

# Author Resources

There are lots of resources out there for authors, so many that it can be difficult to know what's good or where to start. This is my curated list.

## Writing – General, craft or mixed topics

- [Writing Excuses](#) – podcast by some of the greats in traditional publishing, mostly focuses on craft, short episodes (15-20 min), variety of topics.
- [Brandon Sanderson's Creative Writing Lectures at BYU](#) – craft focused
- [20booksto50k](#) – Focus on making a living as an author. Conferences are all available on Youtube for free. Very active Facebook group, which I recommend joining even if you hate Fb.
- [Writers, Ink](#) – This podcast interviews big names in both traditional and indie publishing.
- [The Indy Author](#) – This show covers a wide variety of topics. Has interviews with professionals (FBI, coroners, First Responders, etc.) about what authors tend to get wrong.
- [Rebel Author](#) – Both craft and marketing topics.
- [The Career Author](#) – This podcast is over, but the backlogs have a wealth of information that remains relevant.

## Story Structure

- [John Truby - Secrets of Genre](#)
- [Skeleton Drafting](#) - writing without an outline
- [Writing into the Dark](#) - writing without an outline
- [Three Story Method](#) scene rubric
- [How to Outline a Novel with the Three Story Method](#)
- [How to Write a Novel: Plot Gardening](#)
- [Make a Scene](#)
- [The Anatomy of Story](#)
- [Save the Cat Writes a Novel](#) – Based on a book on screenplays, adapted to work for novels. Includes a lot of beat sheets
- [The Heroine's Journey](#) – If you're sick of trying to jam your plot into the Hero's Journey and can't figure out why it doesn't fit.

## Alternate Story Structures

- [We Are the Mountain: A Look at the Inactive Protagonist](#)
- [The Myth of 'Universal' Narrative Models](#) (research paper)
- [Is There More Than One Plot Type?](#)
- [Kishōtenketsu for Beginners – An Introduction to Four Act Story Structure](#)
- [Worldwide Story Structures](#)
- [Alternative Structures](#)
- [No Story Conflict? Explore Your Options](#)

## Marketing

- [Newsletter Ninja](#) – You MUST have a newsletter, even if you go traditional publishing. It is the only way to reach your audience that YOU own and control. This book is the newsletter bible.
- [Six Figure Authors](#) – They're on indefinite hiatus now, but it's absolutely worth going through the backlog of episodes. This was THE podcast to listen to, and they're not trying to sell you crap. If you prefer video you can [watch on YouTube](#).
- [20booksto50k](#) – Focus is on making a living as an author. Conferences are all available on Youtube for free. Very active Facebook group, which I recommend joining even if you hate Fb.
- [Starting from Zero](#) – Free course by David Gaughran. I've taken it. It's awesome. I researched a ton of marketing before coming into his course, and he says everything much more succinctly than many others. Plus it's free!
- [The Creative Penn](#) – This podcast has been going for over ten years. Joanna covers industry news and interviews authors on a variety of topics.
- [The Self-Publishing Show](#) – Not one I really listen to as it seems a bit salesy for my taste, but I know many authors who have taken Mark Dawson's course and found it incredibly helpful.

## Software

- [Scrivener](#) – Writing software. After trying it during NaNo, I can't understand why anyone sticks with Word. It was created specifically for authors. It's cheap too, and winning NaNo will give you a coupon for half off.
- [Canva](#) – Free easy way to make marketing images for social media.
- [Vellum](#) – Formatting software. Mac only. Pricey, but so is paying for formatting on every book. This allows you to format in 15-30 minutes.
- [Atticus](#) – Dave Chesson's answer to Vellum. Works on all platforms and it's cheaper. I like Vellum better, but this is a solid option for anyone wanting to format their own books without a Mac.
- [Publisher Rocket](#) – Inexpensive software for researching keywords for marketing.
- [Plottr](#) – Plotting software, if you enjoy that kind of thing. Was free to download when I tried it, but \$25/year if you want updates and support.
- [Grammarly](#) – Editing software
- [ProWritingAid](#) – Editing software

## Websites for Everyone

- [How To: Beta Readers](#) – Mine. I've included links on where to find them.
- [National Novel Writing Month](#) – Get in a writing routine and be accountable. Free workshops too.
- [Shut Up and Write!](#) – Find (or found) a local writer meetup. The idea is simple – you meet, you have 15 minutes to chat, then you shut up and write for an hour. Regular meetings to help your accountability.
- [Mailerlite](#) – This is the service I recommend for starting a newsletter. It's cheap and easy to use. (I do not recommend Mailchimp)
- [Bookfunnel](#) – For delivering ebooks, audio files, reader magnets. You will need it eventually.

## Websites for Trad

- [Query Shark](#) – This site critiques query letters and gives tips on how to get noticed.
- [#PitMad](#) – Quarterly event on twitter for pitching to industry professionals. This is an FAQ.

## Websites for Indie

- [Reedsy](#) – Find an editor, illustrator, web designer, publicist. Generally more expensive but they VET EVERY PERSON LISTED.
- [Draft2Digital](#) – Publishing aggregator. Allows you to distribute your book to all the online platforms. I recommend you upload direct to Amazon, GooglePlay, and Kobo, but this is a way to minimize work for smaller stores.
- [Books2Read](#) – Free universal book links
- [Kindlepreneur](#) - Dave Chesson's website. Two of his products are on this list (Atticus and Publisher Rocket). He's got a lot of informational videos and blog posts. I recommend getting on his newsletter because he's always coming out with something useful, like a free [ISBN barcode generator](#).
- [Damonza](#) – Quality book cover design.
- [Design for Writers](#) – Quality book cover design.
- [Cover Designer Directory](#) – Vetted list of cover artists sorted by genre.
- [Bowker](#) – This is the ONLY place authorized by the US government to sell ISBNs. (Many sites like Amazon will give you one for free, but it can only be used on their site).
- [StoryOrigin](#) – Newsletter swaps, beta readers, ARCs, landing pages, etc.
- [Scribecount](#) – Aggregates your sales data
- [Netgalley Co-op](#) – Netgalley is where trad publishers get a lot of reviews. This co-op allows you to get listed without paying an arm and a leg
- [BookSirens](#) – Another good reviews option

## Writing Diversely

- [Writing With Color](#)
- [Writing the Other](#)
- [Hire a Sensitivity Reader](#)