book becomes available.

ChemFinder.com

URL: [chemfinder.com](http://chemfinder.com)

Useful to science and health writers, this site not only includes data like the boiling point and molecular structure of various chemicals, but also links you to research findings on a chemical's potentially hazardous or carcinogenic effects.

## **Intellectual Property Law**

URL: [www.intelproplaw.com](http://www.intelproplaw.com)

Yeah, you can look up copyrights, trademarks and patents, but there's a lot more to this law site, including a very useful collection of legal reference links. This is a good place to get article ideas and sources.

## **Jargon File**

URL: [www.tuxedo.org/~esr/jargon](http://www.tuxedo.org/~esr/jargon)

A guide to hacker style and pronunciation with definitions.

Journal of the American Medical Association

URL: [jama.ama-assn.org/](http://jama.ama-assn.org/)

When you're looking for new article ideas, check out the latest from the American Medical Association. You can also read through back issues.

Rxlist.com

URL: [www.rxlist.com](http://www.rxlist.com)

Find out the top 200 prescription drugs last year, and where the drug you're researching ranked among them. Also, get basic information on what illnesses the drug is meant to treat, side effects and dosage.

## **Speech & Transcript Center**

URL: [gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/speech.htm](http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/speech.htm)

Your starting point for just about any transcript-television and radio programs, Congressional hearings and business executives' speeches.

## **Web Site Garage**

### **Url:**

Check load times and browser compatibility. You can also locate broken links, count outside links and set up a hit counter.

### **Ziff Davis's ZDNet**

URL: [www.zdnet.com](http://www.zdnet.com)

More than just a promotional site for Ziff Davis, ZDNet offers tech news, tons of free software downloads, e-mail newsletters of every stripe, tips on computer maintenance, tech support with the Call for Help feature and a comprehensive, searchable database of techno-terms in the ZD Webopedia.

### **Category: Media news and reference**

### **American Demographics**

URL: [www.demographics.com](http://www.demographics.com)

An indispensable resource for any writer tracking trends. The site offers back issues dating to 1995.

### **Book Marketing Update**

URL: [www.bookmarket.com/index.html](http://www.bookmarket.com/index.html)

The site targets self-published authors, the market for John Kremer's twice-monthly newsletter. Even if you're not a subscriber, you have access to his lists of top independent book publishers, top independent booksellers and great self-publishing success stories.

### **Columbia Journalism Review**

URL: [www.cjr.org](http://www.cjr.org)

Access to a good selection of stories from the current issue and full access to archives. The Who Owns What hotlinked list is also a useful reference in the ever-converging media world.

### **Content Exchange LLC**

URL: [www.content-exchange.com](http://www.content-exchange.com)

If you want to create online editorial content, you've got to come here. At the time of this writing, it's possible for content creators and online venues to list their qualifications and job opportunities for free. There's also a good online writing mailing list. Two Content Exchange principals, Steve Outing and Amy Gahrn, author Writer's Digest's ePublishing column, and Outing is on our advisory board.

Experts.com

URL: [www.experts.com](http://www.experts.com)

A reliable and diverse source of experts, many of whom are outside the academic arena.

## **Hollywood Creative Directory**

URL: [www.hcdonline.com](http://www.hcdonline.com)

In addition to directories for sale, this company offers a free job board for the entertainment industry and phone numbers for those listed in its creative, agents and managers directories.

LiteraryAgent.Com

URL: [www.literaryagent.com](http://www.literaryagent.com)

The database has more than 500 agencies and is searchable by agency name, city, state or interests.

## **MediaCentral**

URL: [www.mediacentral.com](http://www.mediacentral.com)

Common-sense options and easily searched, archived stories make this a favorite place to catch up on media news.

## **MediaNews**

URL: [www.poynter.org/medianews](http://www.poynter.org/medianews)

Jim Romenesko keeps tabs on who's in, who's out and what's up at newspapers and magazines around the country. Now affiliated with the Poynter Institute, MediaNews also has a handy list of links to columnists, alternative weeklies and indie publications.

NewsDirectory.com

URL: [www.newsdir.com](http://www.newsdir.com)

If a magazine or newspaper anywhere in the world offers English-language content, NewsDirectory probably can get you there from one of its more than 16,000 links. Get a feel for a target publication's focus before you query.

Newstream.com

URL: [www.newstream.com](http://www.newstream.com)

An online content provider beefed up to offer keyword searches on news stories. Newstream provides stories, streaming audio, video, graphics and photos free to online journalists with registration.

PubList.com

URL: [www.publist.com](http://www.publist.com)

A reference for 150,000 publications that includes frequency, e-mail address, address, owner, contact for permissions and other general information.

## **SeekBOOKS**

URL: [www.seekbooks.com](http://www.seekbooks.com)

Has book reviews and publishing news, an online and radio broadcast called Books Uncovered, an auction section and, oh yeah, a complete online bookstore.

## **Slot**

URL: [www.theslot.com](http://www.theslot.com)

A must-have bookmark for any copy editor. Bill Walsh, business desk copy chief at The Washington Post, maintains a lengthy list of style points not addressed by the AP Stylebook and posts commentary weekly on current style issues in The Curmudgeon's Style Book.

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