

THE WRITER'S EDGE

READER PREVIEW



NETWORKING SUCCESS FOR AUTHORS

BOOK 19

The Writer's Edge - 2027 Expanded Edition

*Build Meaningful Professional Relationships That Create
Opportunity, Community, and Long-Term Growth*



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A selected preview from the complete book.

What This Book Will Do for You



Networking is often reduced to business cards, followers, book pitches, or getting close to people who appear more successful. *Networking Success for Authors* replaces that transactional model with a professional relationship system built around relevance, reliability, generosity, follow-through, and mutual respect.

The book shows authors how to identify the relationships their career actually needs, prepare a professional identity, enter conversations naturally, listen for context, follow up before connections disappear, work effectively at events and online, collaborate without extraction, ask for help professionally, manage contacts, and protect boundaries and trust.

The practical result is a network that supports the work without replacing it: a community in which introductions, information, referrals, collaborations, reader connections, invitations, and opportunities can develop because people know what you do and trust how you work.

THE GOAL IS NOT TO KNOW EVERYONE. THE GOAL IS TO KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE WELL ENOUGH THAT TRUST CAN GROW IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

Selected From the Book



Follow Up Before the Connection Disappears

Most networking value is lost after the event. People meet, exchange information, promise to stay in touch, and then allow the connection to evaporate.

Follow Up With Context

Send a brief message while the conversation is still recognizable. Mention where you met and one specific point from the discussion. If you promised a link, introduction, file, or answer, provide it.

'Great meeting you' is polite. 'I enjoyed our conversation about bringing regional authors into your library's fall programming' is memorable.

Do Not Turn Follow-Up Into a Funnel

A person who gives you a business card has not automatically subscribed to your newsletter. A LinkedIn connection has not agreed to receive repeated sales messages. Follow-up should respect the context in which the contact was shared.

Ask before adding someone to marketing communication when consent is required or appropriate.

Create a Second Touchpoint

If there is a legitimate reason to continue, suggest one. Send the resource you discussed, congratulate them on a relevant announcement, invite them to an appropriate event, or reconnect when the project you discussed becomes timely.

The second contact begins turning a meeting into a relationship.

Selected From the Book



Ask for Help, Introductions, and Opportunities Professionally

Networking eventually involves asking. The goal is not to avoid requests; it is to make requests that respect the relationship and the other person's time.

Make the Ask Specific

'Can you help me market my book?' is too broad. 'Would you be comfortable introducing me to the library programming coordinator you mentioned?' is clear. Specific requests are easier to evaluate and easier to decline.

Explain enough context for the person to understand why the request makes sense.

Give Permission to Say No

People have limited time, conflicts, policies, and private reasons for declining. A professional request allows a no without punishment, guilt, repeated pressure, or damage to the relationship.

How an author responds to a refusal often determines whether the relationship survives.

Do Not Spend Other People's Social Capital

An introduction is a transfer of trust. When someone introduces you, your behavior reflects on them. Be prepared, respond promptly, and do not make the introducer regret connecting you.

Never imply endorsement beyond what was actually offered.

Try It Now



The Author Networking Map

Use this worksheet to identify the relationships that matter to the next stage of your career.

Readers and Community

Which reader groups or communities should know my work? _____

Who already connects me to readers? _____

Where can I contribute without immediately selling? _____

Publishing Professionals

Which editors, designers, publishers, agents, narrators, or rights professionals do I genuinely need? _____

Who can help me evaluate professionals rather than simply recommend friends? _____

Booksellers and Libraries

Which stores and libraries fit my books? _____

What do I know about their programming and ordering needs? _____

How can I support them? _____

Authors and Peers

Which authors share readers, professional interests, or geography? _____

What can I contribute to those relationships? _____

Media and Events

Which hosts, journalists, podcasters, organizers, and associations reach the right audience? _____

What useful topic can I bring them? _____

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT OUTLAST THE INTRODUCTION



The complete Networking Success for Authors turns networking into a sustainable career system. It covers defining the network you need, preparing before events, improving conversations, following up with context, working with booksellers and librarians, building author-peer relationships, networking online without becoming noise, creating value before asking for favors, making professional requests, managing contacts, and protecting reputation, boundaries, and trust.

The full book also includes the Author Networking Map, a 30-Day Networking Reset, a Networking Conversation Toolkit, and the Networking Risk Check - practical tools for reconnecting with meaningful contacts, expanding the right circles, strengthening follow-through, and identifying habits that create motion without value.

Networking success is not the moment someone gives you an opportunity. It is the point at which people know enough about your work and character to trust you with one.

NETWORKING SUCCESS FOR AUTHORS

BOOK 19 OF THE WRITER'S EDGE

Practical Guides for Serious Writers

GET THE COMPLETE BOOK