So, you want to be an Independent Author

Chapter 2: Writing – Effective Use of the Tools

by Edwin Rydberg

QUANTUM DOT PRESS

— HELPING BRING YOUR BOOK TO THE WORLD —

4 Chapter Course

About Edwin Rydberg

- Writing fiction since 2005 (professionally for longer)

- Publishing books since 2008

  (with Utility Fog Press and imprint Quantum Dot Press)

- The primary author service I provide is formatting books for Print/e-Book (generally for Amazon or IngramSpark)

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Setting Yourself Up for Success

The best investment is in the tools of one's own trade.

- Benjamin Franklin

Topics

- What do we mean by 'effective use' of the tools?

- What are the tools?

- How to use them effectively

What you use matters less than how you use it

The most important part is getting your manuscript written.

There are a great many tools, and more always being developed.

Use what works for you!

Setting Yourself Up for Success

It is essential to have good tools, but it is also essential that the tools should be used in the right way.

- Wallace D. Wattles

Topics

- What do we mean by 'effective use' of the tools?

- What are the tools?

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What do we mean by 'effective use'?

Effective Use

- Accomplishes your immediate goal
  - Quickly and efficiently

- Readies you for any next important steps

- Can be multiple independent processes, but they can often be easily combined to save time.

What do we mean by 'effective use'?

With Writing Software…

- Complements your preferences to aid you in finishing your manuscript.

- Easy to convert into publishable format.

  - Spacing

  - Page breaks

  - Chapter headings

  - Punctuation

Setting Yourself Up for Success

> **A good tool improves the way you work, a great tool improves the way you think.**
>
> - Jeff Duntemann

Topics

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- What are the tools?

- How to use them effectively

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What are the tools?

Anything that gets your vision onto the page

- Analogue
  - Pen and paper
- Electronic
  - Computer
  - Numerous Software
- Voice
  - Dictation Software
- Thought
  - Not yet! (but soon?)

Plotting / StoryBoarding Tools

Plottr (Paid)

- Very popular, wide range of formats
- Wide range of features
- Local to computer

PowerPoint (Paid)

- Popular, wide range of formats
- In cloud, great for collaborations
- Slows down on large files

Scrivener (Paid)

- Designed for Authors
- Easy to move scenes around
- Easily keep all related info in one file
- Less intuitive to use

Canva (Free/Paid)

- Templates available

Milanote (Free/Paid)

- Storyboarding, plotting, character info
- Weekly planner, etc

Any graphics program

- e.g. Gimp (time consuming)

Post-It Notes

- Low energy
- Require a large space to use

Common Writing Tools

Microsoft Word (Paid)

- Very popular, wide range of formats
- Wide range of features
- Most common writing program

Google Docs (Free)

- Popular, wide range of formats
- In cloud, great for collaborations
- Slows down on large files

Scrivener (Paid)

- Designed for Authors
- Easy to move scenes around
- Easily keep all related info in one file
- Less intuitive to use

Celtx (Paid)

- Script-writing and collaboration
- Online
- Only for scriptwriters

Open Office / LibreOffice (Free)

- Compatible with Word and other formats
- *almost* as good as Microsoft Office

Others

- Notepad (free, basic)
- Reedsy (free + formatting)
- Campfire Blaze /Word Anvil

Dictation Tools

Dragon (Paid)

- The best, but expensive

Word (Paid)

- Included in Word
- Seems to work quite well

Google Docs (Free)

- Depends on your internet / computer speed
- Not the best results (personal trial)

LilySpeech - OpenOffice Add-on (Free)

- Uses Google transcription technology

Descript (Free/Paid)

- Online *transcription* from recording
- 1hr / month free

Otter.ai (Free/Paid)

- Online *transcription* from recording
- 10 x 30 min / month free

Editing Tools

ProWriting Aid (Free/Paid)

- Very popular, wide range of formats
- Wide range of features
- Local to computer

Grammerly (Free/Paid)

- Designed for Authors
- Easy to move scenes around
- Easily keep all related info in one file
- Less intuitive to use

Setting Yourself Up for Success

Man is a tool-using animal. Without tools he is nothing, with tools he is all.

- Thomas Carlyle

Topics

- What do we mean by 'effective use' of the tools?

- What are the tools?

- How to use them effectively

Remember…

Your writing software should…

1. Complements your preferences to aid you in finishing your manuscript.

2. Be set up to allow easy conversion of your document into a publishable format.

   - Spacing

   - Page breaks

   - Chapter headings

   - Punctuation

   - Table of Contents

- Demo incoming (but first…)

Let's try some dictation!

Readily available options

1. Word

2. Google Docs

Transcription programs like Descript and Otter.ai also exist.

- These require an audio recording to work on (e.g. from phone, computer, hand-held recorder,…)

Thank You

See you next week for

Chapter 3: Publishing – Where? How? When?