

## Tools & Tips for Writers | Association of Health Care Journalists

### Keep your interviews, emails and story notes in one place.

Backpackit: <http://backpackit.com> - great for keeping lists and managing projects.

Evernote: <http://evernote.com> - easy to clip information and images from websites, and it can search text in documents and images.

### Bookmark articles and websites, tag 'em -- and see what other people are bookmarking.

Delicious: <http://delicious.com> - posting expert links? publish the RSS feed on your site.

### Join an online community for writers, editors & publishers.

Reporting on Health: <http://www.reportingonhealth.org/community>

SheWrites: <http://www.shewrites.com> - also features instructional webinars

Women, Action & the Media: <http://www.womenactionmedia.org/get-involved/listserv> - good discussion list

### Use free (or almost free) online business services.

85 Tools & Resources for Freelancers and Web Workers: <http://mashable.com/2009/03/03/freelance>

Includes invoicing and time-tracking tools.

### Use free (or almost free) online writing tools.

35 Best Tools for Writing Online: <http://mashable.com/2008/12/13/writers-toolbox>

Includes word processing and blogging tools, as well as social networking resources.

### Stay Informed.

Start by creating Google alerts on your name and topics you cover: <http://www.google.com/alerts>

Build your own information portal to track Google alerts, news/blog feeds and information important to \*you\*:

- **iGoogle:** <http://www.google.com/ig> (Gmail and other Google tools integrate nicely)
- **My Yahoo:** <http://my.yahoo.com>
- **Pageflakes:** <http://www.pageflakes.com>
- **Netvibes:** <http://www.netvibes.com>

### Use a Content Management System to Build Your Website or Blog

*\*Free - website or blog (some fees may apply for added features or services)*

Microsoft Office Live: <http://www.officelive.com/en-us/free-website> - super easy!

Google sites: <http://sites.google.com> - super easy!

WordPress.com: <http://wordpress.com> (web-based program, no install needed) - easy-moderate!

WordPress.org: <http://wordpress.org> (web host required) - install sophisticated (or hire out) - easy-moderate!

*\*Inexpensive - website or blog*

Typepad: <http://www.typepad.com> - easy-moderate!

The Authors Guild: <http://authorsguild.net> (built for you: [http://www.authorsguild.org/services/web\\_services.html](http://www.authorsguild.org/services/web_services.html))

*\*Free - mostly for blogs*

Blogger: <http://www.blogger.com> - easy!

Posterous: <http://posterous.com> - super easy!

Tumblr: <http://www.tumblr.com> - super easy!

## Domain Registration

*\*Check your website or blog service for instructions on how to "map" your domain name to your site*

Network Solutions: <http://www.networksolutions.com>

Register.com: <http://www.register.com>

ICDSoft: <http://icdsoft.com>

## Blogging Resources

- **Technorati:** <http://www.technorati.com>  
Tracks blogosphere discussions and serves as a blog search engine; claim your site here and track incoming links.
- **FeedBurner:** <http://www.feedburner.com>  
Useful for publicizing and distributing blog content via email subscriptions.
- **Feed Informer:** <http://feed.informer.com>  
Use to combine RSS feeds from multiple sources and create a single "feed digest" for your site.
- **Widgets:** Numerous services enable you to add blog headlines and gadgets to your site.  
\*Examples: Spring Widgets: <http://springwidgets.com> [and] WidgetBox: <http://www.widgetbox.com>
- **AllTop:** <http://alltop.com>  
Collects articles and blog posts from top sites and organizes them by topic.
- **Electronic Frontier Foundation Bloggers' FAQ:** <http://w2.eff.org/bloggers/lg/faq-ip.php>  
This article addresses copyright issues and includes discussion of fair use and creative commons licensing.

## Social Media

### **START HERE: How Journalists Are Using Social Media for Real Results**

<http://mashable.com/2010/04/12/journalists-gist>

Mashable spoke with journalists & industry folks to see how they're using social media.

### **How to Get Started on Twitter.**

A non-fanatical beginner's guide:

<http://www.deannazandt.com/2009/02/26/a-non-fanatical-beginners-guide-to-twitter>

### **Have fun on Twitter.**

Tweets from the conference #ahcj: <http://search.twitter.com/search?q=ahcj>

\*Learn what hashtags (#) are and how to use them:

<http://www.contentious.com/2009/03/08/hashtags-on-twitter-how-do-you-follow-them/>

### **Have more fun on Twitter.**

Track conversations by groups of people or by topic using one of these dashboards.

Hootsuite: <http://hootsuite.com>

Seismic: <http://seismic.com>

Tweetdeck: <http://tweetdeck.com>

## More How To ...

- **How to Boost Your Social Media Productivity:**  
<http://www.interactiveinsightsgroup.com/blog1/how-to-be-more-productive-with-social-media>  
Comprehensive list of articles, tips and tools to help you be more productive and efficient.
- **20 Ways to Use LinkedIn Productively**  
<http://webworkerdaily.com/2007/06/15/20-ways-to-use-linkedin-productively>  
How to increase freelance work, brand yourself and help others. Also see ...
  - **How to Use LinkedIn to Find a Job:** <http://holykaw.alltop.com/how-to-use-linkedin-to-find-a-job>
  - **How Writers Can Use LinkedIn:**  
<http://wordcountwriter.com/2007/12/07/how-writers-can-use-linkedin>
  - **Tips for Job Seekers:** <http://learn.linkedin.com/job-seekers>
  - **Tips for Journalists:** <http://learn.linkedin.com/journalists>
- **How to Use Facebook for Professional Networking:**  
<http://mashable.com/2009/08/14/facebook-networking>  
A helpful step-by-step process.
- **How to Build a Successful News Blog:**  
<http://www.doshdosh.com/content-sources-you-can-use-for-a-successful-news-blog>  
Features 10 recommended information sources and general tips.
- **How to Get Found on Search Engines:**  
[http://www.idealware.org/articles/found\\_on\\_search\\_engines.php](http://www.idealware.org/articles/found_on_search_engines.php)  
More geared toward nonprofits, but many of these tips are universal.
- **More Megalists, Resources & How-To's:** <http://mashable.com/category/megalist>  
Compendium of resources for blog development, online organization, web design, Facebook, you name it. Just keep an eye on the date last updated -- remember, some tools switch over quickly.
- **Bonus!: How to Delete Accounts From Any Website:**  
<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2342599,00.asp>  
*Because "delete" info is way too hard to find ...*