

A Day in the Life of a Writer

Web sites

By Tami Brothers

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Create my own Web site. 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 Web site?" 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 Web sites. For example, I read the PRO Career Series Booklet on the Romance Writers of America's Web site under the PRO Promotion Section. This 87-page printable booklet answered quite a few of my questions about setting up a site.

I also found information in the **PROspects** newsletter, which is found in the PRO

section of RWA's Web site. The January 2007 **PROspects** tells about reserving an internet domain, and the October '07 **PROspects** gave some useful tips on building your site.

While looking through my **Romance Writer Reports**, I noticed an article in the September '07 edition on *Increasing Your Web site 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 Web sites for Writers*.

Throughout the year, I surfed the Web and checked out published and unpublished writers' sites and found articles about everything a new writer could want, including setting up your own Web site.





That's all good. But, do I NEED a Web site?

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. Except. Wait. 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 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 manuscripts ready for publication. Those who 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.

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

I'm thrilled I 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 created my own site; which heaped more stress on me. I eventually had to enlist the help of a 'computer literate' friend.

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.

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

Happy writing everyone!

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