

# A Day in the Life of a Writer – Websites

## By Tami Brothers

*Create my own website. Do I or don't I?*

You can't go more than a few weeks on the PRO writing loops without someone asking the question, "Do I need a website?" This is usually followed by tons of responses, both in favor of and against them. And believe me when I say that most people who respond have VERY strong opinions on the subject.

*So, as a new writer starting out in this business, do I need one?*

You'll get tired of hearing me say this throughout this series of articles; but yet again, the answer depends on each individual writer.

With this in mind, I decided to approach my 2007 writing year from a different standpoint. Not only was I vowing to actually sit down and write, but I wanted to see *what* I needed to do to flourish in this crazy world.

Throughout 07, I kept an eye open for any and all material regarding websites. For example, I read the PRO Career Series Booklet on the Romance Writers of America's website under the PRO Promotion Section. This 87 page printable booklet answered quite a few of my questions about setting up a site and some questions I didn't even know I had.

I also found information in the **PROspects** newsletter, which is found in the PRO section of RWA's website. The January 2007 **PROspects** tells about reserving an internet domain (at that point, I had no idea I even needed an internet domain), and the October 07 **PROspects** gave some useful tips on building your site.

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While looking through my **Romance Writer Reports**, I noticed an article in the September 07 edition on *Increasing Your Website Traffic*. Then I read in the December 07 **RWR** about *Making MySpace Work for You*.

In the July 07 Georgia Romance Writers on-line magazine, **The Galley**, Nicki Salcedo, with the help of Len Johnson, wrote the first of several articles on *Building Websites for Writers*.

Throughout the year, I surfed the web and checked out tons of published and unpublished writers' sites. In doing this, I found a bunch of articles about everything a new writer could want, including setting up your own website.

*Yes. That's all good. But, do I NEED a website?*

Okay, none of these resources really gave me the answer to this question. Not in all of the articles, not on the author sites, not in the agent blogs. Nothing, zip, nada. Except. Wait. Yes. I did find something that helped me make up my own mind.

When reading through the MANY posts on the PRO loops, I read several comments by authors who had just recently received The Call. The ones who had their site already established were happy they did; because after The Call, they were swamped with all the steps required to get their manuscript ready for publication. Those that had not set up a site beforehand, talked about the added stress setting one up from scratch caused them. Several people commented that even though they had not yet published a site, they were glad they had at least an idea of what they wanted.

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So, there it is in a nutshell. You can set up a website before hand, or you don't have to. It's all how YOU interpret it.

Me? I'm thrilled I went ahead and set mine up. I was shocked that it took me all summer to come up with the design (which ended up being nothing like my original idea). But because of my lack of computer knowledge, I had expected it to be a lengthy process. Many, many hours were spent looking at other author sites, rewriting my bio, and choosing just the right pictures. In order to save some money, I went ahead and created my own site; which heaped load more stress on me. I eventually had to enlist the help of a 'computer literate' friend to help me. So this is definitely something to consider if you decide to create your own.

Now that it's up, I find each month gets a bit easier as I update my pages and comment on my blog. Only my husband really know how much time I've put into it (yeah, just ask him); but when I do receive The Call, I plan to be ready.

Check out my blog at [www.tamibrothers.com](http://www.tamibrothers.com) during the months of March and April for a more in-depth look at creating your own website and even ideas on creating a My Space page.

*My Space! What the heck is that?*

Check out my blog for the answer to this question and maybe a few others you didn't know you had.

Wait! Was that the phone? Maybe it's The Call I've been waiting for. See ya!

Happy writing everyone!