

Where do you find agents?

The nuances involved with getting an agent

with Christine DeSmet, Wisconsin Writers Association, April 10, 2021
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Listings here include 600+ to 1600+ agents. Each site offers various ways to search. Some include editor/publisher lists.

FREE resources for “literary agent” searches (in no particular order):

~ Reedsy (new as of March 2021)

<https://blog.reedsy.com/literary-agents/>

~ Query Tracker (includes publisher list; has premium features for a fee)

Shows the top 10 list of: most responsive agents, most rejecting agents, most requesting agents, and most queried agents.

<https://querytracker.net/>

~ Manuscript Wish List (has premium features you can add at cost; includes Twitter Advanced searches and editor search capability)

<https://www.manuscriptwishlist.com/>

~ Agent Query

<https://www.agentquery.com/default.aspx>

~ Publisher’s Marketplace: This usually costs \$25/month for deep searches on sales etc., but if you Google-search for it you’ll see the free “Agents” link pop up on your screen.

<https://literary-agents.com/directory-literary-agents/publishers-marketplace/>

~ Publisher's Weekly issues free emailed newsletters that list sales with agent names; sign up per your interest in children's, bestseller sales, etc. This website is a free treasure trove for trends and news about what's selling and what's not.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/>

~ Poets & Writers (magazine costs but the agent list is free to anyone)

https://www.pw.org/literary_agents

~ Writer's Digest (online magazine info gives "new agent alerts" including February 2021 alert with 20 agents actively seeking writers and projects)

<https://www.writersdigest.com/getting-published/find-a-fiction-agent>

~ The Writer (online and print magazine offers many articles on how to find an agent, and a list of agents)

<https://www.writermag.com/market-directory/agent/>

~ Google searches for "Top 20 Literary Agents" or any such wording are always successful and lead to discoveries. I searched for the Top 100 agencies making the biggest money deals and found this great list.

<https://literaryagencies.com/list-of-literary-agents/top-literary-agencies/>

~ Online searches of conferences, workshops, retreats. Agents appearing with conferences etc. are actively looking for writers and new projects. Tell them in the query where you saw their name and/or if you met them personally online/in person. I looked up the much-advertised Michigan Writers' Conference (by Writer's Digest

people or past people) happening April 9-10, 2021, and it lists 30 agents on its opening page, all taking pitches at that conference.

<https://literaryagencies.com/list-of-literary-agents/top-literary-agencies/>

~ *Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents* (updated 2019). This book available through libraries lists agent/editor personal interests and other helpful information such as how to write a winning pitch.

<https://jeffherman.com/product/jeff-hermans-guide-to-book-publishers-editors-and-literary-agents-who-they-are-what-they-want-and-how-to-win-them-over/>

~ Most national writer organization members share agent info or create lists of agents. Sisters in Crime, for example, emails a newsletter with sales announcements with agent and publisher names. Sisters in Crime also shares the dollar range of the sale.

<https://www.sistersincrime.org/>

For sound, professional advice about query letters, synopsis, and other issues of importance to writers:

Jane Friedman

Her website includes instruction and samples of queries and synopses, and so much more. Jane is a former keynoter at the UW-Madison Writers' Institute under Laurie Scheer's direction.

<https://www.janefriedman.com/>

Nathan Bransford

Nathan does free query letter critiques on his blog regularly. His website and blog are treasure troves of short articles on how to do everything better. Check him out! This author is a former agent. And

he was invited to the UW-Madison Writers' Institute in the past, too, because he supports writers so well.

<https://nathanbransford.com/>

Staring at a contract and want advice? Here are lawyers at a good price + a free website platform you can use for a quick website setup:

The Authors Guild (generally called "Authors Guild") has attorneys as members who volunteer to go over contracts for free. If you have a book contract in hand, you can join for \$135/year or \$12/month at the Professional Membership level. Emerging writers without a contract may join for \$100/year or \$9/month. New members enjoy many benefits including using the group's free web-building program and a free year of the web-hosting platform.

<https://www.authorsguild.org/>

About your speaker—author, critique partner/coach & more

Christine is an author, scriptwriter, writing coach and instructor. She is a Distinguished Faculty Associate at UW-Madison Continuing Studies where she mentors writers from page one to publication, including those in the UW-Madison Pathway to Publication program. Christine writes the Fudge Shop Mystery Series set in Door County, Wis., including the recent *Deadly Fudge Divas* and forthcoming *Undercover Fudge*. She also writes the Mischief in Moonstone light-hearted romantic-mystery series including *A Moonstone Wedding*, re-issued this week (April 6, 2021) from publisher Writers Exchange Publishing. www.ChristineDeSmet.com, and Facebook, and christine.desmet@wisc.edu

Recommended: My recent past colleague, Laurie Scheer, is expert with nonfiction book proposals, marketing, and critiques of all forms of fiction and nonfiction including scripts and TV series proposals/bibles. Check out her new website for writers, New Nature Writers, <https://newnaturewriters.com/>
You can reach her at laurie@newnaturewriters.com.

New this week from my Australian publisher, available on Amazon. What could possibly go wrong planning a big wedding? Perhaps it's not a good idea to find a body gift-wrapped instead of a crockpot...

