writingWA...

Writing Your Place in History

A GUIDE TO WRITING AND PUBLISHING LIFE STORIES

Compiled by Amanda Curtin

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Introduction

Life stories are gifts from one generation to the next, and contribute to the richness of our cultural heritage. *Writing Your Place in History* is not a 'how to' booklet but a guide designed to answer basic questions commonly asked by people embarking on writing and publishing life stories.

Part 1, 'Getting the Words on the Page', covers research, writing, manuscript assessment, editing and legal issues. Part 2, 'Getting the Words in Print', deals with commercial publishing, self-publishing and other publication avenues. The Resources section at the back provides details of where to go for more information.

Not everyone who writes is successful in being published, and few who are published achieve fame or fortune. But for every publishing success like Albert Facey's *A Fortunate Life*, there are hundreds of people who have derived satisfaction and enjoyment from the experience of writing their life story and sharing it among family and friends.

You don't have to have led an extraordinary life, or be an outstanding writer, to write your place in history. History is illuminated by ordinary lives, and by the stories of those who care enough to leave them.

Part 1: Getting the Words on the Page

When once the itch of literature comes over a man, nothing can cure it but the scratching of a pen.
SAMUEL LOVER (1797–1868)

1.1 Research

How much research do I need to do?

It depends on what you are writing. For family histories and biographies, your research might be as simple as checking facts, or as complex as tracing a family tree or developing an understanding of the social conditions of a particular period.

If you are writing an autobiography, you might wish to refresh your memories by looking through contemporary newspapers, or supplement them by conducting interviews with other people. You might also decide to research worldwide influences on local events, to put your experiences into their historical context.

How do I trace my family tree?

Consider joining the WA Genealogical Society (Perth and country branches; see Resources). Membership is open to anyone interested in family history, and member services include assistance with research, family history courses (including one for beginners), lectures, workshops and monthly meetings. There are also many books available on tracing family trees (see Resources for examples), and the Battye Library and the State Library's Genealogy Centre can provide helpful information.

Where can I access records and archives?

The State Records Office of Western Australia (see Resources) manages the state's archives, which include Aboriginal records; convict records; education and schools records; court records; hospital and health records; police records; and immigration records.

The Battye Library in Perth (see Resources) has a wealth of information on Western Australian history, including indexes to birth, death, marriage and divorce registers; cemetery records; passenger lists and shipping; post office directories; electoral rolls; education records; government records; newspapers; private archives; oral history; government gazettes; and Western Australian almanacs.

The library also has a comprehensive collection of family histories and biographies published in Western Australia, as well as publications such as the *Dictionary of Western Australians* series (includes volumes on convicts,

Aborigines of the Southwest region, Aboriginal prisoners of Rottnest Island, and Asian immigrants to Western Australia), and information sheets about family history research.

The State Library's Genealogy Centre (see Resources) holds copies of Public Records Office (London) records relating to Australia.

Former child migrants from Britain and Malta who came to Catholic homes in Western Australia between 1938 and 1965 can access personal history details through the PHIND index (see Resources). Institutions covered include Nazareth House, Geraldton; St Joseph's and St Vincent's, Leederville; St Mary's, Tardun; St Joseph's, Bindoon; Castledare; and Clontarf.

Where else can I go for information and help?

The public library in your area may have useful resources in its collection, and librarians are usually extraordinarily helpful and knowledgeable.

The Royal WA Historical Society (see Resources) offers members research facilities through its library, lectures and talks, and contact with fellow researchers at monthly meetings.

There are also many local historical societies in metropolitan and country areas. Check your local phone directory for details.

How do I go about interviewing?

The Battye Library offers for sale, or loan through the library system, a CD by Ronda Jamieson on interviewing (see Resources). Workshops on oral history techniques are occasionally run by the Oral History Association of Australia's WA Branch (see Resources). *The Family History Writing Book* (see Resources) is another good source of practical information.

What about the Internet?

The Internet connects with resources all over the world, but it can be frustrating and time-wasting if you don't know how to use it. If you need help, try contacting your local public library or community learning centre, as some offer inexpensive introductory sessions. At many libraries, Internet access is available free or on an hourly hire basis. A few of the many web sites for family history research are listed in the Resources section.

1.2 Writing

Where can I learn how to write?

Many people are better writers than they think they are. But help is at hand for beginners. Bookshops and library shelves are full of 'how to' books (some are

listed in the Resources section). Writing workshops and courses are conducted by organisations such as local shires, TAFE and University of Western Australia (UWA) Extension, as well as by the Western Australian writers centres: the Fellowship of Australian Writers, the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre and the Peter Cowan Writers Centre. There are also many individual writing teachers.

Membership of a writers centre gives you access to helpful advice on writing and publishing matters, as well as to other writers (beginners as well as experienced). There are also writers circles — some very informal — throughout the state. See the Resources section for details or check your local phone directory.

Do I have to type my work?

Whether submitted to commercial publishers, or given to desktop publishers in the case of self-publishing, books and other printed material are almost always printed from computer disks. So it makes sense to type your work on computer (word-processor) at the start, as otherwise it will end up being typed twice.

Word-processing allows you to do more than just type: correcting, checking of spelling, and adjustment of spacing and type size are just some of its functions. If you don't have the necessary skills, you will have to ask someone to type your handwritten manuscript, or pay to have this done professionally. It's worth considering learning how to do it yourself. Courses in computers and basic word-processing are run by TAFE, UWA Extension and some shires (see Resources). You can hire facilities at writers centres and at many public libraries. Second-hand computers and printers can often be bought cheaply.

Where do I start?

Some people just pick up a pen, or turn on a computer, and begin with the first thing that comes into their head. But most writers benefit from planning.

Plan your writing under chapter headings, which can be organised chronologically (by time), spatially (by setting), thematically (by subject or idea), or in some other way. Examine published books that are similar to yours (see Resources for possible examples). You can freely adapt other people's ideas about structure to your own work. This is not plagiarism.

If you are writing about yourself, it can be useful to start by thinking about stages in your life: earliest memories, school years, adolescence, and so on. You can also put your experiences into perspective by considering what was happening in the world at the time in question.

In his book *Writer* (see Resources), Graeme Kinross-Smith suggests using 'life questions' to prompt memory and to highlight themes — questions about work, relationships, children, politics, spirituality, death, illness, sport, technology, sex, education, rituals, holidays, regrets and achievements.

Don't forget that details you might take for granted — for example, about housing, education, sporting activities, modes of transport, food preparation, entertainment, celebrations, prices, toys, pets, hair style and clothing — are often fascinating to other people and can provide insights into different times, places and cultures.

These approaches can be used whether writing about yourself, other people, or a family.

Should I write the way I speak?

How you write depends on what you are writing, the impression you want to make, and the audience you have in mind. A book intended for the commercial market may need a more formal tone than a memoir or family history intended for a small readership of people you know.

You will also need to make decisions about point of view and tense. First person or third person? Simple past tense? Read other books to see how experienced authors have handled these stylistic matters.

1.3 Manuscript Assessment

What is manuscript assessment?

A professional manuscript assessor provides the type of feedback that publishers do not have time for, and that family and friends may be too 'kind' to give. Some writers have their manuscript assessed before submitting it to a publisher; others seek assessment if they have received several rejection slips and don't understand why their work is not accepted. Many book editors and literary agents also offer manuscript assessment services. The cost ranges from $100 to $600 or more, depending on the size and complexity of the manuscript.

A list of manuscript assessors can be downloaded from the writingWA web site at <www.writingwa.org>; go to Information > Writing.

1.4 Editing

What does an editor do?

Editors work with authors and publishers to maximise a manuscript's potential to communicate with readers. There are several levels of manuscript editing. Substantive editing involves a review of the work in its entirety, checking its structure, content, language and style in relation to the intended readership. Copyediting is a less detailed check, concentrating on language and consistency.

Proofreading involves the correction of basic errors. Editors also understand, and can advise on, all aspects of the publishing process.

Do I need an editor?

Every writer does — even experienced writers like Kate Grenville or Bryce Courtenay. When a manuscript is accepted by a commercial publisher, an editor is generally assigned to work with the author. Self-publishing authors should give their books the same advantage.

Can I edit my work myself?

You certainly should be the first editor of your work. If possible, put it aside for a while and then return to it with fresh eyes. Consider whether your opening paragraph is strong, the transitions from chapter to chapter are smooth, and the conclusion is memorable. Review the structure for balance (for example, is there an unusually long chapter that could be broken up?). Check that the expression is clear, and that spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct. Consult the Australian Government's *Style Manual*, *The Australian Editing Handbook* or *The Editor's Companion* (see Resources) to learn more about what editing involves.

You should not be the *only* editor, however. An objective editor can help improve the manuscript and eliminate errors that writers often miss.

Whom should I get to edit my work?

Use a professional editor if possible. Ask prospective editors about their experience with your type of work, and the level of editing required. An editor will need to examine the manuscript before being able to discuss this, or the fees involved.

Many writers cannot afford professional editing and must rely on family or friends for help with at least basic proofreading. If you belong to a writers centre or group, fellow writers might be willing to check your work in exchange for your checking theirs.

Where can I find a professional editor?

The Society of Editors (WA) (see Resources) publishes a register of its members, including details of their experience, which can be downloaded from the society's web site. Some editors also advertise their services through writers centres.

1.5 Legal Issues

The following information is intended to provide a brief introduction only, and should not be regarded as legal advice.

What is copyright?

Copyright protects the rights of the creators of written material, musical works, artwork, films, photographs and sound recordings. If you write an autobiography, biography or family history, you will own copyright in that work. Copyright protects your expression of the story (that is, your words), not the story itself, nor its idea or theme, nor any information it provides. Protection is automatic (that is, you don't need to register), but it is customary to include on your manuscript the copyright symbol (©) and your name and the year of writing or first publication. A published work is covered by copyright for seventy years after the death of the creator, after which it passes into the public domain and can be freely used.

How does other people's copyright affect my work?

As a general rule, you cannot reproduce copyright material (for example, a poem, song lyrics, a photograph, a map, an illustration) without written permission, and you must acknowledge ownership and permission. Sometimes the copyright owner charges a licensing fee (and imposes conditions) for use of the material.

In some cases, extracts from a copyright work may be quoted without permission, depending on the 'importance' of the part to the whole (interpretation of which varies from case to case), and the purpose of the reproduction. Consult the Australian Copyright Council's information sheet 'Quotes and Extracts: Copyright Obligations'for further details (see Resources).

How do I get copyright permission?

If the material has come from a published source, contact the publisher as a first step. If the material is unpublished (for example, a personal letter), contact the author, if known. The Australian Copyright Council's information sheet 'Owners of Copyright: How to Find' can be helpful (see Resources).

Do I need permission to write about stories family members have told me?

Under copyright law, no. But the rules of courtesy apply. If someone is likely to object, obtain written permission first. It is particularly important that Indigenous people give permission for 'publication', in whatever form, of family, community or traditional stories.

Where do I go for further information about copyright?

The Australian Copyright Council (see Resources) publishes information sheets and books, and can sometimes provide advice on specific matters over the phone (see the council's information sheet 'Australian Copyright Council: Who We Are; What We Do').

What is defamation?

If you publish a statement that lowers a person in the eyes of others, you may be guilty of defamation by libel. The terms by which libel actions can be brought or defended constitute an extremely muddy legal area, with regulations varying from state to state. The best way to protect yourself as a writer is to abide by the adage 'When in doubt, leave it out'.

Part 2: Getting the Words in Print

Nothing has really happened until it has been recorded.
VIRGINIA WOOLF (1882–1941)

2.1 Commercial Publishing

What is a commercial publisher?

A commercial publisher offers a contract for publication of a manuscript, pays for the editing, production, printing, promotion and distribution of the book (although these costs are sometimes subsidised by a sponsor), pays agreed royalties to the author, and collects any remaining money from book sales as profit. The major commercial publishers in Western Australia are listed in the Resources section. Note that some commercial publishers may agree to act as publishing consultants or subsidy publishers for self-publishing authors.

What are my chances of being accepted?

Unless your story is particularly unusual or timely, or you are famous, sadly, your chances are small. Publication of a book represents a major investment, and before accepting a manuscript for publication, a publisher needs to be convinced that it will be a profitable venture. The publisher might publish only ten or twenty or thirty books a year, and beginners have to compete with well-known authors.

Is it worth even trying?

If you think you have something to offer, why not? All you have to lose is the postage.

Can I do anything to improve my chances?

Make sure your manuscript is as polished as you can make it, and present it in a professional way. Handwritten or otherwise poorly presented manuscripts may not even be considered.

Before you submit your manuscript, check that the publisher handles the type of book you have written and make sure you comply with their guidelines for submission. All of the publishers listed in the Resources section publish autobiographies and biographies.

Send a brief covering letter with your manuscript and include any information that might make you or your work a more attractive prospect than the thousands of other manuscripts received each year.

For further information and instruction regarding how to pitch to publishers, writingWA provides access to an online tutorial service, where for $66 you can

receive a highly effective step-by-step guide on how to submit your manuscript (see Resources).

What about interstate or overseas publishers?

Unless your story has a very wide appeal, or involves people or events beyond Western Australia, it's unlikely to attract the interest of publishers outside the state.

How long must I wait for a reply?

Be prepared to wait for several months. Publishers have few resources for handling the many submissions they receive.

Would it be better if an agent submitted my manuscript?

Unless you know an author who is prepared to recommend you to their agent, securing representation by an agent can be as difficult as getting your manuscript accepted by a publisher.

A list of literary agents can be downloaded from the writingWA web site at <www.writingwa.org>; go to Information > Writing. You can also visit the web site of the Australian Literary Agents Association (see Resources).

2.2 Self-publishing

What are vanity publishing and self-publishing?

Both require authors to bear the financial risk of publishing their work. With acceptance by commercial publishers so difficult, these are increasingly attractive options for writers keen to see their work in print.

With vanity (or subsidy) publishing, authors pay for all, or most, of the costs involved or waive royalties until sales cover costs. There are some unscrupulous presses around, but many do offer value for money. It is up to you to check their credentials carefully. Ask to see examples, and reviews, of their previously published books, and examine all quotes and contracts to see what is included (for example, editing and proofreading may not be included, nor distribution and promotion).

With self-publishing you undertake, and pay for, the tasks of production, printing, promotion and distribution yourself. Self-publishing can be as ambitious or as humble as an author's ideas (and funds) allow — from glossy, professional-looking books with large print-runs, through to photocopied booklets to be distributed among family and friends.

Is self-publishing financially rewarding?

Not always, or even often. You should ask yourself the brutal question: 'If nobody bought the book, could I afford to lose my entire investment?' If you hope to make money out of self-publishing your life story, or even just to recover the costs, first do a business plan. Research production and printing costs, and think about the market: who would buy the book, at what price, and how many copies can you reasonably expect to sell? Research distribution and promotion costs too. Commercial distributors, for example, take a large percentage of the book price.

If you are planning to sell your book, keep a record of expenses so that you can claim them as tax deductions against any income earned from sales.

What if I just want a few copies to give away?

Photocopying a small quantity to distribute among friends and family is a low-cost way to share your story. To make copies more durable, consider having the cover laminated. Or discuss with a printer how much it would cost to have just the cover and binding done professionally.

It is also possible to distribute your story as an 'E-book' or as a pdf, so there are no printing costs involved.

How do I go about self-publishing?

You need to be prepared, and have the time, to learn a little about production, printing, distribution and promotion. If you plan to handle the process yourself, you will be liaising with some or all of the following: designers, desktop publishers, typesetters, proofreaders, printers, distributors and booksellers. Always obtain more than one quote when seeking professional services and ask to see examples of work.

The writingWA web site offers a free information sheet entitled 'Self Publishing', as well as lists of freelance book designers, manuscript assessors and literary agents. Also on the web site are relevant fast-track tutorials: 'Pitching Your Book to Publishers', 'Successful Self Publishing', 'Contracts Made Simple', 'Easy Marketing for Writers' and 'How to Speak and Sell Your Book'.

Alternatively, you can engage the services of a publishing consultant to manage all or part of the process on your behalf.

By the time you are ready for production you should have: text (complete, edited manuscript, preferably on disk); photographs organised by chapter, numbered and 'keyed in' to the manuscript (that is, the manuscript marked with numbers corresponding to the photograph numbers, to indicate approximate placement); a separate document of captions for photographs; and written permissions for any copyright material. Your text might also include preliminary material (half-title and title page; imprint page containing publisher name and contact details, copyright notice, ISBN and CIP data, if necessary; acknowledgments; list of

contents; list of photographs) and endmatter (references, bibliography, index — with page numbers to be added at final proof stage).

What does production involve?

The production process converts the edited manuscript into a format ready to be printed. It involves book design (page dimensions, how the text is set out on the page, where photographs and other graphic material are placed, decorative features); layout of text and graphic material according to the design (often called 'formatting', 'typesetting' or 'desktop publishing'); proofreading and re-checking of any corrections; and cover design and production of the cover artwork.

If your manuscript is word-processed, layout can usually be done from your computer disk. If not, the text has to be retyped on computer. This is obviously an additional cost, and extra diligence will be needed during proofreading. Check the proof copy yourself — text, captions, photograph placement, etc. — and ask someone else to proofread, too, as it is easy to overlook errors in your own work. Do not take the opportunity to edit or rewrite the proof copy: major corrections once the text has been formatted are expensive, unless they result from typesetter errors or omissions introduced during layout.

Some authors are able to do book layout themselves, using desktop publishing or word-processing programs, and adapting design ideas from other books. This can reduce costs substantially. Courses in desktop publishing are run by TAFE and UWA Extension (see Resources). It is usually worth seeking professional help with cover design, however. Many people do judge a book by its cover, and a good cover may help sell your book.

Some designers, desktop publishers and printers offer a package of all the services involved in production. Make sure quotes itemise exactly what is included, and that all parties understand your budget and your expectations.

What are ISBN and CIP?

An ISBN (International Standard Book Number) is an identification code required for all printed books and pamphlets. CIP (Cataloguing-in-Publication) data, issued by the National Library of Australia, allows the library system to catalogue publications before they are published, encouraging advance orders for books and facilitating their availability in libraries. For further information, contact the ISBN Agency Australia and the National Library's CIP Unit (see Resources).

What does printing involve?

Printing involves the copying, compilation and binding of the finished product. Consult a printer early in the project, as decisions about paper and cover stock (thickness and finish), use of colour, binding style and print-run (the number of copies) affect cost and, therefore, your production budget.

What do distribution and promotion involve?

Distribution involves getting your book to potential readers — for example, by placing it in book stores or selling it yourself at family reunions, local markets, clubs or at a book launch you organise. Many book stores will only accept books from commercial distributors who, as mentioned before, take a large percentage of the book price and may not be interested in representing your book anyway.

Taking responsibility for distribution requires time, patience and ingenuity. You also need adequate space to store your books: somewhere dry and safe from insect attack.

Promotion involves creating interest in your book so that people will want to buy it. Look for an 'angle' you can use, capitalising on any local connections, for example. You may be able to persuade your community newspaper to write an article about you, or you could offer to give a talk at the local library or service club about the subject of your book, or how you went about writing it (and, of course, have copies on hand to sell afterwards). The more well known you are — even if your 'fame' is only local — the easier it will be to market and sell your book. Books on self-publishing (see Resources) often provide helpful advice on promotional strategies.

What is legal deposit?

Publishers in Western Australia, including self-publishers, are obliged to deposit two copies of their publications (defined as those supplied, whether for sale or otherwise, to the public) in the library system: one with the National Library of Australia and one with the Battye Library (Resources).

2.3 Other Publication Outlets

What if I don't want to write a full-length book?

Many people have anecdotes or short family stories they'd like to share or see in print. Well-written human interest stories may be suitable for outlets such as *Have-a-Go News* (a monthly paper 'for the over 45s', with distribution throughout the state), community newspapers, women's magazines and special-interest newsletters (for example, of clubs and organisations).

Note that article writing requires a different set of skills than those used in writing books. Publications such as *Writer* and *How to Write Your Own Life Story* (see Resources) provide advice on how to write interesting articles.

Resources

Writing Resources

writingWA
Ground Floor, Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000
Phone: (08) 9228 9908
Facsimile: (08) 9228 9907
Email: info@writingWA.org
Web: http://www.writingWA.org

DW Thorpe (a comprehensive list of support contact organisations for writers and self-publishers): http://www.thorpe.com.au

Australian Publishers Association (for list of publishers):
http://www.publishers.asn.au

Australian Literary Agents Association (for list of agents):
http://www.austlitagentassoc.com.au

ArtsWA (WA government grants for writers): http://www.artswa.wa.gov

Australia Council for the Arts (federal government grants for writers):
http://www.ozco.gov.au/grantFINDER

Research Resources

Battye Library
3rd Floor, Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000
Phone: (08) 9427 3291
Web: http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au

Genealogy Centre
State Library of Western Australia
1st Floor, Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000

Oral History Association of Australia, WA Branch (workshops on interviewing)
Phone: (08) 9361 1977

Web: http://www.ohaa-wa.com.au

PHIND
Phone: (08) 9365 2800
Web: http://www.westcourt.wa.edu.au/phind.htm

Royal WA Historical Society Inc.
Stirling House, 49 Broadway
Nedlands WA 6009
Phone: (08) 9386 3841
Web: http://www.git.com.au/~histwest/index.htm

State Records Office of Western Australia
James Street West Entrance, Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000
Phone: (08) 9427 3360
Web: http://www.sro.wa.gov.au

WA Genealogical Society Inc.
6/48 May Street
Bayswater WA 6053
Phone: (08) 9271 4311
Web: http://www.wags.org.au
Many country branches; check local phone directory or contact head office.

Family history web sites:
http://www.familysearch.org
http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/genelist.html
http://www.italgen.com/
http://www.ancestry.com.au
http://www.ajgs.org.au

Writers Centres

Fellowship of Australian Writers WA (FAW)
Tom Collins House
Corner Wood and Kirkwood streets
Swanbourne WA 6010
Phone: (08) 9384 4771
Email: fawwa@iinet.net.au
Web: http://www. fawwa.org.au

Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre
11 Old York Road

Greenmount WA 6056
Phone: (08) 9294 1872
Email: kspf@iinet.net.au
Web: http://www.kspf.iinet.net.au/

Peter Cowan Writers Centre
Joondalup Campus, Edith Cowan University
Joondalup Drive
Joondalup WA 6027
Phone: (08) 9301 2282
Email: nwacowan@iinet.net.au
Web: http://www.members.iinet.net.au/~nwacowan

Society of Women Writers WA
PO Box 434
Northbridge WA 6865
Phone: 04 1584 0031
Email: sww_wa@hotmail.com

Writers Groups

Bunbury: Tuesday Writers
Phone: (08) 9721 8944
Email: milligan@westnet.com.au

Dunsborough: The Dunsborough Writers
41 Marshall Street, Quindalup WA 6281
Phone: (08) 9755 3129
Email: ritar@wn.com.au

Fremantle: Writing from the Centre
Meets Fridays 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at Fremantle Arts Centre, 1 Finnerty Street, Fremantle
Contact: Helen Hagemann
Email: hagemann_helen@hotmail.com

Fremantle: Out of the Asylum group (OOTA)
Meets every Friday 12.00 pm at Fremantle Arts Centre, 1 Finnerty Street, Fremantle. A writing room is also available every Monday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm at the Arts Centre
Phone: Josephine Clarke, (08) 9339 0847
Email: simjo@it.net.au

Geraldton: Writers of Geraldton
Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 2.00 pm, The Residency, Marine Terrace, Geraldton WA 6530

Phone: Stan, (08) 9965 2873; 04 2823 0029
Email: stan8@wn.com.au

Gosnells: Pen-Arias Writing Group.
Meets fortnightly on Thursday mornings in Thornlie. Limited membership numbers
Phone: (08) 9524 1971; 0429 116395
Email: linpress@tpg.com.au

Kununurra: Kununurra Writers Group
Phone: (08) 9169 1227
Email: librarian@thelastfrontier.com.au

Mandurah: 'Scribblers': Mandurah-Murray Writers Group
PO Box 580, Mandurah WA 6210
Phone: (08) 9582 1966
Email: barbarasolowski@tadaust.org.au

Mandurah: Coastal Writers
Meets each Tuesday at 7.00 pm
Phone: Dave or Rose, (08) 9535 5538
Email: dbbooks@westnet.com.au

Melville: Melville Writers
Meets each Tuesday afternoon at the Ann Reid Room, Garden City
Phone: Marianne Grande, (08) 9498 3437
Email: moggrande@hotmail.com

Mukinbudin: NEWROC Writers
Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4.00 pm at the Sandalwood Arts and Crafts Centre, 35 Maddock Street, Mukinbudin
Phone: Peta Watson, (08) 9047 0070
Email: tandpwatson@westnet.com.au

Perth: Stromatolights: Writers of Sci Fi and Fantasy in WA
Phone: Heidi Kneale, (08) 9528 5860
Email: hkneale@iinet.net.au
Web: http://members.iinet.net.au/~damian/heidikneale/stromat

Pilbara: Pilbara Writers' Group
Contact: Dee Pfaff
Email: dpfaff@bigpond.com

Pemberton: Warren Literary Society
Phone: (08) 9776 7104
Email: claudettemountjoy@hotmail.com

Two Rocks: Blue Dolphin Writers' Group

Meets at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant, 2nd Wednesday of the month
Contact: Trish Cox
Email: knightal@iinet.net.au

Yanchep: Sun City Writers' Group
Phone: Anita McInnes, (08) 9561 1695
Email: amcinnes1@bigpond.com

Yealering: Yealering Writing Group
Phone: Olivia Dawes, (08) 9888 7017
Email: blue-bush@bigpond.com (no attachments)

Other Writing Courses, Workshops

TAFE
Phone: (08) 9224 6500
Web: http://www.tafe.wa.gov.au

UWA Extension
Phone: (08) 6488 2433
Web: http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au

Vancouver Arts Centre
Vancouver Street
Albany WA 6330
Phone: (08) 9841 9260

Editors

Society of Editors (WA)
PO Box 99
Subiaco WA 6904
Web: http://www.editorswa.com

Commercial Publishers

Fremantle Press
PO Box 158
North Fremantle WA 6159
Phone: (08) 9430 6331
Web: http://www.fremantlepress.com.au

Hesperian Press
PO Box 317

Victoria Park WA 6979
Phone: (08) 9362 5955
Web: http://www.hesperianpress.com

Magabala Books
PO Box 668
Broome WA 6725
Phone: (08) 9192 1991
Web: http://www.magabala.com

UWA Press
Mail address: UWA (M419)
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
Phone: (08) 6488 3670
Web: http://www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au

Self-publishing Consultants, Book Packagers, Printers

See 'Publishers, book' in the Yellow Pages, and advertisements in newsletters of writers groups such as FAW, OOTA.

Computer Training

TAFE
Phone: (08) 9224 6500
Web: http://www.tafe.wa.gov.au

UWA Extension
Phone: (08) 6488 2433
Web: http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au

See also your local community centre or library

ISBN Information

ISBN Agency Australia
Building C3, 85 Turner Street
Port Melbourne Vic 3207
Phone: (03) 8645 0385
Web: http://www.thorpe.com.au/isbn

Copyright Information

Australian Copyright Council

PO Box 1986
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Web: http://www.copyright.org.au

CIP Information

Cataloguing-in-Publication Unit
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6262 1458
Web: http://www.nla.gov.au/services/cip.html

Legal Deposit Information

Legal Deposit Unit
National Library of Australia
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6262 1312
Web: http://www.nla.gov.au/services/ldeposit.html

Legal Deposit, Battye Library
State Library of Western Australia
Alexander Library Building
Perth Cultural Centre
Perth WA 6000
Phone: (08) 9427 3107

Suggested Reading

All books listed are available through the public library system.

Books about Family History, Writing, Self-publishing

Beaumont, Joanna, *How to Write and Publish your Family History*, Sydney: Orlando Press, 1985.

Bird, Carmel, *Writing the Story of Your Life*, Pymble, NSW: Fourth Estate, 2007.

Daniel, Lois, *How to Write Your Own Life Story: A Step-by-Step Guide for the Nonprofessional Writer*, Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1997.

Heilbrun, Carolyn, *Writing a Woman's Life*, New York: Norton, 1991.

Hornadge, Bill, *How to Publish Your Own Book: A Complete Guide to Self-publishing in Australia*, Dubbo: Review Publications, 1983.

Kinross-Smith, Graeme, *Writer: A Working Guide for New Writers*, Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Kyle, Noeline, & Ron King, *The Family History Writing Book*, St Leonards: Allen & Unwin, 1993.
Lea-Scarlett, Errol, *Roots and Branches: Ancestry for Australians*, Sydney: Collins, 1979.
Lowenstein, Wendy, *Self-publishing without Pain*, Melbourne: Bookworkers Press, 1995.
Miller, Patti, *Writing Your Life: A Journey of Discovery*, St Leonards: Allen & Unwin, 1994.
Miller, Patti, *The Memoir Book: A Guide to Life Writing*, Pymble, NSW: HarperCollins, 2007.
Moon, Ken, *Write Your Life: A Guide to Autobiography*, North Brighton: Wrightbooks, 1994.
Smith, Diane, & Boronia Halstead, *Looking for Your Mob: A Guide to Tracing Aboriginal Family Trees*, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 1990.
Taylor McDonnell, Jane, *Living to Tell the Tale: A Guide to Writing Memoir*, New York: Penguin, 1998.
Woolf, Gordon, *Publish Your Book: A Guide to Self-publishing*, Rutherglen: Worsley Press, 1995.

Published Biographies and Autobiographies

Alac, Mate, *Into the World*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1992.
Backhouse, Elizabeth, *Against Time and Place*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1990.
Burton, L.C., *Barefoot in the Creek: A Group Settlement Childhood at Margaret River*, Nedlands: UWA Press, 1997.
Ciccotosto, Emma & Michal Bosworth, *Emma: A Translated Life*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1990.
Davis, Jack, *A Boy's Life*, Broome: Magabala Books, 1991.
Ellement, Connie & Ron Davidson, *The Divided Kingdom*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1987.
Facey, A.B., *A Fortunate Life*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1981.
Hackner, Beryl, *Rosa: A Biography of Rosa Townsend*, Nedlands: UWA Press, 1994.
Hungerford, T.A.G., *Stories from Suburban Road*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1983.
McPhee, Jack, & Patricia Konigsberg, *Bee Hill River Man*, Broome: Magabala Books, 1994.
Miller, Connie, *After Summer Merrily*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1980; *Season of Learning*, 1983; *Memory Be Green*, 1986.
Morgan, Sally, *My Place*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1987.
Morgan, Sally, *Wanamurraganya: The Story of Jack McPhee*, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1989.
Nannup, Laurel, *A Story to Tell*, Crawley: UWA Press, 2006.

Primrose, Robert, *On the Beat and in the Bush*, Northbridge: Access Press, 1998.
Spall, Lorna, *Our Darwin: 1956 to Tracey*, Carlisle: Hesperian Press, 1990.

General

Flann, Elizabeth, & Beryl Hill, *The Australian Editing Handbook*, 2nd edn, Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.
Mackenzie, Janet, *The Editor's Companion*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.*Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers*, 6th edn, Milton, Qld: John Wiley & Sons, 2002.

Information sheets, CDs

writingWA, lists of manuscript assessors, literary agents, freelance book designers: send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to writingWA, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth 6000; or download from the writingWA web site, <http://www.writingWA.org> (go to Information > Writing).
Australian Copyright Council, 'Australian Copyright Council: Who We Are; What We Do', 'Quotes and Extracts: Copyright Obligations', 'Owners of Copyright: How to Find', 'Writers' and 'Family Histories': may be downloaded from the council's web site, <http://www.copyright.org.au> (some are free and some cost $7 to download).
Ronda Jamieson, *How to Interview for Family History: For Young, Old and In Between* (CD): available for purchase from Battye Library (phone (08) 9427 3291; http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au), or for loan through the library system.