



Information Sheet: Digital Tools for Writers

There are a range of online tools that you can use to get organised and work smarter. We've compiled a list of some of the most powerful tools for writers, covering everything from design to craft to getting the inspiration flowing. Please note that these tools are suggestions for you to review and research, not official endorsements, and in the digital world things can change fast.

Writing and editing

[Scrivener](#)

A robust app designed with writers specifically in mind, Scrivener is a powerful way to organise your lengthier projects. It includes a word processor, organisational features, formatting options, and goal tracking, and has been expressly designed to help fiction and nonfiction authors, screenwriters, journalists and academics. It can be complex to learn, however. Pricing is \$77AUD.

[Cliche Finder](#)

It can be all too easy to have a few cliches slip into your writing, but this tool will hunt down and highlight cliches in any piece of writing. Free.

[The Macquarie Dictionary](#)

An online Australian dictionary and thesaurus. Free.

[Merriam Webster](#)

An easy to use dictionary and thesaurus, plus word puzzles and literary quizzes. Free.

[Ommwriter](#)

A simple, minimal word processor that removes distractions and formatting options, making it easier for you to concentrate and just write. Based on a natural setting, it aims to insulate your mind from distractions and set up a direct line between your thoughts and your words. You choose what you pay.



Inspiration and fun

[Squibler](#)

A fun tool to move past your editor brain and into writing brain. You set your time limit and optional prompt, and get writing. If you stop writing for more than five seconds, it deletes everything you've written. If you keep writing for your chosen time period you can download the final text at the end. Free.

[Milanote](#)

An online post-it note brainstorm tool. Multiple users can add into same board at same time. It's especially great for things like TV/film writing rooms over Zoom, but can also be used for project planning with groups and for individual projects.

[FutureMe](#)

This site gives you the ability to write and schedule emails to your future self. It can be used for a variety of purposes, but can be a great tool to align with key writing goals and check in with yourself/ give yourself pep talks when you might need them. Free.

[A Soft Murmur](#)

White noise is a great way to get into the writing zone, and this simple online background noise generator is designed to help you focus, with the ability to mix your own background sounds. Free.

[Forest: Stay Focused](#)

If you need a little help staying on track, you can 'plant a tree' using this app, setting a certain amount of time you'd like to keep on task. If you go off task before that time, and leave the app, the tree will die. \$1.99.

Online meetings and workshops

[Zoom](#)

Zoom has fast become the number one platform for video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars, courses, writing groups and more. Free and easy to use on both your desktop or devices. Free for personal plan.

Self publishing

[Atticus](#)

A new platform for indie authors, Atticus offers an all-in-one formatting tool to help you get your book print and ebook ready, and it works both on and offline after you've signed up. Currently in beta phase, you can sign up for the wait list.

[Vellum](#)

If you're looking to self publish, Vellum offers a powerful tool to professionally format your book to be both print and ebook ready. Only currently available for Mac OS. From \$200USD.



Submissions

[Submittable](#)

Most people have used submittable to submit writing to specific publications, but not everyone realises that you can scroll for open call-outs through the discover feature, and you can set specific search terms and save opportunities to your own lists. Free.

Organisation

[Google Drive/ Google Docs](#)

An easy way to store, share and access your files and folders from any mobile device, tablet or computer, with 15GB of storage free. With changes saved in real time, it is a great way for writers to make sure they're not losing any work on their manuscript. Free.

[FromSmash](#)

A simple way to send or receive large video, audio or other files. Free.

[DropBox](#)

Dropbox lets anyone upload and transfer files to the cloud, and share them with anyone. You can back up and sync documents, photos, videos, and other files to cloud storage and access them from any device, no matter where you are, as well as share them with others and collaborate. Free.

[WeTransfer](#)

An easy way to send or receive files online. Free.

[Notion](#)

A flexible workspace tool that helps you organise your creative work, set goals, create storyboards and world-building, keeping all of your notes, ideas, research, images and links in a single place. Great for project management and organisation. It can take some time to learn all of the features. Free for personal use.

Business of Writing

[Adobe Sign & Fill](#)

An app on your phone or tablet that can be used to quickly sign contracts and fill out forms. Free.

Post-It app

A phone app designed to capture and document real life post-its quickly. Available on the App Store and Google Play. Free.



[Otter](#)

Otter records and takes notes for you in real time, a handy tool when conducting interviews, meeting with mentors and so on, giving you the ability to stay focused on the conversation while it's recorded for later reference. There are currently 600 minutes free every month on the basic plan, with paid options.

[Google Speech-to-Text](#)

A recent offering from Google, you can trial the AI-powered speech to text transcription service. Free.

[Dragon Transcription](#)

If you're a writer who uses a digital voice recorder or smartphone to capture interviews on a regular basis, this robust transcription software turns your recordings into text. Priced at \$479USD.

Design

[Canva](#)

An easy-to-use online design tool that helps you to make beautiful book covers, social media ads, email assets, website graphics and more. Free to use (with premium options available.)

[Book Brush](#)

This platform has been designed for authors to create high-quality advertising graphics specifically for books. Great for social media and site ads. Free and paid plans.

Social Media

[Tweetdeck](#)

Twitter can be a powerful platform for authors, and Tweetdeck is a free way to manage multiple accounts, schedule tweets, and organise your feed. Free.