

Writing FAQs

A few of the of most common questions writers ask us at the library:

I've just finished a book. How do I get it published? Marketing your book involves: 1) Identifying appropriate publishers, 2) Ensuring your book is submission-ready, 3) Preparing a query or cover letter or full proposal, 4) Submitting only what the publisher guidelines request, 5) Being patient while you wait for a response.

Look in the library catalogue for books under the subject 'Authors – marketing.'

Where can I find a good editor, and how much will they charge? You'll find a lot of useful information about editors, various type of editing services, costs, etc. at the website of the BC branch of the Editors Assn. of Canada. <http://www.editors.ca/branches/bc/index.html>.

Before you hire an editor, ask for references to prior clients and prepare a contract outlining expectations and deadlines.

I need help getting input on my work. How can I connect with a writers' group? A few local organizations and groups are listed on the back of this brochure. You can also access a more complete list of writing groups at <http://bcwriters.ca/writers-groups/>.

Where can I find information about local writing activities, workshops and events? You will find information at the SurreyWrites Facebook Page, or by checking branch notice boards or newsletters, etc. of local arts' organizations.

Will the library host my book launch or reading? Check our website for information about meeting room space that you can book for your event. If you a book a meeting room, you are expected to market your own launch. We do periodically host 'Authors Among Us' sessions and other literary events at which published authors are invited to promote their new works in a panel discussion. Contact Carolyn Casenas at (CSCasenas@surrey.ca) or Meghan Savage (msavage@surrey.ca) for more information.

I'm looking for an illustrator for a children's picture book. How do I go about it? In most cases, publishers consider picture book separate from the illustrations. If they like the book, they will find an illustrator. However, if you're a professionally trained illustrator, you might submit a few sample illustrations along with your manuscript.



My book has just been accepted by a publisher. How much will they charge me for reading or editing services? No reputable publisher should charge YOU for their services. Your contract should outline what the publisher provides and expects, but the only money changing hands should be an advance and/or TO you. Check the Editors and Predators website for info publishers and editors with questionable practices. <http://pred-ed.com/>

Surrey Libraries branches

City Centre Library,

10350 University Dr.
604-598-7420

Cloverdale Library,

5642 176A St. 604-598-7320

Fleetwood Library,

15996 84 Ave. 604-598-7340

Guildford Library,

15105 105 Ave. 604-598-7360

Newton Library,

13795 70 Ave. 604-598-7400

Ocean Park Library,

12854 17 Ave. 604 502-6304

Port Kells Library,

18885 88 Ave. 604-598-7440

Semiahmoo Library,

1815 152 St. 604-592-6900

Strawberry Hill Library,

7399 122 St. 604-501-5836

Something to add to our writers' resource list?

Email lpeterson@surrey.ca
with your suggestions.

*"If there's a book you really
want to read, but it hasn't been
written yet, then you must write
it."*

Toni Morrison

www.surreylibraries.ca

Resources for Writers



*Getting Started
Keeping Going*

Support and Connections

Canadian Authors Assn. - www.caa.ca

Children's Writers and Illustrators of BC
(CWILL BC) - www.cwillbc.ca

Editors Assn. of Canada - www.editors.ca

Federation of BC Writers - www.bcwriters.ca

League of Canadian poets - <http://poets.ca/>

Professional Writers' Assn. of Canada
www.pwac.ca

Royal City Literacy Arts Society
www.rclas.com/

Semiahmoo Arts - Offers a monthly Open Mic,
along with other literary readings and events
in the South Surrey Area.
<http://www.semiahmooarts.com/>

Surrey Muse - "An interdisciplinary arts and
Literature group"
<http://surreymuse.wordpress.com/>

Surrey International Writers Conference
Annually in October - www.siwc.ca

SurreyWrites Facebook page
www.facebook.com/SurreyWrites

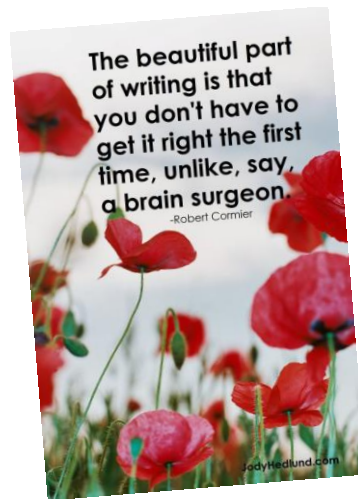
White Rock and South Surrey Writers
whiterockandsouthsurreywriters.weebly.com/

The Writers Union of Canada www.twuc.ca

Writers' Carnival "...an online workshop-type
community." www.writerscarnival.ca/

*"Writing became such a process
of discovery that I couldn't wait
to get to work in the morning:
I wanted to know what I was
going to say."*

Sharon O'Brien



Websites & Blogs

Absolute Write - www.absolutewrite.com

Pubrants - www.pubrants.blogspot.com

Janet Reid Literary Agent
Lots of useful info about the business,
in a Q&A format
<http://jetreidliterary.blogspot.ca/>

The Other Side of the Story is Now
<http://blog.janicehardy.com/>

Poets and Writers - <http://www.pw.org>

Purple Crayon - "Writing, Editing and Illustrating
Children's Books" <http://www.underdown.org/>

Surrey Libraries www.surreylibraries.ca
Links under 'Art & Literature'

Tara Lazar: Writing for Kids
<http://taralazar.com/>

Writing World www.writing-world.com

Writers Write www.writerswrite.com
"Your one-stop resource for information about
books, writing and publishing."

*These are just a few of hundreds
of useful writer's websites and blogs.
Writer's Digest publishes an annual list of the top 100.
<http://www.writersdigest.com>.*

A selection of Library Books

**101 – and more – Writing Exercises to Get
You Started & Keep You Going**
by Lois Peterson

The Art and Craft of Poetry
by Michael J. Bugeja

Good Prose - The Art of Nonfiction
by Tracy Kidder

A Writer's Guide to Nonfiction
by Elizabeth Lyon

**Manuscript Makeover: Revisions
Techniques No Fiction Writer Can Afford to
Ignore** by Elizabeth Lyon

**The First Five Pages - A Writer's Guide to
Staying Out of the Rejection Pile**
by Noah Lukeman

**Where Do You Get your Ideas? A Writer's
Guide to Transforming Notions Into
Narratives** by Fred D. White

**Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to
Using Brain Science to Hook Readers From
the Very First Sentence** by Lisa Cron

**Writing Is My Drink: A Writer's Story of
Finding Her Voice (and A Guide to How
You Can Too)** by Theo Pauline Nestor

**An Insider's Guide to Publishing - Historical
Perspectives on the Publishing Business,
Insights From Agents & Editors, Tips for
Getting Published, New Publishing
Alternatives** by David Grant

Find more writing books
on our nonfiction shelves in the 808s.
Or search the Catalogue
under the subject heading 'Authorship'.

Magazines

Writers' Journal
Writer's Digest
Poets and Writers (Zinio emagazine)

Online databases

Electronic collections of articles, studies,
and reports offer current, comprehensive
information on a whole host of topics, and
can be useful for research and marketing.

Check them out on the library website
under 'Research / Databases A to Z'
www.surreylibraries.ca.

**Accessible to Surrey residents only,
or through your own local library website.**

Local Writing Contests

The annual **Surrey International Writers'
Conference** offers contest categories -
fiction, poetry, nonfiction and writing for
children. www.siwc.ca

**The White Rock and South Surrey Writer's
Club** offers an annual contest, as does the
White Rock Friends of the Library.

There is an annual writing contest
associated with the **Vancouver Writers and
Readers Festival**. - www.writersfest.bc.ca

Young writers and artists are invited to
enter **Surrey Libraries' annual Young Adult
Writing Contest**. www.surreylibraries.ca

The Federation of BC Writers offers the
annual Literary Writes contest.
www.bcwriters.ca

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