

Transcript from the Freelance Friday #EFAChat, January 29, 2016

Topic: Freelancing Without Having Worked In-House

- EFA @EFAFreelancers** Today's #EFAchat is being moderated by Harry David (@editorialhd), a copy editor and indexer in Birmingham, Alabama.
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat We'll discuss freelancing when you haven't worked in-house, incl. working w/in-house editors, learning in-house publishing routines
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat Our guests are @meg_r and @KMAWriting, who will introduce themselves shortly
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat We'll use Q1, Q2, etc. for questions; please use A1, A2, etc. for your answers to each question.
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat Would anyone out there care to introduce yourself?
- Katie McCoach @katiemcoach** @EFAFreelancers This is a great chat idea. #EFAchat
- Sarah Cypher @threepenny** Sarah Cypher, a freelance fiction editor and writer. Usually in Oakland, CA, but tweeting from a very rainy Tahoe City today. #EFAchat
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat Please remember to use the hashtag #EFAchat in your tweets.
- First to Final Copy @firsttofinal** @EFAFreelancers I'm Larissa - copyeditor in San Antonio, TX. Happy to be here! #EFAchat
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** @firsttofinal @msalisonjacques #EFAchat Welcome!
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** @firsttofinal @katiemcoach @msalisonjacques #EFAchat Welcome, Katie!
- Karen Alley @KMAWriting** #EFAchat I have been in publishing 20 years, freelancer 10. Worked in- house at a family-owned regional mag., then a custom publishing house.
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat @meg_r, would you tell us a bit about yourself, including your experience in-house and as a freelancer?
- Megan Reid @meg_r** #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers I was an in-house editor and part-time freelancer for the last 5 years (my first job after grad school!)
- Katrina S @thekatsaid** @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Katrina Sivels from Chicago, IL a beginning freelance copy editor thankful for this because I'm just starting out.
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** @firsttofinal @katiemcoach @threepenny @msalisonjacques Glad to have you here, Sarah! #EFAchat
- Megan Reid @meg_r** #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers and I just started my brand-new job, working as a senior literary scout @GreenburgerLit (two weeks down!)
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** #EFAchat @KMAWriting, likewise, please tell us about yourself.
- EFA @EFAFreelancers** @firsttofinal @katiemcoach @threepenny @thekatsaid @msalisonjacques Hi, Katrina! Thanks for coming. #EFAchat
- Megan Reid @meg_r** #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers Reading and editing have always been my superpowers. I lucked out when I found jobs where I could use them.
- First to Final Copy @firsttofinal** @thekatsaid @EFAFreelancers Katrina, been doing this "for real" only since July myself! #EFAchat
- James M. Fraleigh @jamesfraleigh** James Fraleigh, 7 years full-time copy editor and proofreader, in the publishing world for ~24 years total. Howdy! #EFAchat

alison jacques @msalisonjacques Academic copy editor, a bit of in-house experience and a PhD, freelancing full time in (also rainy today) Victoria, BC. #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Howdy, James! Good to see you here again.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat I have been in publishing 20 years, freelancer writer and editor for 10 of those.

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q1 Guests: What do organizations wish their freelancers knew better about the timeline of the publication process?

Katrina S @thekatsaid @firsttofinal @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat this is my first for real month of doing it but I've been preparing since about August last year too

James M. Fraleigh @jamesfraleigh Tweet folks: I'll be tweeting with editorial colleagues at #EFAchat until 4 pm ET; pls follow along or mute using that hashtag.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat In-house I worked for a regional, family-owned magazine and a custom publishing company.

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers So, from @simonschuster to here, and I still currently freelance for @NYBookEditors. It's been great.

Amber Crafton @amsoverhorizons @EFAFreelancers Amber Crafton just starting out freelancing for income (@etaediting). Looking forward to this #EFAchat!

First to Final Copy @firsttofinal @thekatsaid @EFAFreelancers I'm still getting most of my work via Upwork...I haven't marketed my own site very successfully yet #EFAchat

Karen Wise @wisekaren In-house for 11 years way back when, freelance for 20+ now! Copyediting, proofreading, books—mostly cookbooks. #EFAchat

Karen Galle @KMGEEdit @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Karen from NH, copy editor and proofreader working primarily in the non-fiction realm.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A1 That the content part is first in a long line of deadlines-art, production, print. Important to stick to your deadlines.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A2 Even when those deadlines might seem early, there's not as much wiggle room as you think.

Katie McCoach @katiemccoach @KMAWriting That totally makes sense! #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r A1 @EFAFreelancers That deadlines are REAL THINGS. And that when something goes wrong, it's the assistants who get yelled at o_o #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q2 Guests: Similarly, what should freelancers know about the interrelationships among team members?

Joy Of WP @budkraus #EFAchat Just following along. I do tech writing and teach WordPress. joyofwp.com/wpatoz-efa for EFA Members.

Donna Moriarty @demoriarty Donna Moriarty, freelancing since June. Love these chats, and this topic is spot on! @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat

James M. Fraleigh @jamesfraleigh A1 When I was a production editor, I occasionally had to adjust CE queries for diplomacy. I've kept that in mind as a freelancer. #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers @demoriarty #EFAchat Hi, Donna!

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat Still on A1, sometimes as editor I would assign to a writer I knew was reliable, over maybe a better writer who was always late.

Julia O'Connell @JuliaJOC15 @EFAFreelancers I'm Julia, a recent grad and relatively new to freelancing #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers @KMAWriting and anyone else, feel free to jump back to prev. questions whenever it seems best to #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r A2 @EFAFreelancers In-house, the ideal really is a team, with the acq editor kind of as a director or coach, making sure all... #EFAchat

Amber Crafton @amsoverhorizons @DeBelle77 @belleworks You should catch this #EFAchat starting right now!

EFA @EFAFreelancers @JuliaJOC15 #EFAchat Welcome, Julia! Glad to have you here.

First to Final Copy @firsttofinal @thekatsaid @EFAFreelancers Upwork is slow getting started (but once you do you can get some good jobs). takes time to build up rep #EFAchat

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A2 I have worked on small teams, so relationships are strong. We know each others quirks and styles, as well as the freelancers'.

Katrina S @thekatsaid @katiemccoach @firsttofinal @EFAFreelancers thank you! It really is a journey, so exciting but hard to navigate sometimes #EFAchat

Jessica Beifuss @isthatcqd Intro: Joining a bit late, and mostly lurking. I work in house and manage freelance writers. #EFAchat

James M. Fraleigh @jamesfraleigh A2: That pub staffers talk. We keep tabs of who put in 110% and who didn't. And that sometimes we edited what you're proofing. #EFAchat

Donna Moriarty @demoriarty So how DOES a person break in without in-house experience? I've reframed my resume but I'm not getting calls #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers

Karen Wise @wisekaren A1/A2 Delays can happen on both sides—giving people a heads-up so they can adjust their schedules is key. #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers @isthatcqd #EFAchat, welcome Jessica! Nice experience for this chat!

Megan Reid @meg_r A2 @EFAFreelancers ...the members are working together as a team. There are SO many moving parts and ppl to be responsible for. #EFAchat

First to Final Copy @firsttofinal @thekatsaid @katiemccoach @EFAFreelancers No kidding! Let's keep in touch. :) #EFAchat

Dawn McIlvain Stahl @PurplePenning #EFAchat is RIGHT NOW if you can catch it!

Sarah Cypher @threepenny #EFAchat @meg_r Follow-on to Q2, do in-house eds find that freelancers are less savvy about the market/industry? Is that a huge handicap?

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat @meg_r It definitely does help to know the process, at least. Not a huge handicap, maybe a small one. A2

Megan Reid @meg_r Q2 #EFAchat @threepenny Most freelancers I've worked with in my roles are former editors! In production (cold reads, etc), not sure...

SpeculationsEditor @Fiction_Editor A little late to the party, but I am a new #efa member, a freelancer editor of 18 years, and a publishing geek since 1992. #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r A2 #EFAchat @threepenny But I have seen signed authors tell their acq editors that a freelancer loved their work so they don't want...

EFA @EFAFreelancers @Fiction_Editor Hi! Welcome to the chat! #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r A2 #EFAchat @threepenny ...to accept edits. To me that's a huge no-no. Take all the feedback you can, but at end, your editor is your editor

Julia O'Connell @JuliaJOC15 @demoriarty @EFAFreelancers I'd love to hear some answers to this, too. Especially as someone new to the job market #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q3 What else do managing editors, acquiring editors, etc., want freelancers to know about the in-house publication process?

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @demoriarty @EFAFreelancers Most big houses don't often hire freelance developmental editors, in my experience.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat Q3 I think one of the most important is to be sure of the style. Most of the time for books it's CMS, for magazines AP ...

Katie McCoach @katiemccoach @meg_r @threepenny #EFAchat That seems strange! I would think a writer who hires an editor would be more open to additional suggestions

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @demoriarty @EFAFreelancers May be easier to get your foot in the door as a copyeditor or a cold reader!

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat Q3 Also ask for and be confident in a particular style that publisher/publication might have.

Katie McCoach @katiemccoach @meg_r @demoriarty @EFAFreelancers Why is this? Because the acquisitions editor already takes on that role? #EFAchat

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat In my experience, openness to edits depends on personality, not experience. Used to surprise me who would balk, but not anymore!

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @isthatcqd @threepenny Yes, communication is basically THE BEST.

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @katiemccoach When I was an editor, I bought a book because I WANTED to edit it! Editing is fun!

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat Also on Q3, for freelance writers, don't use styles or fancy formatting. All of that is done in production.

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat If you're just joining us, we're talking w/ @meg_r and @KMAWriting about freelancing when you haven't worked in-house

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q4 Guests, esp.: How can freelancers work most productively with in-house teams?

Katie McCoach @katiemccoach @meg_r That makes sense. But I'm wondering why you said the pub houses don't hire freelance dev. editors? What's the reason? #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r A4 #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers Communicate, be collegial, meet deadlines. And then you will be loved.

Sarah Cypher @threepenny @meg_r #EFAchat And that's just it: an acq ed is PAYING for the chance to work w/ a MS. Unimaginable to write off ideas from that person!

Donna Moriarty @demoriarty @meg_r Thanks, I'll use that! #EFAchat

Karen Alley @KMAWriting A4 #EFAchat I second @meg_r, communication is key!

Karen Wise @wisekaren A4 I have a client who uses Basecamp, so each project's team members know what's going on—took some getting used to, but I love it! #EFAchat

Sarah Cypher @threepenny @katiemccoach @meg_r #EFAchat As a developmental editor, I get more biz from agents who recommend me to authors.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A4 Don't keep that in-house editor in the dark on where you are, even if it is before deadline. And definitely let them know ...

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A4/3 if there are any hold ups or delays, so they can adjust.

Sarah Cypher @threepenny @katiemccoach #EFAchat The agent referrals began w/ a long chain of word-of-mouth referrals and having mutual clients. Took time + luck!

Megan Reid @meg_r @katiemccoach There's also working w/ marketing, art, sales. You can't advocate for books if you're in your office alone all day. #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q5: How has working in-house helped you in your work as freelancer?

Jessica Beifuss @isthatcq @wisekaren I use Basecamp and would highly recommend it. Quick learning curve! #EFAchat

Karen Wise @wisekaren A5 Working in-house taught me everything I needed to know to hit the ground running as a freelancer! Skills, process, lingo, etc. #EFAchat

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A5 Has helped immensely! In-house, I learned from more experienced editors. Also learned the process ...

MB Editors' Assoc. @mbeditors Follow (or review later) today's #EFAchat.

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A5/2 ... And maybe most importantly, I fostered contacts, networks, to help jump start my freelance career.

Bluma Songer @SonBluma #EFAchat A5 Has helped immensely! In-house, I learned from more experienced editors. A goo.gl/5Ivht3

Karen Wise @wisekaren I've gotten my foot in many a door by offering to proofread something first, then they see my work and will trust me to copyedit. #EFAchat

James M. Fraleigh @jamesfraleigh @wisekaren My experience exactly. Plus it's helped me translate between artists/designers and those lacking such a background. #EFAchat

alison jacques @msalisonjacques Working in-house gave me a sense of the publishing process that I wouldn't have known otherwise, i.e., how an ms. flows through it. #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Just a reminder, remember to use the hashtag in your tweets if you want to be included in the feed/transcript

Karen Wise @wisekaren BUT not all all copyeditors are (or want to be) good proofreaders, so don't offer this service if proofreading isn't your thing! #EFAchat

Dixie-Ann Belle @belleworks Thank you! "@amsoverhorizons: @DeBelle77 @belleworks You should catch this #EFAchat starting right now!"

Katrina S @thekatsaid @wisekaren #EFAchat thank you for this answer :)

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @EFAFreelancers Keep in mind, pub houses have budgets. Truth is, often freelancer budgets are first cut. So use relationships.

Katrina S @thekatsaid #EFAchat How can someone start to build their experience to work for in- house? Because someone like me is starting from scratch

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat @thekatsaid I think like with every type of career, starting at entry-level is the best way, and can do that in-house ...

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat @thekatsaid I also suggest looking for people willing to mentor you, or internships.

Sarah Cypher @threepenny @thekatsaid #EFAchat rel. to Q5, how steady is work from publishers? I.e., something a freelancer can come to count on from 1 or more pubs?

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat @threepenny I think if you have a good relationship, the work can be steady. But like @meg_r said, freelancers get cut first.

SpeculationsEditor @Fiction_Editor @threepenny @thekatsaid #EFAchat In my experience, it's rare, but when you get it, it can last for years.

Anna Biunno @AnnaBiunno A4: Keep the lines of communication open. Follow-ups and status reports keeps everyone on the same page and marching in lockstep #EFAchat

Megan Reid @meg_r #EFAchat @amsoverhorizons I've freelanced for my own company while in house and through @NYBookEditors. @erossin48 @demoriarty

EFA @EFAFreelancers Does anyone have questions left for @meg_r, @KMAWriting, anyone before we conclude? #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers #EFAchat Q6 What have you had to learn about how publisher-clients do business differently than individual-clients?

Dixie-Ann Belle @belleworks @wisekarenI sometimes see the words "proofread" and "copyedit" used interchangeably. What's the correct definitions for them? #EFAchat

Katrina S @thekatsaid @EFAFreelancers @meg_r @KMAWriting #EFAchat Thank you all so much and everyone else who provided answers. It means a lot :)

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A6 Publisher-clients are more official. Long contracts, strict guidelines, specific brands/styles to follow. But bright side ...

Karen Alley @KMAWriting #EFAchat A6/2 Payment is more reliable!

alison jacques @msalisonjacques @EFAFreelancers @meg_r @KMAWriting How seasonal is book publishing? Is there generally more ed work sometimes than at other times? #EFAchat

Karen Wise @wisekaren @belleworks A manuscript is first copyedited, then when it's "perfect" (ha!), it's set into pages, which are then proofread. #EFAchat

Estie Ross @erossin48 @EFAFreelancers @meg_r @KMAWriting This has been a great #EFAchat! Good topic and great replies. Thank you. – Estie

Karen Wise @wisekaren @belleworks I go into more detail about the differences between copyediting and proofreading here: verbatim.blogs.com/verbatim/2014/... #EFAchat

EFA @EFAFreelancers The transcript will end here, but feel free to continue the discussion!