

30+ TOOLS TO WRITE, PUBLISH, AND MARKET YOUR BOOK

By *The Write Practice*

Over the years, thousands of writers have asked what tools and resources we recommend. So we put together this list of our favorite ones. Enjoy!

1 WRITING

📖 **"SHITTY FIRST DRAFTS" IN *BIRD* BY ANNE LAMMOTT.** The writing process is iterative. Each draft gets better than the last, but you can't finish a book until you write a bad first draft. ([library](#))([amazon](#))

📖 ***THE STORY GRID* BY SHAWN COYNE** (especially the section about genre and the 5 commandments). This book/podcast/live workshop has become

our favorite writing and editing resource. ([b&n](#))([amazon](#))

🔧 **SCRIVENER.** The best word processor for writing a book. There's a learning curve, but once you've mastered Scrivener, you'll never write a book in Word again. ([favorite Scrivener resources](#))

🔧 **GOOGLE SHEETS.** Great for outlining your book and organizing elements like characters/plots/timelines. [Click for a guide.](#) ([sheets.google.com](#))

🔧 **FREEDOM.** End distractions. This free app allows you to turn off distractions on your computer AND your phone. We use the PRO version. ([thewritepractice.com/freedom](#))

🔧 **PROWRITINGAID.** ProWritingAid catches the writing mistakes that spell check misses. ([thewritepractice.com/prowritingaid](#))

🔧 **EVERNOTE.** This is a great place to capture story ideas and research, brainstorm, and think through your book. My favorite is that it easily syncs between your phone and computer so you can capture ideas or brainstorm wherever you are. ([evernote.com](#))

2 EDITING

📖 ***THE STORY GRID* BY SHAWN**

COYNE. Worth mentioning 2x! This is an essential guide for editing your first draft, and is applicable whether you're writing fiction or non-fiction. ([b&n](#)) ([amazon](#))

🔧 **GOOGLE DOCS.** Scrivener is great for writing, but for working with an editor or beta readers, Google Docs, with its "suggestion mode" and live updates, is the best. ([docs.google.com](#))

🔧 **GOOGLE SHEETS.** See above! ([sheets.google.com](#))

🔧 **THE WRITE PRACTICE PRO.** A writing workshopping community from The Write Practice where you can get honest feedback on your writing from pro editors and your peers and join an encouraging community.

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3 TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING

BOTH NONFICTION & FICTION



"HOW TO GET YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED" BY JANE FREEDMAN.

Thorough and honest but not discouraging, this is a fantastic guide to begin your publishing journey.



QUERYTRACKER.COM. The first step to traditional publishing is getting an agent, and QueryTracker.com is a free database of agents that also guides you through the querying and submission process to those agents. (querytracker.com)



WRITERSMARKET.COM. The most complete and up-to-date database of agents and publishers. (writersmarket.com)

NONFICTION



"HOW TO WRITE A BOOK PROPOSAL" BY JANE FREEDMAN. If you're publishing a nonfiction book, it starts with a book proposal (and you usually submit your proposal BEFORE you write your first draft, so read this now).

FICTION



"HOW TO WRITE QUERY LETTERS" AND "NOVEL SYNOPSES" BY JANE

FRIEDMAN. If you're publishing a novel or memoir, you begin by submitting a query letter and synopsis to agents.

4 SELF-PUBLISHING



"HOW TO SELF-PUBLISH A BOOK"

BY JANE FREEDMAN. As usual, Jane Friedman's thorough and frequently updated guide will give you everything you need to know about how to self-publish your book.



SCRIVENER. Scrivener isn't just for writing; it's a publishing tool, too, and can easily convert your book into an eBook that you can publish on Amazon or Barnes and Noble. (thewritepractice.com/scrivener)



VELLUM (MAC ONLY). Easily design beautiful digital and print books. (vellum.pub)



DIY COVERS. Create captivating book covers on your own using 1,000s of pre-designed templates. (diybookcovers.com)



BOOKBABY. If you don't want the DIY approach, BookBaby will help you turn your manuscript into a published book. Great reviews on customer service and fairly priced. (bookbaby.com)

\$ KINDLE DIRECT PUBLISHING (KDP).

If you're self-publishing, kdp.amazon.com is going to be one of your most important websites. This is where you'll go to publish your print and ebook on Amazon and check your sales. (kdp.amazon.com)

\$ DRAFT2DIGITAL. For every other digital market—e.g. Barnes and Noble, Kobo, iBooks, etc.—Draft2Digital is the easiest way to get your book in. (draft2digital.com)

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\$ ACX. Like KDP for audiobooks, ACX will help you find the people to make your audiobook, and then publish your audiobook on Amazon and Audible. (acx.com)

5 MARKETING

YOUR FIRST 1000 COPIES BY TIM

GRAHL. A book marketing consultant, at one point Tim Grahl had five clients on the NY Times bestsellers list at the same time. This is the best and timeless guide to marketing your book. ([b&n](https://b&n.amazon))(amazon)

 **WORDPRESS.** The best tool you have to market your book is an email list, and your website is the best tool to build your email list. Wordpress is the website-building tool most authors use. [Click for our guide on how to build your author website.](#)

 **MAILERLITE.** A simple, free-up-to-1000 subscriber email service perfect for authors. (thewritepractice.com/click/ml)

 **CONVERTKIT.** Our favorite email newsletter service. Simple to use but highly advanced.

(thewritepractice.com/click/ck)

 **SUMO.** Install this on your author site and begin building your email list. (sumo.com)

 **ZAPIER.** Connects all your apps. Useful for anything from mail merges to automatically emailing your subscribers a free book they asked for. Takes some getting used to but life-changing once you do. (zapier.com)