

What's on My Desk?

Abigail Scott

Formatted: Font: Bold

My college education helped me learn how fundamental resources are to my continuing education; as a recent graduate; and as a professional in my careerwork. With a dual degree in English and Professional Writing, it seemed as though finding a career in editing would be the perfect fit for me and my skills in the professional world.

Commented [CC1]: What kind of resources? Try to be more specific.

I am currently working at my first editing job with Scribe Publishing, a publishing house in Royal Oak where they that publishes both fiction and nonfiction books. As a member of this company Scribe Publishing, I specifically work as a developmental editor and I have held this position for almost a year now.

As a developmental editor, the majority of my work involves working with authors to review the manuscripts. It is my job to address the big picture of the manuscripts by looking at the "why" and "how" of the characters' motives, the and descriptions, theme, plot, and other important aspects of writing. Often, I am analyzing a manuscript's content to suggest and make changes to inconsistencies in structure, plot, theme, symbolism, character development, and other things in order to help the author better communicate their story and message to their audience. While this requires a lot of time and effort, I find the work to be rewarding as because the edited manuscript is more readable, and enjoyable, and one step closer to being published.

Commented [CC2]: Consider choosing a different word since you already said "work" a couple words prior to this.

Commented [CC3]: This is a little vague. Consider deleting it or making it more specific.

Commented [CC4]: Consider finding a more concrete word to describe this.

Commented [CC5]: This sentence is a little wordy. Consider re-wording it to offer better readability.

To assist with my editing performance and to help ensure that I am performing as best as I can when it comes to examining the language that an author has used, I tend to refer to *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus*. This resource, while it may seem simple, this resource is truly an incredible and powerful one for editors.

I personally use this resource when I am looking for synonyms or antonyms of a specific word in a manuscript so that it could be better served if it was changed or if I need to check whether a word is used correctly. While I know that it is easy to search for words online, I prefer having the hard copy so that I can use it anywhere that I am and I do not have to rely on the internet. I also realize that no dictionary is perfect, and this specific one only includes 60,000 of the most frequently used words in English. While this is a large number of words, there are other words

Commented [CC6]: Try wording this in a more casual way. Consider this: "I personally use this resource when I am looking for synonyms or antonyms of a specific word in a manuscript that needs to be changed, or if I just need to check if I have used a word correctly."

Commented [CC7]: It seems like you could combine these two sentences. Consider this: "Although this resource is not a completely comprehensive list of every word, I still find it to be very valuable."

that would be beneficial for one to know and be able to look up, but I still find this resource to be very valuable.

Another resource that I have found to be ~~very~~ beneficial ~~to refer to~~ is Scott Norton's *Developmental Editing: A Handbook for Freelancers, Authors, and Publishers*. This ~~book resource~~ serves as a handbook of sorts as it provides a unique approach to developmental editing; one that is logical and realistic. ~~This is seen within the introduction of the book, as t~~The text includes tips, or rules, that an editor should follow when approaching a developmental edit.

Within the introduction, the text explicitly states what will be covered in the book; which is ~~beneficial helpful as one~~ because you can ~~just~~ read ~~theis~~ introduction and ~~immediately tell~~ if it will be beneficial for ~~them~~ you ~~before they have~~ instead of ~~having~~ to read the whole book. This ~~book resource~~ focuses on examining a manuscript's concept, content, thesis, narrative, exposition, plan, rhythm, transitions, style; ~~and display; It also focuses on display;~~ which means looking at how to "dress up" the text.

Commented [CC8]: Consider giving an example of this as some readers might not know what this means.

For me, this resource is important ~~as~~ because it details specific case studies of nonfiction books, and examples of a ~~wide variety;~~ that I ~~am able to~~ can refer to when making my ~~own~~ edits. It also includes ~~sidebars~~ that offer helpful advice ~~for me~~ on ways that I can use techniques detailed in the book to edit for developmental issues.

Commented [CC9]: A wide variety of what?

Commented [CC10]: Consider offering an example of a sidebar or two from the resource. This will give your readers a more concrete idea of what you are talking about.

While there are other dictionaries, such as the *New Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors*, ~~and other~~ handbooks for developmental editing ~~books~~, such as *Bookmaking: Editing, Design, Production*; that I can use, I find the resources that I ~~at first listed~~ provided ~~here~~ to be the most beneficial, ~~especially Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus to me~~. I ~~also find myself referring to that resource the most often because I~~ am very familiar with ~~how to use a~~ Merriam-Webster dictionary ~~iesy~~ as ~~because~~ I have been using them since I was in elementary school.

~~The ways in which this~~ dictionary is set up is consistent throughout the various ~~Merriam-Webster dictionaries that are from Merriam-Webster~~ which ~~also~~ makes it ~~easier for me~~ to use. In addition ~~to this, the Merriam-Webster this resource~~ dictionary is specifically for American English, whereas ~~something like~~ the New Oxford Dictionary uses words in British English ~~and~~ then provides the American English spellings. While ~~that is~~ this dictionary would likely cause confusion for me, ~~this dictionary it might~~ be more useful to others, especially if they use British English spellings. ~~In addition to this~~ ~~However, since~~ I tend to focus on developmental editing, ~~so~~

Commented [CC11]: This is a little confusing and does not seem necessary. Consider deleting it or re-wording it so that it makes more sense.

Norton's books is perfect for me. If you are looking to dabble in all types of editing and the overall process that it takes to make a book, ~~then~~ I would suggest looking at *Bookmaking: Editing, Design, and Production*.

Commented [CC12]: This is confusing because you go from talking about the dictionary to talking about this resource. Consider adding in a sentence or two that would help this transition better.

Commented [CC13]: Consider deleting this as you do not want the last sentence of your blog to be a testament to a resource that you did not really cover. Try to wrap it up in a way that talks about the two resources that you focused on.

Bibliography

~~Lee, Marshall. *Bookmaking: Editing, Design, Production*.~~

~~Third Edition. New York City, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2004.~~

Merriam-Webster, Inc., *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus*. Revised and updated edition. Martinsburg, WV: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2014.

Formatted: Line spacing: Double

Norton, Scott, *Developmental Editing: A Handbook for Freelancers, Authors, and Publishers*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

~~Lee, Marshall. *Bookmaking: Editing, Design, Production*.~~

~~Third Edition. New York City, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2004.~~

Oxford University Press. *New Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors*. Revised edition. New York City, NY: Oxford University Press Inc., 2014.