



The Writer's Compass

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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Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

General: Organizations

Funding and development agencies for the arts

England

Arts Council England

The national development agency for the arts in England. Funding for the professional development of writers is available through the Grants for the arts programme which funds arts activities that engage people in England or help artists and arts organizations carry out their work. Grants for individuals range from £1,000 to £30,000. This is a continuous programme – six working weeks are needed to process applications for £10,000 or less, and 12 working weeks for applications for more than £10,000. Extensive guidance is available on the website. It's also worth checking with your regional Arts Council England office to see if they are holding any seminars for potential applicants or whether an individual advice session is possible. In any case, do make contact with your regional literature/theatre relationship manager before applying.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/>

Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The lead development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland. Funding for writers is available through the Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP). Funding schemes available within the current SIAP programme include: General Art Awards (max £1,500), Self-arranged Residencies (max £5,000), Major Individual Awards (2 awards of £15,000), Artists' Career Enhancement Scheme (£5,000) and Travel Awards (covers air travel at specified rates). There is a rolling programme for Travel Awards (you must apply at least four weeks before your anticipated date of departure) – all the other schemes operate on a deadline basis.

www.artscouncil-ni.org

Scotland

Creative Scotland

Invests in the arts, screen and creative industries for the benefit of the people of Scotland. Its 15 Investment Programmes include the following which are open to individuals: International (includes research and development and attendances at conferences – awards in range of £500 – £40,000), Quality Production – Arts (awards in range of £1,000 – £60,000), Talent Development which includes Professional Development (£1,000 – £10,000, year round) and the residency programme Creative Futures (likely to be in range of £5,000 – £100,000) and Touring, Festivals and Events (£1,000 – £60,000). Ideas that don't fit neatly into any of the Programmes can be submitted to the Ideas Bank.

<http://www.creativescotland.com/investment/investment-overview>

Scottish Book Trust

The leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing in Scotland. Manages The New Writers' Awards which provide financial support for eight new writers to concentrate on their work, plus professional guidance to move towards publication. (£2,000 cash award plus bespoke professional development package). Annual application deadline.

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/new-writers-awards>

Wales

The Arts Council of Wales

Responsible for funding and developing the arts in Wales. Supports individual artists working in all artforms (including writers) through Small Grants: Training (£250 – £2,000) and Project (£250 – £5,000), both have quarterly deadlines, Mainline Production and Development Grants (£5,001 – £20,000), half-yearly deadlines, Creative Wales Awards (£5,001 – £25,000) and Creative Wales Ambassador Awards (£25,000), both annual deadlines.

<http://www.artscouncilofwales.org/what-we-do/funding/funding-advice-and-guidelines/individuals>

Literature Wales

The National Company for the development of literature in Wales. Formed in 2011 by Academi, the literature promotion agency and society for writers in Wales, and Tŷ Newydd Writers' Centre joining forces. Offers a range of services to writers including mentoring, information and advice and manuscript assessment. Direct support to both new and established writers is available through its Bursaries Scheme: two categories Buying Time (max £10,000) and Enabling (max £2,000). October deadline. Playwrights and screenwriters are not eligible.

<http://www.literaturewales.org/services-for-writers/i/124046/>

Ireland

The Irish Arts Council

The government agency for funding and developing the arts in Ireland. Financial support available for writers includes the Literature bursary award (max €15000), Literature project award (max €10000) and Travel and training award (max €12000). There is a rolling programme for Travel and training awards (no further awards available for writers in 2010) – all the other schemes operate on a deadline basis. Check the Arts Council's 'Find Funding Tool' for information about other funding schemes.

www.artscouncil.ie

(See Film, TV and Radio section on pages 18-19 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. Manages a range of training funds aimed at individual practitioners, training providers and employers.

www.skillset.org

National literature and writers' organizations

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

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

LitNet NI

New literature development organization supporting writers and literature professionals working in Northern Ireland. Runs a Professional Development and Mentoring programme for writers and literature workers, an annual conference and a literature forum. Business and creative skills for mid-career and emerging practitioners will be developed working in collaboration with leading UK literature organizations.

<http://www.litnetni.com/>

The National Association for Literature Development (NALD)

The professional body for all involved in developing writers, readers and literature audiences. Connects people working in literature through offering networks, intelligence and information, mentoring and professional development, advice and advocacy. Basic (free) and full membership available.

www.nald.org

The National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE)

The one organization supporting the development of creative writing of all genres and in all educational and community settings throughout the UK. Publications, events, online resources, disclosure processing. Free public liability insurance cover for professional members. The Writer's Compass is its professional development arm.

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

(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

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 Writer's Compass (NAWE)

Provides a range of free information and advice services for writers including a fully searchable online directory of professional development opportunities; a fortnightly jobs and opportunities e-bulletin; an information and advice helpline; professional development planning and coaching; and a wide range of information sheets, 'how to' factsheets and other resources. Also acts as an information and advice resource for all involved in writer development. The professional development arm of NAWA.

www.nawe.co.uk

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain

The trade union for professional writers in TV, film, theatre, radio, books and new media. 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

(See Genres of Writing section on pages 15-24 for other national organizations)

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 Writer's Compass section of the NAWA site www.nawe.co.uk.

The Writer's Handbook 2011

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. New articles include a writer's place in a digital world and characterization in popular fiction. (Macmillan)
www.thewritershandbook.com

Writers' and Artists' Yearbook 2012

Contains information on a huge range of topics including copyright, finance, submitting a manuscript, e-publishing, prizes and awards, plus updated listings of book publishers and literary agents, TV and film producers, societies, prizes, and articles by writers such as Joanna Trollope, Terry Pratchett and JK Rowling. Also offers a range of editorial services including 1st draft review, book idea service, manuscript submission masterclasses and beat the rejection clinics, plus industry events. 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, with advice from experienced writers and industry experts. (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)

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, negotiating and understanding contracts, and understanding how your book will actually be sold. (Macmillan)

The Writers' & Artists' Yearbook Guide to GETTING PUBLISHED by Harry Bingham

Expert information and advice on how to secure a book deal, from finding an agent through to working with a publishing house and building a solid long-term writing career. Covers preparing your manuscript for submission, choosing your agent or publisher, understanding your publishing contract, working with publishers and the editorial process. (A & C Black)

Write to be published by Nicola Morgan

Nicola Morgan - the Crabbit Old Bat of the renowned blog, Help! I Need a Publisher! – offers trenchant advice on how to make a publisher say yes. (Snowbooks)

The Naked Author – A Guide to Self-publishing by Alison Baverstock

Offers a new look at the subject of self-publishing in a digital age. Examines the complexities and processes involved in self-publishing, how to choose editorial and publishing services and produce a more professional-looking product. (A & C Black)

The Freelance Writer's Handbook 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/>

Dee Sunshine's Writers' Resources has links to over 1,000 literary magazines worldwide and over 750 online literary magazines

<http://www.rimbaud.org.uk/main2.html>

Magazines for writers include:

- **Freelance Market News** www.writersbureau.com/fmn/
- **Moviescope** www.moviescopemag.com
- **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.writersdigest.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 download from The Writer's Compass Section of the NAWE site www.nawe.co.uk).

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

Literature Wales

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/maillinglists.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.artspromotional.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>

Opportunities Creative Scotland

Information about creative jobs and other opportunities in Scotland and beyond. You can sign up for weekly email updates.
<http://www.creativescotland.com>

Guardian Jobs offers information on arts and media jobs online and by email
<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/>

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. Six issues per year.
<http://www.kudoswritingcompetitions.com/>

Lisjobnet.com

The UK's leading library and information appointments website.
www.lisjobnet.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>

The National Association for Literature Development (NALD) has the latest jobs in literature development online at <http://www.literaturedevelopment.co.uk/>

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.
www.poetryireland.ie

The Writer's Compass (NAWE) provides a weekly e-bulletin service with up-to-the-minute information on courses, competitions, jobs and more. Subscribe online at www.nawe.co.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

The Writing Calendar

Comprehensive online competition calendar run by Sally Quilford.

<http://www.writingcalendar.com/index.htm>

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 <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/jobs> (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**

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**

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)

International trade association for not-for-profit publishers and those who work with them.
www.alpsp.org

CLE: Irish Book Publishers' Association

Cross-border organization whose members comprise most of the major publishing houses in Ireland. Provides industry information and advice, marketing, training.
www.publishingireland.com

Independent Publishers Guild

Provides independent publishers with information, ideas and advice to help them to do better business. Market intelligence, resources, training, seminars, annual conference.
www.ipg.uk.com

Periodical Publishers Association

The organization 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 organization serving book, journal and electronic publishers in the UK. Regular bulletins and specialist briefs, market intelligence, business advice, conferences.
www.publishers.org.uk

Publishing Scotland

The network body for the book publishing industry in Scotland. 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.
- There is a new book on the subject by Alison Baverstock: **The Naked Author – A Guide to Self-publishing** (details on page six)
- 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 organization 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, professional accreditation 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 organization 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)

Inside Book Publishing 4th Edition by Giles Clark and Angus Phillips

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

Archived Opening the Book site containing searchable database of reader-centred projects.
<http://www.openingthebook.com/archive/branching-out/>

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

The National Association for Literature Development (NALD)

The professional body for all involved in developing writers, readers and literature audiences. Basic (free) and full membership available.
www.nald.org

Arts Development UK (formerly nalga)

Professional association, with a membership drawn from local authorities and those working in the creative industries sector in England and Wales.
<http://artsdevelopmentuk.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 and events.
www.readingagency.org.uk

The Reader Organisation

Promotes the practice of shared reading and the impact that literature can have on people's lives. Training, events, publications.
<http://thereader.org.uk/>

The Business of Writing

Business and Professional Development Support

Business Link

The government's online resource for businesses, now enhanced with new, easy-to-use business start-up tools. Information and support specific to businesses in, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is also available.
www.businesslink.org

Creative and cultural industries development agencies

Operating alongside Business Link is a network of mainly regional organisations that provide specialist business support for the creative and cultural sector. See Business Link website www.businesslink.org for details.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Northern Ireland's online business advice service.
<http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.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 in the Writing at University section at www.nawe.co.uk. For one-off and short writing courses and workshops at all levels, visit The Writers' Compass section of the NAWE site.

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 tutor-supported home-study courses in fiction, autobiography, imaginative non-fiction, poetry and writing for children for all writing levels. Its Writing Advanced course is based on the mentoring model.

www.oca-uk.com

The Open University

Offers level 1, 2 and 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 which runs the Arts Council England-funded Apprenticeships In Fiction professional development programme
- **Cornerstones** www.cornerstones.co.uk which also runs self-editing workshops for writers of adult and children's fiction
- **The Literary Consultancy** 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 organizations 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 (SCBWI)

The largest children's writing organization 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

Website managed by the Booktrust providing children's book news and information.
www.booktrusted.com

Children's Books Ireland

The national children's books organization of Ireland. Website has a wide range of information for writers and illustrators.
www.childrensbooksireland.com

NibWeb

Network for authors and editors of non-fiction books for children.
<http://www.nibweb.co.uk/>

The Scattered Authors' Society

A group of writers for children and teenagers. Meets a couple of times a year for residential weekends and more informally at lunches organised around the UK. In between, members keep in touch with each other online and via the SAS newsletter.

<http://www.scatteredauthors.org/>

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 2011

Practical advice and information on the children's market for the aspiring writer and illustrator plus a comprehensive, up-to-date directory of children's media contacts. (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

The Secrets to Writing Great Comedy by Lesley Bown

Practical guidance on everything from wordplay and visual humour to plots, characters and different styles. (Teach Yourself)

Crime Writing

The Crime Writers' Association

Membership organization supporting professional writers of crime fiction and non-fiction. Awards, competitions (including the Debut Dagger for unpublished writers), bulletin, events.

www.thecwa.co.uk

CRIMEFEST

Annual crime festival convention in Bristol which includes a crime writing workshop for aspiring writers and a Pitch an Agent strand.

<http://www.crimefest.com>

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 Calling Card Script: A writer's toolbox for stage, screen and radio by Paul Ashton

In-depth guide to the key writing 'tools' needed to write the script that gets you noticed, written by Paul Ashton, the Development Producer at BBC Writersroom. (A & C Black)

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 support the development of Scotland's playwrights including script-reading service, workshops, mentoring and networking events.

www.playwrightsstudio.co.uk

Scottish Society of Playwrights

Supports the interests of professional playwrights within Scottish theatre and abroad.

www.scottishsocietyofplaywrights.co.uk

Sherman Cymru

Supports the development of new writing in Wales, working with writers in both Welsh and English.

<http://www.shermancymru.co.uk>

Film, TV and Radio

British Film Institute

Takes over responsibility for funding film development and production; training; distribution and exhibition and other key roles from the UK Film Council from April 2011.

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/>

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

Britfilms

Comprehensive British Council-produced website aimed at developing British cinema.

Includes *Who does what: A guide to the labyrinth of the UK film industry*.

www.britfilms.com

FÁS Screen Training Ireland

Aims to provide excellence in continuing training for professionals in film, television, animation and digital media. Operates a Bursary Award Scheme to help Irish industry professionals to enhance their career through international training opportunities.

Applications are accepted at any time (you must apply at least four weeks before the start of the training programme.)

<http://www.screentrainingireland.ie/>

Film Agency for Wales

The national development agency for the film industry in Wales. Aims to identify and nurture Welsh (born and/or resident) filmmaking talent – particularly producers, writers, directors and writer-directors – by supporting and encouraging the development of their work.

Development submissions accepted from stand-alone writers and creative teams.

www.filmagencywales.com

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

UK Media Desk

Information on MEDIA-supported training courses in screenwriting, markets and events, industry news, resources across Europe.

www.mediadesk.co.uk

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 Daniel Cooney

Comprehensive guide to turning a story idea into a visually compelling and fully illustrated comic book and getting it published on the web or in print. (A & C Black)

Writing Historical Novels

The Historical Novel Society

Membership organization 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)

Write Fantastic Non-fiction: And Get it Published by Claire Gillman

Practical guide to selecting a subject, honing your research skills, exploring different genres and styles, and editing your work. (Teach Yourself)

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** and **The Writer's Handbook** together with listings of national and regional newspapers and magazines offering opportunities to the freelance writer.

No Contacts? No Problem! How to Pitch & Sell a Freelance Feature by Catherine Quinn

Takes you through the process of getting your first article in print, from how to scope the market and format your pitch to convincing editors who've never heard of you to commission your work. (Methuen / Drama)

Freelance Writing for Newspapers by Jill Dick

Covers the importance of 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)

Performance Poetry

Apples and Snakes

England's leading organization for performance poetry and spoken word. Events, educational workshops, training and artist development opportunities. Network of regional co-ordinators across England.

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 organization 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. Comprehensive online gig guide and monthly newsletter.

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

The biggest dedicated poetry bookseller in the UK, the PBS provides information, guidance and discounts on the best contemporary poetry for a wide-ranging community of readers.

Also runs the Poetry Bookshop Online <http://www.poetrybookshoponline.com/>.

www.poetrybooks.co.uk

Poetry Ireland

The national organization dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting poetry through Ireland. Publications, readings, education (runs the Writers in Schools scheme), 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.

101 Ways to Make Poems Sell: The Salt Guide to Getting and Staying Published by Chris Hamilton-Emery

Insider's guide to the poetry business, focusing on building profile, finding readers and selling books. (Salt Publishing)

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

<http://forum.wordreference.com/index.php>

Travel Writing

British Guild of Travel Writers

Association of over 270 travel writers, editors, photographers and broadcasters.

www.bgtw.org

Writing for Personal Development

Lapidus

The UK organization for writing and reading for health and wellbeing with regional groups in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. CPD events, practice-led online journal, website resources and the opportunity to network with others.

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)

Writing Routes: A Resource Handbook of Therapeutic Writing

Explores the many different ways of getting into and thinking about creative writing for personal or professional development. Eds, Gillie Bolton, Victoria Field and Kate Thompson (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 organization supporting the development of creative writing in all educational and community settings throughout the UK. Publications, events, training, online resources, disclosure processing. Free public liability insurance cover for professional members. The Writer's Compass is its professional development arm offering information and advice services for writers generally, including a jobs and opportunities bulletin.

www.nawe.co.uk

Artswork

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

Booktrust manages the website **Writing Together** www.writingtogether.org.uk which provides information for classroom teachers on how to organise successful writer visits in schools

Creativity, Culture & Education (CCE)

Promotes the value of encouraging children's creativity in and out of school.

www.creativitycultureeducation.org

MAiLOUT

National magazine featuring all aspects of participatory and community arts. 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

Escape Artists

Multi-arts organisation which runs accredited courses in working with the arts in the criminal justice system and other areas of social inclusion.
www.escapeartists.co.uk

Writers in Prison 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

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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