Info sheet: National resources for writers and literature professionals in the UK and Ireland

This info sheet has been compiled to give you an idea of the wide range of resources that are available to support writers and literature professionals across the UK and Ireland. It does not claim to be in any way a definitive listing.

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General: Organisations

Funding and development agencies for the arts

Arts Council England
The national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from Government and the National Lottery. Funding for writers and literature professionals is available through the Grants for the arts programme.
www.artscouncil.org.uk
The Arts Council of Northern Ireland
The lead development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland. Funding for writers available through the Support for the Individual Artist Programme.
www.artscouncil-ni.org

The Arts Council (Ireland)
The Irish State’s principal instrument of arts funding. Supports individual professional artists through direct awards and bursaries and through Aosdána, the affiliation of creative artists.
www.artscouncil.ie

Scottish Arts Council
The lead body for the funding, development and advocacy of the arts in Scotland. Supports writers through bursaries, writing fellowships, and the Professional Development Fund.
www.scottisharts.org.uk

Academi (Welsh Academy)
Has responsibility (taken over from the Arts Council of Wales) for a range of writer services including bursaries to support new work, travel and research grants, and mentoring and critical appraisal.
www.academi.org

See Film, TV and Radio section on pages 17-18 for funding and development agencies for film.

Sector skills councils

Creative and Cultural Skills
The Sector Skills Council for advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, music, performing, literary and visual arts. Its Creative Choices website www.creative-choices.co.uk provides access to tools, networks and resources to help you get in, and get on, in the creative industries and cultural sector.
www.ccskills.org.uk

Skillset
The Sector Skills Council for Creative Media which comprises TV, film, radio, interactive media, animation, computer games, facilities, photo imaging and publishing. Provides specialist careers information and advice whatever stage you’re at.
www.skillset.org

National literature and writers’ organisations

Booktrust
Independent charity bringing books and people together. Provides a wide range of information about books and the publishing industry, administers a number of literary prizes, and runs reader development projects.
www.booktrust.org.uk

Creative Writers’ Network
Umbrella organisation for Northern Irish writers and writers groups. Offers support to developing writers through workshops and to advanced writers through mentoring, critical feedback and professional skills development.
www.creativewritersnetwork.org
International PEN
Worldwide association of writers that exists to promote friendship and intellectual co-operation among writers everywhere and to fight for freedom of expression.
www.internationalpen.org.uk

Irish Writers’ Centre
Promotes and supports the development of contemporary Irish writing. Creative writing classes, online resources section including magazine and events database, e-newsletter.
www.writerscentre.ie

Irish Writers’ Union
Represents the interests of Irish writers. Competitions, events, information and advice, sample publishing contract, monthly newsletter.
www.ireland-writers.com

literaturetraining
Provides free information and advice on professional development for writers and literature professionals, drawing on the expertise and experience of its nine partner organisations: NAWE (lead partner), Academi, Apples & Snakes, Lapidus, NALD, renaissance one, Scottish Book Trust, Survivors’ Poetry and writernet. Services include online professional development directory, fortnightly e-bulletin service, professional development planning guidance and resource materials.
www.literaturetraining.com

The National Association for Literature Development (NALD)
The only national body for all those involved in developing writers, readers and literature audiences.
www.nald.org

The National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE)
The one organisation supporting the development of creative writing of all genres and in all educational and community settings throughout the UK.
www.nawe.co.uk

The National Association of Writers’ Groups
Umbrella organisation with over 150 affiliated groups across the UK. Provides information on finding a local group and how to set up a new group from scratch.
www.nawg.co.uk

(The information on creative writing groups in the UK is also available from The Directory of Writers Circles www.writers-circles.com or contact your local library.)

The Royal Literary Fund
British benevolent fund for professional published authors in financial difficulties. Also runs a Fellowship scheme for writers in partnership with British universities and colleges.
www.rlf.org.uk

The Royal Society of Literature
The only organisation in the UK entirely devoted to the promotion and enjoyment of really good British writing. Offers readings, discussions and talks, award prizes and grants, and campaigns for writers.
www.rslit.org
Scottish Book Trust
The leading agency for the promotion of reading, writing and literature in Scotland. Offers a range of professional development opportunities for writers including The New Writers Awards (in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council), mentoring and media labs, and a writer’s retreat on Jura. Its Live Literature scheme funds writer events in schools, libraries, prisons and hospitals across Scotland.
www.scottishbooktrust.com

Society of Women Writers and Journalists
The UK’s oldest society for women writers. Workshops, biennial conference, regional groups, competitions, postal critique service.
www.swwj.co.uk

The Society of Authors
Represents the interests of professional writers, writing in all areas of the profession. Full and associate membership categories – services include contract vetting, help with professional disputes, and individual advice and guidance. Quick guides, quarterly journal, meetings and seminars.
www.societyofauthors.org

The Writers’ Guild of Great Britain
The trade union for professional writers in TV, film, theatre, radio, books and new media. Full, candidate, student and affiliate membership categories – provides expert advice for every aspect of a writer’s working life. Quarterly magazine, weekly news email, seminars, debates and social events.
www.writersguild.org.uk

General: Resources

Publications

The WritersBookstall at www.writersservices.com has information and brief reviews of over 200 books for writers and The Society of Authors publishes a general booklist in its Information and News section. You’ll also find book information and reviews in the Resources section at www.literaturetraining.com.

The Writer’s Handbook 2009
Provides detailed contact information and invaluable advice for book publishing in the UK and US, agents, newspapers and magazines, screenwriting, TV and radio, film and theatre, poetry, writers’ courses and circles, festivals, grants and prizes. The 2009 edition has a dozen new articles on topics such as audio books, bringing in the money and the fortunes of a freelance journalist. (Macmillan)
www.thewritershandbook.com

Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook 2009
Contains information on a huge range of topics including copyright, finance, submitting a manuscript, e-publishing, prizes and awards, plus listings of book publishers and literary agents, TV and film producers, societies, prizes, and more. New articles in this 2009 edition include ‘E-books’ by Stephen Cole and ‘Books published from blogs’ by Scott Pack. (A & C Black)
www.writersandartists.co.uk
Is There a Book in You? by Alison Baverstock
Helps you discover whether there is a talented writer in you and if you have what it takes to see it through. Plus there is advice from experienced writers and industry professionals. (A & C Black)

Marketing Your Book - An Author’s Guide: How to target agents, publishers and readers by Alison Baverstock
A practical guide that provides a real insight into the publishing process and encourages authors to see how effective they can be at helping to promote their own books. It covers how marketing works, what opportunities there are, how authors can help, how to get noticed, and how to get local publicity. (A & C Black Writing Handbooks)

An Author’s Guide to Publishing by Michael Legat
Covers the publisher's market, how to submit your work to a publisher, what publishers are looking for and the publishing process, contracts, author/publisher relationships, legal matters and the rewards of writing. Particularly useful for unpublished writers. (Robert Hale)

From Pitch to Publication by Carole Blake
The insider's guide to getting published successfully. Advice on identifying the market for your work, working constructively with your author or agent, safeguarding your rights, negotiating and understanding contracts, and understanding how your book will actually be sold. (Macmillan)

Writing for a Living by Michael Legat
A clear and practical guide to the financial and business side of writing. Covers the cost of setting up as a writer, submissions, copyright and contracts, income from the sale of your work, sources of additional income, tax and VAT, and self-publishing. (A & C Black Writing Handbooks)

The Freelance Writer's Handbook: How to Make Money and Enjoy Your Life by Andrew Crofts
Advice on what to write and how to sell it; making contacts, agents, and how to get commission; how to turn your writing skills into a business. (Piatkus)

Magazines

The Times Literary Supplement
The world’s leading literary journal. Comprehensive coverage of the latest books plus essays, book reviews, newly published poems and the occasional short story. http://tls.timesonline.co.uk/

The AA Independent Press Guide is an online guide to over 2000 literary magazines and publishers in the UK and abroad and is available at http://www.rimbaud.org.uk/aaipg.html

Magazines for writers include:
- Freelance Market News www.writersbureau.com/fmn/
- Mslexia: for women who write www.mslexia.co.uk
- New Writer www.thenewwriter.com
- Sable (international magazine for writers of colour) www.sablelitmag.org
- TwelvePoint.com (formerly ScriptWriter magazine) www.twelvepoint.com
- Wasafiri (the magazine of international contemporary writing) www.wasafiri.org
- Writer’s Digest (focuses on the American market) www.writerdigest.com
- Writers’ Forum www.writers-forum.com
- Writers News and the Writing Magazine www.writingmagazine.co.uk
Websites

There is information on useful websites for writers in the Writers' and Artists’ Yearbook and The Writer’s Handbook and guidance on using the internet for research, publication and marketing in the following publications:

- The Internet: A Writer’s Guide by Jane Dorner (www.internetwriter.co.uk)
- The Internet for Writers by Nick Daws (Internet Handbooks)
- The Good Web Guide for Writers by Paul Chronnell (The Good Web Guide Ltd)

See also Digital Ink: a guide for writers on how to use the web to market yourself by Jacob Sam-La Rose (literaturetraining, 2008 – available as a free download from www.literaturetraining.com).

Sources of Information on Jobs, Competitions, Literary Prizes and Awards, Funding for Professional Development

**Academi (Welsh Academy)**
Publishes the bi-monthly magazine A470 What’s On in Literary Wales and the Welsh language literary magazine Taliesin and issues a regular e-newsletter. www.academi.org

**Arts Council England** operates two free e-mailing lists, ArtsJobs and ArtsNews
Subscribe online at www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/mailinglists.php

**Arts Hub**
Jobs, careers and news for the arts and creative industry.
www.artshub.co.uk

**artsjobsonline** features arts jobs across the UK and Ireland (free to jobseekers)
www.artsjobsonline.com

**Ai – Arts Industry**
Fortnightly magazine with news and jobs for the culture industry.
www.artsindustry.co.uk

**Arts Professional** is the UK’s leading arts management magazine. News, features, jobs.
www.artsprofessional.co.uk

**Askaboutwriting.net** is a free weekly e-digest of writing news. To subscribe, email info@askaboutwriting.net with subscribe in the subject.

**The Bookseller** issues a weekly jobs bulletin – subscribe online at http://www.thebookseller.com/email-subscribe.html

**FunderFinder** produces PIN (People in Need), an easy to use software programme for individuals seeking grants for education (in the widest sense – includes professional development) from charitable trusts and foundations. Available to use free of charge at local public reference libraries etc – telephone 0113 243 3008 for nearest access point. www.funderfinder.org.uk

FYI is a free mailing list run by poet Jacob Sam La Rose providing information for writers, poets and performers. To subscribe, email fyi-subscribe@metaroar.com

Jobs4Journalists features journalist and communication jobs across national\regional, magazines, online, newswires and broadcasting in the UK. Jobs alert service. www.jobs4journalists.co.uk

Kudos (formerly Competitions Bulletin) is compiled by Carole Baldock and lists details of current UK writing competitions plus an increasing number of overseas contests. Also includes news items and information about markets, outlets and opportunities for all kinds of writing. Six issues per year. Subscribe for £2.50 per issue or £15.00 for six issues. http://kudoswriting.wordpress.com/

Literary Festivals is an online, searchable guide to UK literary festivals which is available at http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts-literature-literary-festivals.htm

Lisjobnet.com
The UK’s leading library and information appointments website.
www.lisjobnet.com

literaturetraining offers a free fortnightly e-bulletin service with up-to-the-minute information on courses, competitions, jobs and more. Subscribe online at www.literaturetraining.com

The Media Guardian on Mondays has an extensive jobs section or visit the Guardian jobs website at www.jobsunlimited.co.uk

Join The National Association for Literature Development (NALD) for the latest jobs in literature development www.nald.org

Poetry Ireland News
Bi-monthly newsletter produced by Poetry Ireland keeping you up-to-date with the poetry world in Ireland. Information on readings, competitions, festivals, opportunities, articles and essays.
www.poetryireland.ie

Scottish Arts Council
Website features a range of information on literature in Scotland including jobs at www.scottisharts.org.uk

The Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook lists details of many British prizes, competitions and awards for writers, including grants, bursaries and fellowships, as well as major international prizes.
www.writersandartists.co.uk

The Writer’s Handbook has sections on Prizes and on Bursaries, fellowships and grants.
www.thewritershandbook.com
Information on creative writing teaching jobs in higher education is available at www.jobs.ac.uk (free job email update service) and on The Times Higher Education Supplement jobs site www.thesjobs.co.uk (free Job Alerts service) and in further education at www.fejobs.com.

Book Trade

Agents: There are full listings of UK literary agents, together with articles on getting an agent, in the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook (also available online at www.writersandartists.co.uk) and The Writer’s Handbook (purchasers of the publication can also search online at www.thewritershandbook.com).

The Association of Authors’ Agents
The professional body for literary agents. The majority of established agencies in the UK belong to it.
www.agentsassoc.co.uk

The Booksellers Association
Represents over 95% of booksellers in the UK and Ireland. Information and advice, conference, meetings and events, marketing, publications, independent financial advice, insurance scheme.
www.booksellers.org.uk

The Bookseller is a weekly magazine with the latest news, industry columnists, book previews, jobs and more. Free daily industry news email service – subscribe online at http://www.thebookseller.com/email-subscribe.html

BookBrunch
Information site and daily news service for the book industry.
www.bookbrunch.co.uk

Book2Book
Free daily book trade news e-digest. Subscribe online at www.booktrade.info

Publishers: There are full listings of UK publishers, together with articles on getting published, in the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook (listings also available online at www.writersandartists.co.uk) and The Writer’s Handbook (purchasers of the publication can also search the listings online at www.thewritershandbook.com).

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
The international trade association for not-for-profit publishers and those who work with them.
www.alpsp.org

CLE: Irish Book Publishers’ Association
Cross-border organisation whose members comprise most of the major publishing houses in Ireland. Provides industry information, advice on copyright, marketing, training, international opportunities.
www.publishingireland.com

Independent Publishers Guild
Provides independent publishers with advice, ideas and information to help them to do better business. Market intelligence, resources, training, seminars, annual conference.
www.ipg.uk.com
Periodical Publishers Association
The organisation for magazine and business and professional media publishers in the UK. Legal and business support helpline, publications, conferences, seminars and forums, networking, training.
www.ppa.co.uk

The Publishers Association
The leading trade organisation serving book, journal and electronic publishers in the UK. Regular bulletins and specialist briefs, market intelligence, business advice, publications, conferences.
www.publishers.org.uk

Publishing Scotland
Trade association of almost 80 Scottish publishers. Publishes the annual Directory of Publishing in Scotland and runs BooksfromScotland.com, an online bookshop.
www.publishingscotland.co.uk

The Welsh Book Council
National body providing a focus for the publishing industry in Wales.
www.clic.org.uk

Self-Publishing
- There are useful introductory articles on self-publishing and vanity publishing, with a list of further reading, in the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook and the Writer’s Handbook.
- The Society of Authors has produced brief guides to Vanity/Subsidy Publishing and Self-Publishing and to Print on Demand which can be downloaded from www.societyofauthors.org.
- A free advice pack covering both vanity and self-publishing can be downloaded from www.vanitypublishing.info, the site of vanity publishing expert Johnathon Clifford.
- Information can also be found on various writers' websites including www.writewords.org and www.writersservices.com.

Careers in Publishing

bookcareers.com
An independent careers and coaching organisation specialising in the book and publishing industries. Maintains a register of those who are seeking work.
http://www.bookcareers.com/

The Bookseller
Issues a free weekly jobs bulletin – subscribe online at http://www.thebookseller.com/email-subscribe.html

Diversity in Publishing Network
Aims to promote the status and contribution of people from diverse ethnic groups in all areas of publishing. Membership open to anyone in publishing / a related trade or seeking to enter the industry.
http://www.diversityinpublishing.com/
Periodicals Training Council
The lead body for best practice in training and development and people management for the magazine publishing industry.
http://www.ppa.co.uk/cgi-bin/wms.pl/175

The Publishing Association
Website features a comprehensive Careers in Book Publishing section.
www.publishers.org.uk

The Publishing Training Centre at Book House
Offers around 70 open courses covering the complete range of publishing skills plus distance learning programmes, in company training and consultancy.
www.train4publishing.co.uk

Publishing Scotland
Offers year-round programme of half and full-day training courses in proof-reading, copy-editing, marketing, writing for the web and design.
www.publishingscotland.co.uk

Society of Editors and Proofreaders
Professional association for employed and self-employed copy-editors and proofreaders. Provides training, and professional accreditation and registration, and suggests minimum hourly rates.
www.sfep.org.uk

Society of Indexers
The British and Irish professional body for indexing. Its education and continuing professional development programme is aimed at indexers of all levels and includes workshops, distance-learning courses and online tutorials.
www.indexers.org.uk

Society of Young Publishers
Membership organisation open to anyone in publishing or a related trade (in any capacity) or who is hoping to be soon. Branches in London and Oxford. Services include a Jobs Bulletin.
www.thesyp.org.uk

Women in Publishing
Works to promote the status of women working in publishing and related trades by helping them to develop their careers.
http://www.wipub.org.uk/

How to Get a Job in Publishing: A Really Practical Guide to Careers in Books and Magazines
by Alison Baverstock, Steve Carey and Susannah Bowen
Ideal for anyone who wants to work in publishing, whether on traditional books and magazines or online publications. (A & C Black)

Designed for students of publishing, authors needing to find out publishing secrets, and those wanting to get in or get on in the industry. (Routledge)
Libraries, Literature and Reader Development

Branching Out
The site for everyone working in reader development, created and managed by Opening the Book. Database of reader-centred projects, online directory of library reader development contacts.
www.branching-out.net

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
The leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers. Information and advice, training, qualifications, magazine, publications.
www.cilip.org.uk

Nalgao
The national association of local government arts officers.
www.nalgao.org

The National Association for Literature Development (NALD)
The only national body for all those involved in developing writers, readers and literature audiences. Email and telephone support, advice and advocacy, job updates, news magazine, training and professional development, mentoring, networking events.
www.nald.org

National Literacy Trust
Promotes literature in the UK through empowering learners, supporting professionals and influencing policy and research. Initiatives include Reading is Fundamental, UK.
www.literacytrust.org

Opening the Book
The leading provider of training and consultancy in reader development for libraries.
www.openingthebook.com

The Reading Agency
Aims to inspire a reading nation by working in new ways with readers, writers, libraries and their partners. Runs national reading programmes. Advice, resources, training, research and events.
www.readingagency.org.uk

The Business of Writing

Business and Professional Development Support

Business Link
Provides practical information and advice for business, including extensive support when starting up, through a network of local operators. Maintains a comprehensive Grants and Support Directory.
www.businesslink.org
Creative and cultural industries development agencies
Operating alongside Business Link is a growing network of mainly regional organisations that provide specialist business support for the creative and cultural sector. Your local Business Link will have details.

CreativePeople
A national network of organisations supporting professional development in the arts and crafts (to which literaturetraining belongs).
www.creativepeople.org.uk

Copyright
Authors’ Licensing and Collecting Society
Membership organisation that aims to ensure that UK writers are fairly compensated for any works that are copied, broadcast or recorded.
www.alcs.co.uk

Finance
Both the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook and the Writer’s Handbook have articles on tax, national insurance and other financial matters.

HM Revenue and Customs
Information and advice on tax and national insurance is available on an individual basis from your local Business Support Team or you can join a free workshop – topics include Becoming Self-Employed and Self-Assessment for the Self-Employed. Check www.hmrc.gov.uk/bst for details of the team nearest to you. Website has downloadable leaflets on self-employment, self-assessment etc.
www.hmrc.gov.uk

Creative Writing Courses
Comprehensive information on undergraduate and postgraduate creative writing courses in the UK, and advice on choosing a course, is available at www.nawe.co.uk. For one-off and short writing courses and workshops at all levels, visit www.literaturetraining.com.

Providers of open access residential and distance learning creative writing courses include:

Arvon Foundation
Offers a year-round programme of residential creative writing courses covering a wide range of genres including fiction, short stories, writing for children and crime-writing, taught by professional writers and open to anyone. Grant support available for those requiring financial assistance. Courses take place at one of the four Arvon writing houses in Devon, Inverness-shire, Shropshire and West Yorkshire.
www.arvonfoundation.org

National Extension College
Tutor-supported home-study courses in creative writing, writing short stories and writing for money.
www.nec.ac.uk
Open College of the Arts
Offers range of tutor-supported home-study courses for beginner and advanced writers including courses in writing poetry, short stories and autobiography.
www.oca-uk.com

The Open University
Offers level 1, 2 and the recently introduced level 3 distance learning courses in creative writing plus a Diploma in Literature and Creative Writing.
www.open.ac.uk

Ty Newydd
The National Writers’ Centre for Wales, offering residential writing courses in English and Welsh to people of all ages and at all levels of experience.
www.tynewydd.org

The Writers Bureau
Offers range of tutor-supported home-study courses including courses in creative writing, journalism, writing for children, poetry and writing for the internet.
www.writersbureau.com

Writers’ News
Runs a range of homestudy courses covering short story writing, fiction, poetry, scriptwriting, article writing and freelance journalism, becoming a successful writer and more.
www.writersnews.co.uk

Editorial Services

The Writers’ and Artists’ Year Book has a comprehensive listing of specialist agencies offering editorial services ranging from advice on manuscripts to editing, proof-reading and submission critiques which you can search online at www.writersandartists.co.uk.

These include:
• **Adventures In Fiction** [www.adventuresinfiction.co.uk](http://www.adventuresinfiction.co.uk) which runs the Arts Council England-funded Apprenticeships In Fiction, a one year professional development programme
• **Cornerstones** [www.cornerstones.co.uk](http://www.cornerstones.co.uk) which runs self-editing workshops for writers of adult and children’s fiction
• **The Literary Consultancy** [www.literaryconsultancy.co.uk](http://www.literaryconsultancy.co.uk) which runs Chapter & Verse, a mentoring scheme for writers – some free reads and subsidised mentoring placements may be available, thanks to Arts Council England funding

Genres of Writing

Key organisations and other resources are listed here for the following genres of writing: children, comedy, crime, dramatic writing (stage, film, TV and radio), game writing, ghostwriting, graphic novels, historical novels, non-fiction, performance poetry, poetry, romantic fiction, science fiction and fantasy, short stories, translation and travel.
Writing for Children

The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators
The largest children's writing organisation in the world with active branches in the UK.
www.britishscbwi.org

The Children’s Writers and Illustrators Group
Specialist group within The Society of Authors.
www.societyofauthors.org

Booktrusted
www.booktrusted.com

BRAW (Books, Reading and Writing)
Network for Scottish children’s books, set up under the umbrella of the Scottish Book Trust. Website has author and illustrator listings and a database of contemporary Scottish children's books.
www.braw.org.uk

Children’s Books Ireland
The national children’s books organisation of Ireland. Website has a wide range of information for writers and illustrators.
www.childrensbooksireland.com

The Word Pool
Created to increase the profile of UK children's books on the Internet, the Word Pool is a well established source of information for anyone interested in choosing or writing children's books.
www.wordpool.co.uk

Children’s Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook 2009
Contains a wealth of practical advice and information on the children’s market for the aspiring writer and illustrator. New articles for this edition include writing for 7-9 year olds and writing plays for children. (A & C Black)

The Writer’s Handbook Guide to Writing for Children
Information and advice for newcomers to this expanding market with articles by, and interviews with, established authors and experts in the trade. (Macmillan)

Comedy

The British Society of Comedy Writers
Aims to promote excellence in writing for comedy and light entertainment.
www.bscw.co.uk
The British Sitcom Guide
An ever expanding online reference for fans of UK comedy.
www.sitcom.co.uk

Writing Comedy by John Byrne
Updated 2004 edition looks at all the latest markets for comedy writers. (A & C Black Writing Handbooks)

Crime Writing

The Crime Writers’ Association
Membership organisation supporting professional writers of crime fiction and non-fiction. Awards, competitions (including the Debut Dagger for unpublished writers), monthly bulletin, social events.
www.thecwa.co.uk

The Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival
Annual festival in Harrogate celebrating the best in crime writing in the UK and internationally. The festival features a ‘creative’ day for aspiring crime writers.
www.harrogate-festival.org.uk/crime

The Writers’ Handbook Guide to Crime Writing
Informative guide to crime writing – how to write a successful crime novel and get it published – that draws on a wide range of expertise including top crime writers, agents, publishers and booksellers. (Macmillan)

Dramatic Writing (Stage, Film, TV and Radio)

The Writers’ Guild of Great Britain
The recognized body for negotiating minimum terms and practice agreements for writers in TV, film, radio and theatre.
www.writersguild.org.uk

The Writer’s Handbook Guide to Writing for Stage & Screen
Practical and informative guide for new writers of plays for stage, screen or radio. There are features on how the main TV companies commission, how to deal with agents and producers, contracts, plus a comprehensive listings section. (Macmillan)

Stage

Independent Theatre Council
Represents organisations, venues and individuals in the fields of drama, dance, opera, music theatre, mixed media, physical theatre and circus. Services include training and professional development, networking and information exchange.
www.itc-arts.org
The National Theatre of Scotland
Takes theatre all over the country and beyond working with existing and new venues, artists and companies to create and tour world class theatre. Keen to connect with writers who are Scottish or based in Scotland and are interested in writing for the stage. To find out how get your play read or seen, go to www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/newwork

Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland
Celebrates, promotes and develops Scotland’s rich and growing culture of writing for live performance. Range of activities designed to develop the skills and experience of Scotland’s playwrights including workshops, mentoring, networking events. Manages the free script-reading service, Fuse.
www.playwrightsstudio.co.uk

Scottish Society of Playwrights
Supports the interests and crafts of professional playwrights within Scottish theatre and abroad.
www.scottishsocietyofplaywrights.co.uk

Sherman Cymru
Sgript Cymru and Sherman Theatre have joined forces to create Sherman Cymru, the new powerhouse for theatre in Wales with a commitment to developing and championing the work of Welsh and Wales-based writers.
www.shermancymru.co.uk

Film, TV and Radio

BBC writersroom
The BBC’s online resource for writing for television, radio and film. Writers’ guidelines, script archive, advice from professional writers and other industry experts, information about writing opportunities and events, free script formatting software, newsletter.
www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom

British Film Institute
Promotes greater understanding of, and access to, Britain’s rich film and TV culture.
www.bfi.org.uk

Britfilms
www.britfilms.com

Film Agency For Wales
The national development agency for the film industry in Wales.
www.filmandtv.com

Scottish Screen
The national development agency for the screen industries in Scotland.
www.scottishscreen.com
Screen Training Ireland
Dedicated to providing excellence in continuing training for professionals in film, television, animation and digital media.
www.screentrainingireland.ie

Shooting People
Online community of independent film-makers in the US and UK. Bulletins, film calendar, publications, casting.
http://shootingpeople.org/

Talent Circle
The UK’s leading indie film community. Jobs, casting, resources & industry news for those working in indie film or production.
www.talentcircle.co.uk

APS (Television Arts Performance Showcase)
The leading training scheme for new television writers. Courses covering everything from script editing to video games.
www.tapsnet.org

UK Film Council
The strategic agency for film in the UK. Funding for feature films and shorts.
www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk

UK Media Desk
Information on MEDIA-supported training courses in screenwriting, markets and events, industry news, resources across Europe.
www.mediadesk.co.uk

Filmmakers’ Yearbook 2008
Comprehensive new reference guide to the film industry. Contains listings of agents, courses, distributors, awards, festivals and markets, plus articles on topics such as contracts, distribution, and submitting a film to a festival. (A & C Black)

International Screenwriters’ Festival
Dedicated to the art, craft, and business of writing for the screen. Brings together professional industry delegates, high profile guests and new talent from around the world.
www.screenwritersfestival.com

Game Writing

International Game Developers Association (IGDA)
Independent, non-profit organisation for game software developers. The site features news, membership information, articles, and forums. There is a writers’ special interest group which can be found at www.igda.org/writing.
Sidelines
Game writers agency representing a variety of experienced game writers and scriptwriters with a passion for gaming.
www.sideuk.com

The Writers’ Guild of Great Britain
Has developed guidelines for writers and those working with games in the video games industry (The Writing Game) and runs industry networking events.
www.writersguild.org.uk

Game Writing Handbook by Rafael Chandler
Practical guide for anyone interested in learning how to write scripts and stories for video games.
(Charles River Media Game Development)

Game Writing: Narrative Skills for Videogames edited by Chris Bateman
Practising game writers share their insights and experiences of the craft of games writing.
(Charles River Media Game Development)

Ghostwriting

Ghostwriting by Andrew Crofts
Reveals the secrets of how to turn ghostwriting into a successful and lucrative career.
(A & C Black)

Graphic Novels

The "Everything" Guide to Writing Graphic Novels by Mark Ellis and Melissa Martin Ellis
From superheroes to manga - all you need to create and sell your graphic works.
(Adams Media Corporation)

Writing and Illustrating the Graphic Novel by Mike Chinn
A complete guide to producing graphic novels. Covers a number of genres including superhero, gothic horror/fantasy, adventure/action, sci-fi, crime, and literary fiction.
(A & C Black)

Writing Historical Novels

The Historical Novel Society
Membership organisation promoting all aspects of the historical novel. Annual conferences, short story competitions, twice yearly magazine, quarterly review and free bi-weekly online newsletter.
www.historicalnovelsociety.org
Researching and Writing Non-Fiction

Research for Writers by Ann Hoffman
Now in its seventh fully revised edition, this provides practical and up-to-date information and advice for new and experienced researchers, including getting the most from the Internet. (A & C Black)

Writing Biography and Autobiography By Brian D. Osborne
The ideal guide for those who want to write a life-story but are unsure how to set about it. Covers the reasons for biographical writing, choosing your subject, identifying your audience, research methods, organising the information, and writing up your material. There are also sections on legal issues, copyright and finding a publisher. (A & C Black Writing Handbooks)

Writing for Newspapers and Magazines

National Union of Journalists
The trade union for journalists in the UK and Ireland. Publishes the NUJ Freelance Fees Guide (see http://www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide/) and the NUJ Freelance Directory, and runs the one-day course, Getting Started as a Freelance. NUJ Training (www.nujtraining.org.uk) offers information and advice on careers and training in journalism. www.nuj.org.uk

National Council for the Training of Journalists
Publishes an online directory of accredited journalism courses and produces a useful careers in journalism guide. Also runs the one-day course, Successful Freelancing. www.nctj.com

There are introductory articles to writing for newspapers and magazines in the Writers’ and Artists’ Yearbook together with listings of national and regional newspapers and magazines offering opportunities to the freelance writer.

Freelance Writing for Newspapers by Jill Dick
Covers the importance of marketing and knowing your readers, your first contact with editors, how to write regular columns and features, reviewing, interviewing and meeting deadlines. (A & C Black)

Writing for Magazines by Jill Dick
Magazines offer many opportunities for the freelance writer. This book discusses surveying the field, ideas, research, style and structure, selling work, interviewing, supplying pictures and problem solving. (A & C Black)

Writing for Magazines by Adele Ramet
How to Get Your Work Published in Local Newspapers and Magazines (How To Books)
Performance Poetry

Apples & Snakes
www.applesandsnakes.org

57 Productions
Represents writers and performers working in the UK and abroad and offers agency and advisory services to venues and festivals, educational institutions etc on a wide range of poetic activity.  
www.57productions.com

Penned in the Margins
New UK live literature organisation that promotes events in London, produces tours across the UK and manages a wide range of literature and performing arts projects.  
www.pennedinthemargins.co.uk

Renaissance One
A leading organisation for the curation and production of literature and spoken word tours and events.  
www.renaissanceone.com

Write Out Loud
The performance poetry website for poets, organisers and audiences. Gig guide, newsletter etc.  
www.writeoutloud.net

Writing Poetry

The Poetry Archive
An ever-expanding archive of English-language poets reading their own work.  
www.poetryarchive.org

The Poetry Book Society
Specialist poetry bookseller and book club. Provides information and advice for readers and writers of poetry and runs poetry education and development projects.  
www.poetrybooks.co.uk

Poetry Ireland
The national organisation dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting poetry throughout Ireland. Core activities are publications, readings, education and the provision for an information and resource service.  
www.poetryireland.ie

The Poetry Library
Collects and lends all poetry published in UK since 1912 and offers comprehensive information service. Online listings of poetry magazines, publishers, competitions etc plus free newsletter.  
www.poetrymagazines.org.uk is its growing online magazine archive.  
www.poetrylibrary.org.uk
The Poetry School
Delivers wide range of courses plus masterclasses, special events, lectures and panel discussions.
www.poetryschool.com

The Poetry Society
Offers advice and information for all, including the critical service Poetry Prescription. Membership benefits include subscriptions to its magazine Poetry Review and newsletter Poetry News, free information directory, book and event discounts.
www.poetrysociety.org.uk

The Poetry Trust
Delivers a year-round programme of live events, creative education opportunities, courses, prizes and publications including the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival and the Jerwood Aldeburgh First Collection Prize.
www.thepoetrytrust.org

Scottish Poetry Library
Houses extensive collection of contemporary Scottish poetry plus poetry from around the world. Regular poetry readings, events and workshops plus international and education projects.
www.spl.org.uk

Survivors’ Poetry
Works to support, promote and publish the poetry of survivors of mental distress. Runs a mentoring scheme for new poets from the survivors’ community.
www.survivorspoetry.com

Poetry London (www.poetrylondon.co.uk) is one of Britain’s leading poetry magazines, featuring original poems and reviews, plus extensive listings of poetry events etc in and beyond London.

Poetry Kit (www.poetrykit.org) is an extensive website with information on poetry magazines, publishers, courses, workshops, events, competitions, funding etc. Free newsletter.

Poetry Writers’ Yearbook 2008
New directory providing detailed listings of publishing companies, competitions etc and practical information and advice on getting your work in print and on performing your work. (A & C Black)

Writing Romantic Fiction

Romantic Novelists Association
The UK’s only professional writers’ association specialising in romantic fiction. Unpublished authors can apply under the New Writers’ Scheme – membership fee includes a manuscript appraisal.
www.rna-uk.org
Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy

The British Science Fiction Association
For authors, publishers, booksellers and readers of sci fi and fantasy.
www.bsfa.co.uk

The British Fantasy Society
Exists to promote the genres of fantasy, science fiction and horror in all its forms.
www.britishfantasysociety.org.uk

Writing Short Stories

Story
The campaign to celebrate the short story. Visit the website for everything you could ever want to know about the short story: reading them, writing them, events, competitions, workshops and projects.
www.theshortstory.org.uk

Pulp Net
An online magazine of original short fiction. Also occasionally runs competitions and professional development events for new writers.
www.pulp.net

Translation

The British Centre for Literary Translation
Based at the University of East Anglia, BCLT works to raise the profile of literary translation in the UK through events, activities, publications and research.
http://www1.uea.ac.uk/cm/home/schools/hum/lit/bclt

The Institute of Translation and Interpreting
The professional association of practising translators and interpreters in the UK.
www.iti.org.uk

The Poetry Translation Centre
Focuses on translating contemporary poetry from non-European languages into English through collaborations between leading international poets and poets based in the UK.
www.poetrytranslation.soas.ac.uk

Translators Association
Specialist unit within the Society of Authors. Offers professional advice on copyright, libel, tax and accountancy matters, contract vetting etc.
www.societyofauthors.org
**LiteraryTranslation.com** is a one-stop shop for the latest information on literary translation related-events, resources, prizes, workshops and activities.

**translated fiction**
Booktrust-run site for readers, writers and publishers of literary translation.  
www.translatedfiction.org.uk

**Word Reference Forums**
A community of translators  

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**Travel Writing**

**British Guild of Travel Writers**
Association of over 270 writers, editors, photographers and others involved in the world of travel.  
www.bgtw.org

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**Writing for Personal Development**

**Lapidus**
Membership organisation promoting the benefits of the literary arts for personal development, health and wellbeing. Annual conference, regional groups, quarterly magazine plus online resources.  
www.lapidus.org.uk

**The National Association of Poetry Therapy (NAPT)**
World-wide community of poets, writers, journal-keepers, helping and health care professionals, educators, and lovers of words who recognize and appreciate the healing power of language.  
www.poetrytherapy.org

**Creative Writing in Health and Social Care**
Comprehensive map to the topic of creative writing in health and social care, bringing together contributions from health care professionals. Ed, Fiona Sampson (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)

**Writing Works: A Resource Handbook for Therapeutic Writing Workshops and Activities**
Practical advice on everything from the equipment needed to run a session to ideas for themes. Eds, Gillie Bolton, Victoria Field and Kate Thompson (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)

**The Self on the Page – Theory and Practice of Creative Writing in Personal Development**
Examines the potential of creative writing as a therapeutic tool, particularly its influence on the self and personal development. Eds, Celia Hunt and Fiona Sampson (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)
Storytelling

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Scotland’s national organisation for storytelling with a network of over 80 professional storytellers. Runs a comprehensive skills development workshop programme and international storytelling festival. www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

The Society for Storytelling
Brings together anyone with an interest in oral storytelling, whether teller, listener, beginner or professional, to enjoy, discuss and practice the art of storytelling. www.sfs-org.uk

Writing in Educational and Community Settings

The National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE)
The one organisation supporting the development of creative writing of all genres and in all educational and community settings throughout the UK. Year-round professional development programme, information and advice, publications, conferences and events, online resources, Disclosure processing. Maintains www.artscape.org.uk, the national directory for arts in education. www.nawe.co.uk

Artswork
National youth arts development agency offering extensive publications and training programmes. www.artswerk.org.uk

Booktrust manages the websites Writing Together www.writingtogether.org.uk which provides information for classroom teachers on how to organise successful writer visits in schools and Everybody Writes www.everybodywrites.org.uk featuring writing ideas for teachers, by teachers.

Creativity, Culture & Education (CCE)
A new national agency being created to fund and manage exciting cultural and creative programmes for young people – the result of a de-merger of the Government’s existing flagship creative learning programme Creative Partnerships from Arts Council England. Operates from April 2009. www.creativitycultureeducation.org

MAILOUT
National magazine featuring and celebrating all aspects of participatory and community arts with news, discussion, special features, and information on events, courses, conferences, and funding. www.e-mailout.org

Our thoughts are bees: Writers Working with Schools by Mandy Coe and Jean Sprackland
Packed with practical information and advice on organising exciting projects in schools, from the author’s visit to the long-term residency, for writers, teachers and co-ordinators. (Wordplay Press)

poetryclass (the Poetry Society’s online poetry classroom)
www.poetryclass.net
Teachers and Writers Collaborative
One of the oldest writers-in-the-schools programmes in the US. A selection of its books on teaching writing are available in the UK through NAWE (www.nawe.co.uk).
www.twc.org

Voluntary Arts Network
The development agency for the voluntary arts. Services include briefing sheets and a free e-mail newsletter with news, jobs and funding updates.
www.voluntaryarts.org

Writing in Prisons

Anne Peaker Centre for Arts in Criminal Justice
Provides information, advice and support for the arts in the criminal justice sector
www.apcentre.org.uk

Escape Artists
Multi-arts organisation which runs accredited courses in using creative writing with vulnerable groups, working with the arts in the criminal justice system and other areas of social inclusion.
www.escapeartists.co.uk

Writers in Prisons Network
Puts writers and creative artists into prisons to deliver creative writing, drama, video, music, oral storytelling, journalism, creative reading and publishing programmes.
www.writersinprisonnetwork.org

Writing in Business

Arts & Business
Practical advice and training is available for arts practitioners interested in taking their skills into a business environment through its Arts@Work programme.
www.AandB.org.uk

International

British Council
Literature Department runs writing and reading projects around the world, hosts websites such as www.contemporarywriters.com and publishes an annual anthology of new UK writing in English.
www.britishcouncil.org

Euclid International
Provides European & international information services to the cultural sector.
www.euclid.info

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