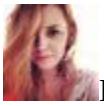
**Transcript for the June 27, 2013, Freelance Friday #EFAChat**
Topic: Genre-Specific Editing

***Note***: Extraneous artifacts have been removed, as well as profile pictures following their first appearance.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Welcome to @EFAFreelance Friday #EFAChat on the ups and downs of working genre-specifically.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Having some lunch with today's #EFAChat. pic.twitter.com/wELI1P4mEw

EFA International@EFAFreelancers1h
Q1: Please introduce yourself AND mention why this topic interests you.


Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
This will be my first #EFAChat since joining, very excited to jump in.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
#EFAChat today is being moderated by Christine Hunt from rainy western Wisconsin.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Hello all. Happy to chat about working in a specific genre. Mine is children's publishing.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
James Fraleigh, f'lance copy editor & proofreader. In case I ever find myself working more in 1 genre, want to know the risks.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Welcome to #EFAChat, Katie. Glad you could join us. Are you genre-specific in your editing work?

Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
Hello, #EFAChat I'm Katie, a developmental book editor. I have to say I lean towards certain genres because they come naturally to me

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@LisaLOwens Any specific sub-genre?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
(currently social sciences, partic. psychology; also business biography; 100% nonfiction)

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@EFAFreelancers Children's books and K-12 materials.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Don't forget to add the #EFAChat hashtag to your messages! Otherwise they won't show up in the queue and may not been seen.

Heather G Coman@HGComan
Hey, I mostly edit scifi, fantasy, and romance. Those are the areas I know best. Though I seem to be collecting memoirs now

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
My 1st and formative pub job was in psych/social sciences, so that background has guided my f'lance work. But I try to branch out.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Full disclosure, I do edit some adult stuff, but the children's market is my primary one by a long shot.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q2: Has the genre-specific experience been a good one?

Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
@EFAFreelancers I am not so much genre-specific in this moment, but I can see my work heading there

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
Yes, esp. at large publishers, b/c I quickly got a rep for doing their sort of work well once I was in their system

Heather G Coman@HGComan
I need to work on getting into publishers' systems. I get a lot of new authors with no money.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
But my genre is pretty broad, and I could prob. cross-train from psych to, say, popular science nonfiction or history.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Welcome to those of you just join us. Q1 of today's #EFAChat was to intro yourself and tell us what genre you mostly work in.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Remember to use the "A#" response to a specific "Q#." That will help us all follow conversation threads.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
I've enjoyed sticking to one, and when you specialize, it's easier to build long-term relationships.

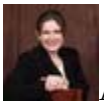
EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q2 was: Has the genre-specific experience been a good one?

Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
@LisaLOwens I can definitely already see this in my own work. Of course, sometimes it's nice to have a break in other genres

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A2 I've already had 1 prod ed take me with her to a new publisher b/c we'd worked together on certain types of books.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q3 goes along with that: What are some definite advantages, such as finding clients via word-of-mouth through the genre grapevine?

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@jamesfraleigh A2 Definitely a perk!

 April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
Q1: April Michelle Davis, Montpelier, Virginia, freelance editor, indexer, and proofreader. I'm not genre-specific.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A3: Publishing is a small world. In-house people move around a lot and will take you with them.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A3 Sometimes the author of a book will chat you up to colleagues in his/her genre as someone to hire, or who's good to work with!

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A3: But you still have a relationship w/the place your contact left behind. Now two clients know you.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@EInspirations Welcome, April. Have you ever thought of being genre-specific? What made you decide not to be?

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
A2: Because I have some experience in certain genres, I tend to gain more work in those same genres.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A3 E.g. the roleplaying game world is relatively small, w/ specialized editing needs; eds who understand these can find work ...

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
@EFAFreelancers Some of my clients are self-publishing companies, so I work on many genres with those clients.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A3 ... thru word of mouth quite easily, and work for individuals or game companies, on single games or series of releases.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@jamesfraleigh Same for my area. People want to work with freelancers who already know their niche

Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
#EFAChat A#2 I would imagine an advantage is you become a go-to expert in that genre. You've established yourself.

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
@EFAFreelancers My other clients can be categorized a bit better.

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
A3: Much of my work now comes through word of mouth, leading me to become more genre focused with newer clients

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A3 I've also gotten biz editing dissertations bc clients mention me to fellow students writing theirs. One also got me a book edit!

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@katiemccoach Yes, a break is good sometimes! This is the first year in 15 I've done any adult stuff.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
@EInspirations Outside my niches, the genres are pretty diverse. But each could grow into tomorrow's largest niche of mine!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Sounds like you guys are saying that being genre-specific tends to get your name spread around faster. Would you agree?

Katie McCoach@katiemccoach
@LisaLOwens And that sounds like fun! But children's and adult are so different, is it difficult to switch on and off?

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations48m
@EFAFreelancers Yes, I would agree. Working in a specific genre leads to more word-of-mouth advertising.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
@EFAFreelancers I'd agree; I wonder if size of niche influences the speed at which you get mentioned.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@EFAFreelancers Agreed. You come to mind as an editor for exactly what they're producing. Not just "some editor."

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
@LisaLOwens I have indeed had PEs say I was the ed who came to mind for X project. Great to be thought of or suggested to others!

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@katiemccoach I thought it would be difficult to switch, but it really isn't.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q4: How did you become involved with your genre/niche? How would you advise someone else to get into that genre?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A4 Started with what became T&F's psych division, Erlbaum, in 92, on psych/social sciences journals. So background was APA...

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
A4: I became involved in my first major genre by working in-house for a magazine in this genre.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A4: I come from the in-house world. Ten years at various children's editorial jobs.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@jamesfraleigh T&F?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A4 If your basic editing skills are in tune, I'd suggest learning APA next & reading psych books (journals are often paywalled)...

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
@EFAFreelancers Taylor & Francis; they bought Erlbaum mid-00s.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q5: How would you advise someone else to get into your genre's world?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A4 @LisaLOwens I'd also copyedited f'lance while in house, and all editors proofread their books/journals, so had boot camp in both

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 There are LOTS of psych/social sciences journals, but they're produced by a shrinking # of companies. Good and bad.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@jamesfraleigh Agree that in-house work is boot camp!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q5 Additional: Sounds like most of you came from in-house. How would someone not in that conduit get into your genre?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 Good—once yr "in," yr useful to other publishers. Bad—if you have bad experience w 1, might affect a lot of titles

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Q5: Same way you get any job. Learn what you need to and just start going after the work.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Sorry, that last one was supposed to be A5.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 I'd say nonfiction experience is an advantage to breaking into psych editing, esp if you pass an APA-oriented edit test

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A5: If your genre has freelance work, you can definitely break in as a freelancer. In-house not required.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 Advantage: From psych you could x-train to medical publishing, learn AMA, and begin to broaden as a science editor.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A5: Not to mention that so many in-house jobs have gone away.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 Not knowing a style book shouldn't scare you; I knew bupkis re CMOS before going f'lance and learned by doing & looking stuff up

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A5 And for smaller genres, they might rely on an in-house stylesheet that they wouldn't expect folks to know beforehand.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Today's Freelance Friday #EFAChat on genre-specific editing is half over, but there's still time for you to join!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q6: Being tied to the same thing over and over could make some of us stir crazy. Are there other DISadvantages?

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A6: Oh, yes, you can get stir crazy w/too much of the same thing.

April Michelle Davis@EInspirations
A6: Definitely! That's why I like to work on 2-3 projects within the same day. I like the change of pace.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A6: Another disadvantage can sometimes be the small-world thing (which I also named a big advantage).

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A6 A very small genre might have a similarly small potential for sustainable volume of work. If 1 publisher goes under = trouble.

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
Q4: I volunteered first in my niches. And I continue to volunteer on occasion. It helps you learn and network.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@wordfey Volunteering is a great way "in"!

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
MyQ: Did you all intend to specialize, or did it just happen?

International@EFAFreelancers
@wordfey How did you, at first, find jobs for which to volunteer?

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@LisaLOwens MyQ-A: For me (Christine), it just happened as a result of my interest in the subject.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
@LisaLOwens I did work outside my subject for the first yr+ of full-time freelancing, but I did apply @ companies inside that genre

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
@EFAFreelancers It also helps to go to non-editing conferences to get contacts in academic editing. Network network network. :)

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
MyQ-A: I fell into mine by accident. And then found that I loved it.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@LisaLOwens That's an ideal way to find your work! Congratulations.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@wordfey Which conferences did you attend?

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@EFAFreelancers Christine, I think your way is ideal, too!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q7: How would you encourage a fellow freelancer considering work in your target market?

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
@EFAFreelancers My favorite is the #AIAAPA, the major yearly classics/archaeology conference.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
Q7: Publishers are using more freelancers than ever. Self-publishing has exploded. Get in there.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A7 If you've mastered basics—deadlines, author care, consistency, service to reader—you can break into nearly any genre.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
RT @LisaLOwens Q7: Publishers are using more freelancers than ever. Self-publishing has exploded. Get in there.

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
@EFAFreelancers DEing: I'd say choose a book you can be proud of, to do for free or very little. Get experience and word o'mouth.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
RT @jamesfraleigh If you've mastered deadlines/author care/ consistency/service to reader, you can break into nearly any genre

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Today's #EFAChat only lasts about 5 more minutes. Anyone have anything else they want to cover?

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
@EFAFreelancers Q7: For the SF community, read everything. Get some editing experience elsewhere, then work for a good 'zine.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Q8: What topic would you like to discuss on a future #EFAChat?

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
A8 Have we covered continuing editorial education? What sort of ongoing tuneups, learning, or tech skills can help one thrive?

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
For anyone interested in the children's market, I'm doing a Dec @EFAFreelancers webinar. http://qub.me/X96PkT

Vanessa Rose Phin@wordfey
@jamesfraleigh @EFAFreelancers Q8: To that end, I wonder how people have made their degrees (or lack thereof) work for them

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@jamesfraleigh May have been #EFAChat topic in the past, but never hurts to cover it again!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@wordfey Another good future #EFAChat topic.

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
A8: How about something about the freelance life in general. How we work, office setups, etc.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
@LisaLOwens People always seem interested in that discussion.

James Fraleigh@jamesfraleigh
Thanks, all, & thanks, @EFAFreelancers, for the gathering!

Lisa L. Owens@LisaLOwens
@EFAFreelancers Thanks for hosting the chat, EFA and Christine!

EFA International@EFAFreelancers
Thanks to everyone who participated (and lurked!) in today's #EFAChat. It's always good to see how others are making f'lancing work.

EFA International@EFAFreelancers

Seems it's time to close today's #EFAChat. The written transcript will end here. Wishing for everyone a relaxing, beneficial weekend!