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A Year in the Life of a Writer

By Andy Walsh

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For those of you who don't know what I'm about, here's a short summary.

I'm a writer living in England. I have written a novel, 'St Brodag's Isle', which is supported by a website (<http://www.stbrodag.com>) and a newsletter. 2002 is going to be my campaign year – a year in which I intend to make a living out of my writing. As I go through the year, I'll be posting articles such as this one, which will detail the step-by-step approach that I'm going to be taking. I'll be honest with my failures as well as my triumphs. And in a year's time I hope to be looking back at a year that exceeded my expectations.

Right, so what have I been up to in recent weeks? I'm glad you asked.

My subscription list has DOUBLED! Granted, I don't have a list of 20,000 members but I reckon that's not a bad performance since Christmas. And what about sales of my book? Well, again it's progress – long, hard, slow progress – but progress nonetheless. I won't be moving to Monaco just yet but I might be able to buy food next week!

Now, I'm going to let you into the secret of how I've made a difference to my subscription list. It's simply this – I've talked to a few people. Not just any old people. I've interviewed some published writers and promoted this to people and fan sites that I think will generate interest.

Before I go any further, let me reassure you that I didn't interview these people just to get my subscription list up on my newsletter. I

really am interested in what published novelists have to say. I've picked up a few tips from the people I've talked to.

But never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I just happened to mention the fact that I was interviewing these people on a few forums that I visit. I signed up ten people on one day, which for a little newsletter like mine is superb going.

I bet you're wondering how hard it was to arrange the interviews? In all honesty, it was one of the easiest things I've ever done. Find a writer's web page, email them with a request for an interview and wait for a response. I'm getting a 50% acceptance rate at the moment.

So there you go.

How to increase your subscription list by getting exclusive interviews!

Andy Walsh is a househusband and writer living in Cumbria in the UK. He writes novels, short stories, articles and poems some of which you can read at <http://www.stbrodag.com>. Check out 'PROMOTE YOUR WRITING' at <http://www.stbrodag.com/promote/promote.htm>.

What Publications Should Look for in a Technology Writer

By David Geer

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What to look for in a technology writer.

A good technology writer has a good portfolio. The writer you want will have samples that parallel the content you're looking for. A good portfolio sample can be found at <http://www.GeerCom.com/samples.html>.

A good technology writer is a good investigator. A professional technology writer takes time to get to know you, your publication, and your goals. What do you really want to get out of this project? A great writer will ask because a disciplined professional needs to know.

A good technology writer is a team player. Professional writing requires top-notch communications skills on all levels, not just in the text of your articles and features. The writer you want should be able to carry on a dialogue with you and your team to discover your needs, and to make sure that they are met.

A good technology writer is prepared to work with you and your team until you're satisfied.

Consultations, revisions and changes should be built into the fee. These are part of the process and should be foreseen by the writer.

Finally, a good technology writer instills confidence. After providing the necessary requirements and information, you should feel comfortable letting the writer drive where the story is concerned. You should be able to rely on their responsiveness to your queries. You should be assured that they will deliver all that you expect and more.

About the Author David Geer is chief technology writer, technical journalist and owner of Geer Communications, which helps print and electronic publications meet their content needs. E-mail him at David@GeerCom.com, call him at 440-964-9832, or check out the Geer Communications Website at www.GeerCom.com.



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