

Web Guide to Agent Research

By Fleur Bradley

Researching agents? Here are some helpful sites.

Agentquery.com: Large database of agents, including agency Web sites, contact info and preference, and projects represented. You can search by genre, contact reference, etc. Also has lots of info on submission etiquette and publishing houses (big and small). For industry latest, check out their blog roll—a great way to waste an afternoon.

Publishermarketplace.com: The place for all things publishing. Agents with pages control their own content, so it's a good place to get a feel for their personalities. Sign up for the free daily newsletter to keep informed on publishing business deals and other industry news. A good source for the latest agency moves and start-ups. For a monthly fee, you get an expanded newsletter and access to their deals database.

Preditors and Editors: The watchdogs. Check the agent you're about to query here—if there's any dirt, these guys will have it. Remember: no agent at all is better than an agent who's a crook.

Litmatch.net: Another database of agents, including more international agencies. There's also a response time and submission tracker. You have to become a member, but it's free.

Guidetoliteraryagents.com: The Web site to go with the *Writer's Digest* print version. Sign up for their free e-mail newsletter, which features interviews and agent updates.

AAR: Association of Authors' Representatives. You can search their database. Beware of the services and Web sites who charge to "help" you in your agent hunt. Don't pay! There is plenty of free information on the Web at the sites above.

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