

The Busy Writer's Book of Checklists

Checklist 20 – Your Writer's Network

Aspects of Developing a Writer's Network	
Done	<i>Work constantly on your writer's network. You can make valuable contacts that will help you in many ways - by buying your books, and helping you to promote them.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work out a list of what KIND of people you want to add to your network. (Authors, potential critique partners, book bloggers, industry professionals like editors and agents, POD publishers etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work out where you can FIND these people. (Forums, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, GoodReads, Writers' Groups, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spend time on these forums/blogs or on Twitter and Facebook. (Create a Twitter account and Facebook page if you need to.) Start commenting, offering help, and generally responding to people.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Draw up a program for gradually expanding your network by developing the contacts you have initiated. Aim to become friends with them via blog comments, forum posts, Tweets and Facebook comments, then IF there is a genuine relationship developing, become email friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buy books by authors you like (to support them, to give feedback and/or reviews, and to be able to discuss the books in forums.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a budget for conferences and workshops if this is part of your plan. Choose functions where you can expand both your knowledge AND your network.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aim for variety in your friends/contacts. (E.g. authors you like, potential critique partners or writers in the same genre, editors with a good knowledge of the industry, book store owners, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a contacts list/book (on your computer or in a notebook). Keep up-to-date information about email addresses, Twitter accounts, Facebook pages and blog/website addresses. Record the date of any contact made (be brief - e.g. "Tweet" or "Facebook comment" or "Blog response". Don't just contact people when you want something - a genuine relationship goes both ways.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide whether you need face-to-face contact with writers on a regular basis. If you do, join a nearby group or start your own.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join GoodReads. Here you can interact with authors, keep an eye on what people are reading, promote your own books and have your own page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join LinkedIn. (Same as above for GoodReads. Another good networking site.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Join professional groups connected with your genre (e.g. Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Romance Writers, Mystery Writers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other Aspects of Building a Writer's Network:</i>