

A Day in the Life - Blogs

By Tami Brothers

Wow. Life has a way of making a person feel old.

I can hear it now. *Huh? What in the world is she talking about?*

Before you start rounding up a lynch mob, I'm referring to the speed by which our days, weeks, months and years seem to fly by. In grade school, I KNOW the hours I spent in class were far longer than the hours I now spend at work.

We all know how untrue this statement is; but as soon as one monthly meeting ends, it feels like I'm rushing to prepare for the next one. Summer has suddenly slipped through my fingers and before I know it, I'll be buying trick-or-treat candy and roasting a turkey.

The point I'm trying to make is with a 'day job,' a husband, a child, and life hammering in amongst all of it, I end up having only snips of time here and there to focus on my writing. Hardly a moment is left to think about the business side of writing, which is a must if I want to become published. So, I'm sharing a few ideas *I've* found help me in this area.

Because I work on a computer most of the day, I've developed a system to keep up on market news and to get some wonderful up-to-date advice through blogs. Some of you are probably wondering what I'm talking about; while others already know this term and are asking how this is going to help their writing career.

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First of all, a blog is an on-line diary of a person's thoughts. This isn't just for teenagers and computer savvy geeks anymore. Many authors, agents and editors have blogs as a way to promote their books and give out information they feel is relevant to the public. I've found that by 'Book Marking' certain blogs in my Favorite's section on the internet, I can take a quick peek whenever I have a free moment or two. This has been a wonderful time saver for me and I've found some very informative bloggers. I'm listing a few of them below in three sections.

1) These are the blogs I've found to be the most helpful writing/career wise.

<http://jakonrath.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.accrispin.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.stephaniebond.com/>

<http://authormba.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.boom-pr-for-authors.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.bravaauthors.com/>

<http://evileditor.blogspot.com/>

<http://raleva31.livejournal.com/>

<http://pubrants.blogspot.com/>

<http://knightagency.blogspot.com/>

<http://rejecter.blogspot.com/>

2) These are the blogs of people I check out for fun and have been pleasantly surprised to find information relative to writing. Some are writers I started following when they first received 'the call.'

<http://www.allisonbrennan.com/blog/index.php>

<http://annadestefano.blogspot.com/>

<http://genashowalter.blogspot.com/> Got to check out Beefcake Monday!!!

<http://jillshalvis.com/>

<http://melissa-writing.livejournal.com/>

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<http://romancebandits.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.smartbitchestrashybooks.com/>

<http://www.romancingtheblog.com/blog/2007/05/29/in-praise-of-the-debut-novel/>

<http://thecreakyhinge.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.rblromantica.com/>

<http://thecreakyhinge.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.deidreknight.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.rblromantica.com/>

<http://www.jenniferlabrecque.com/wp/>

<http://www.annaadamswriter.blogspot.com/>

3) These are the blogs of fellow GRW PRO members - many sites are not updated regularly, but I check them out once a week to lend my support and to see what's up with *my* people.

http://www.8headedhydra.com/CommunityServer/blogs/8hh_blog/default.aspx

belonging to Nicki Salcedos

<http://cinthiasspinnings.blogspot.com/>

Cynthia Hamer

<http://www.katiebryan.com/blog/>

Katie Bryan

<http://trishwrites.blogspot.com/>

Trish Milburn

<http://michellenewcome.blogspot.com/>

Michelle Newcome

<http://carolburnside.blogspot.com/>

Carol Burnside

<http://home.earthlink.net/~apdoll/>

Anna Doll

I wish I had the column space to tell a little bit about each of these sites; but I'm limited in word space, so you'll have to see for yourself which ones might be relevant for

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you. My list changes each month because I delete ones that get tedious and add a few referred to me by other writers or even ones referenced on other blogs. By no means are these all the blogs that are useful. They're just the ones I've found in my day to day search for the 'Holy Grail' of information.

Of course, I have to mention that blog hopping can also become time consuming. Many people prefer not to even get started because it does cut into our much coveted writing time. My opinion on this also changes from month to month. At this point in my writing career, I need the kind of information many of them list. So you be the judge of what's right for you.

If by chance you know of one I didn't list and would like to share it with the rest of our chapter, send me an e-mail at holden_tammy@yahoo.com. Also, I found many of these through the links we have on the GRW website. If you have a website or blog not already listed on the site, get with Ann Tripp and make sure your link is added. If not, you're missing out on a lot of potential new readers.

Good luck with your blog surfing experience.