

Writers' Query Toolkit
CJ Lyons
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Check my website for more information, course descriptions and future dates:
<http://www.cjlyons.net> I am available for live presentations, keynote speeches, as well as on-line workshops. Contact me at cj@cjlyons.net

Below I've listed some of the most useful resources I've found when polishing my work, researching agents/editors, and keeping up to date with the publishing industry. There are also many more out there, but this should keep you busy for a while.

Have fun and good luck!
CJ

Books:

Noah Lukeman THE FIRST FIVE PAGES
Stephen King ON WRITING
Christopher Vogler THE WRITER'S JOURNEY (actually, I prefer Joseph Campbell, but many folks swear by Vogler, so I'm including it)
James Frey THE KEY and HOW TO WRITE A DAMN GOOD NOVEL
Donald Maass WRITING THE BREAKOUT NOVEL, and FIRE IN THE FICTION
David Morrell LESSONS FROM A LIFETIME OF WRITING
Robert McKee STORY
Blake Snyder SAVE THE CAT!
Syd Field SCREENPLAY
Dwight Swain TECHNIQUES OF THE SELLING WRITER
James Scott Bell REVISION AND SELF-EDITING, and PLOT AND STRUCTURE

Websites/blogs:

Check out national writing organizations in your genre (ie. RWA, SFWA, MWA, ITW, etc) Often they'll have member announcements of recent sales, info on agents/editors including who's buying, interviews, and what conferences they'll be at

Authors' Guild has some great references and resources even if you're not a member
<http://www.authorsguild.org/>

Association of Author Representatives (check out their FAQ for great questions to ask potential agents) <http://www.aaronline.org/>

Publisher's Lunch (industry news delivered direct to you for free!)
<http://www.publishersmarketplace.com>

Buzz, Balls and Hype (book marketing advice from MJ Rose)
http://mjroseblog.typepad.com/buzz_balls_hype/

Literary Agent Guide blog <http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog/>

Miss Snark (a NYC literary agent dishes, holding nothing back! Archives only)
<http://misssnark.blogspot.com>

Backspace (writers forum and great articles) <http://www.bksp.org>

Publishers Weekly: news, blogs, features, deals, reviews
www.publishersweekly.com

Query Tracker (tool to keep track of your submissions, great articles, plus a blog—all free!) www.querytracker.net

Absolute Write Water Cooler (I usually simply search the agent/editor I'm interested in) <http://www.absolutewrite.com/forums/search.php>

Agent Query (search by genre or name!) <http://www.agentquery.com/>

Nathan Bransford (an agent with Curtis Brown, great blog, plus wonderful links to everything!) <http://nathanbransford.blogspot.com/2009/06/writing-advice-database.html>

There are also many agents and editors who blog—too many to list here, but many are listed on the sidebar of Nathan's blog, so just scroll down and click!

Happy hunting!
CJ

About CJ:

As a pediatric ER doctor, CJ Lyons has lived the life she writes about in her cutting edge suspense novels. Her award-winning, critically acclaimed Angels of Mercy series (LIFELINES, WARNING SIGNS, and URGENT CARE) is available in stores now with the fourth, CRITICAL CONDITION, due out December, 2010. Her newest project is as co-author of a new suspense series with Erin Brockovich. Contact her at <http://www.cjlyons.net>