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-
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.
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.

9. Association of Authors’ Representatives [Aaronline.org](http://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](http://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](http://jetreidliterary.blogspot.com)
The epicenter of straight-dope, no-nonsense agent advice from Janet Reid of FinePrint Literary Management.

12. Kidlit [kidlit.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 [redsofaliterary.com](http://redsofaliterary.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.
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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.

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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.

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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 oncewritten.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. 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).

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 quantummuse.com
sfwawrg
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
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.

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

97. BrainyQuote
brainyquote.com/quotes/key
words/writing.html
Search through hundreds of quotes from famous sources speaking to the risk, struggle and reward of writing.

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

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
shakespearesden.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