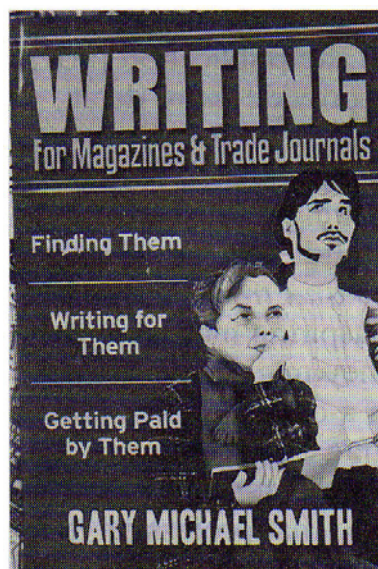




Writing for Magazines and Trade Journals: Finding Them, Writing for Them, and Getting Paid by Them

Gary Michael Smith. 2005. New Orleans, LA: Chatgris Press. [ISBN 1-930554-03-6. 202 pages, including index. \$14.95 USD (softcover).]

Writing for magazines and trade journals includes information about virtually every aspect of the process of submitting articles to these types of publications. While

other books may be devoted to certain aspects of the publication process and thus provide more detail, this book serves as an excellent overview and introduction for how to go about getting published.

The ideal audience for *Writing for magazines and trade journals* is beginning or aspiring magazine article writers. They might have domain knowledge in a certain profession and want to translate the knowledge into writing articles for trade publications catering to that profession, but don't know where to start.

Much of the information covered in this book will be overly basic for a working technical communicator. For example, technical writers are in all likelihood already quite familiar with selecting tools such as word processing software, choosing among the different purposes and types of writing, and proofreading their work. However for someone who has never written professionally, the book offers much valuable information. Additionally, even technical communicators who want to publish magazine articles yet have no idea of how to go about doing so can find help in these pages.

The book is well written, and Smith clearly has a great deal of experience. The fact that he has been both a writer and an editor gives him a well-balanced perspective on the publication process. Particularly outstanding is information about how to communicate with editors, from submitting an article, to revision, acceptance, and publication. Smith outlines the different types of editors a writer can expect to work with and the ways that communication can differ between editors of profit and not-for-profit publications.

One section that could prove especially useful to both beginning unpublished writers and working technical communicators is "Legalities, compensation, and help in organizing." This section includes infor-

mation about contracts (such as the types of rights a writer can hold to published material and different types of pay structures). Additionally, in keeping with the wide breadth of the book, Smith provides resources for how writers can get organized. He provides an extensive list of other resources throughout the book. These include everything from writers' conferences and organizations, to resources that can help writers find a suitable publication to fit the subject matter of their articles.

Although other books might cover various facets of the publication process in more detail, *Writing for magazines and trade journals* provides a solid overview and course of action for the aspiring article author who seeks a starting point.

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