

Social Media Responses to DearEditor.com's Post: "Writer Friends: Your Favorite Writing Software and Why?"

Programs mentioned: *Scrivener, MS Word, Evernote, Pages, Power Structure, Dragon Naturally Speaking Premium, Google Docs, Adobe InDesign, pen & paper*

- I LOVE the way **Scrivener**: keeps tracks of drafts; allows me to pull paragraphs out of a chapter and store it in its own pane attached to chapter or for the entire novel; keep notes on entire novel and chapters; look at summaries; jump between chapters so easily moving to different parts of a huge project. I also keep all my work on synopsis in its own folder and keep track of submissions. It also compares drafts. I've been working with it for years and know there are many more features I have yet to tap.
- I want to say **Scrivener**, because I know how powerful it is at organizing things and how much sense it makes; but I'm always trying to figure it out even though I've used it before and honestly, the simplest one that doesn't get in the way of my work is straight up **MS Word**. Sometimes I'll use **Scrivener** to get my outline and thoughts together... but actual writing, most of it is on **MS Word**.
- Scrivener all the way for drafts and Pages for polishing. **Pages** has easy function to export to **Word** and automatically converts Doc files to **Pages**.
- **Word**
- **Word**
- The biggest advantage of **MS Word** is that almost everyone has it. I can't recall ever having to convert from **Word** to something else. [Regarding conversion to **Word**], I've had problems converting to PDF and **Word** in the past (without paying), but perhaps that has been resolved.
- **Scrivener!!!** Love it so much. Often I cut a great line that I want to use elsewhere. With **Scrivener**, I just cut it and stick it in the right chapter without having to look for the right place-- which used to be time consuming in **Word**. Also love having a split screen so I can look at my research & my chapter at the same time. But what I love most is having a chapter by chapter outline that I can see along the left side while I'm working. I know that it isn't perfect for dealing with multiple drafts, but neither is **Word**. I do have **Word**, though, and tend to move to it when I have a fairly polished draft. I love the fact that everything is in the same place and you can quickly click from where you are writing to check on a saved reference and if that's not the correct reference it's easy to click - no - click - no - click - ah yes that's the one - click
- **Scrivener** is great for organizing but not writing.
- **Scrivener** is a good tool to have and use for organizing, maybe first drafts. There's a lot of good in it. I just wish it was easier to use and understand. I recommend having both.
- **Word**.
- **Scrivener** all day. I love the organizing and it's great for series and planning ahead, keeping track of characters, etc. It's a visual way of writing. You can also pop in images for reference. It has all the editing features as well, and super easy to export to **Word** if you need it. Cheap software. BIG bang for the buck. **Word** for me is better for picture book manuscripts.
- I ended up buying **Scrivener** for Dummies simply because, when I got stuck I couldn't find my particular problem in the video instructions. I'm an old librarian and need an index in a book to find things.
- I use **Word**.
- **Word**.
- **Word**, because I have decades of practice with it.
- **Word**, and **Scrivener** for organizing.

- And now **Scrivener** comes with an iPad IOS version - so I take my desktop stories along on my trip to the library cafe and work on them there. Then I sync them with a single click when I get home. It really helps to work on stories in a new location I find.
- **MS Word**. But I do have it formatted for me. My first IT guy...30 plus yrs ago made a template that looks like one of my MS pages. It's been difficult to get that template to translate into newer **Word** program, so that it still looks and operates the *old way*. I hate change when it comes to the way I write. It is a distraction from the actual work! One major thing Microsoft does not understand: The company changes so they force you to buy again...I don't even mind that! Take the \$\$ Just don't change everything. It's changing what I've come to be accustomed to that drives me up a wall.
- **Dragon Naturally Speaking Premium**. It's actually voice-to-text software, but I find it invaluable. **Premium** also reads your words back to you, which is great for editing. You hear things your eyes might miss. Highly recommended, as long as you have a good Windows computer and get a good headset.
- Hello...cowriters chiming in here. We use **Google Docs** because we work on the same document ALL THE TIME!! Don't panic, we alternate POVs and chapters so we're typically not editing the same sentence/paragraph but we can. It's the only real-time writing-editing option for us, that we know of. Scrivener friends, do you know/have experience with multiple people performing real-time editing on the same document in Scrivener? We frequently leave notes for each other in the margins but I love the idea of having character details, outline info, series arcs, etc. accessible.
- **Google Docs** because it saves everything! You never lose stuff even when it crashes.
- **Evernote**. I have done ALL of my writing in **Evernote** for years. I love the way it syncs between all of my devices, keeps everything backed up to the cloud, and even makes images and scans searchable.
- I use **Adobe InDesign** because I always illustrate and write on the same page and I have Creative Suite which allows for vector images, page design and Acrobat files, as well as Photoshop! Then I can publish on Blurb immediately.
- Moleskine Reporter **notebooks** and my favorite fountain **pen**, and later transcribed in **MS Word**. While I have **Scrivener** and have used it, I find that disrupting my method just to stay abreast of current technology takes longer and depletes the enjoyment and creativity.
- My brain...**pencil and journal**...**Pages/Word**...and **Scrivener**.
- I like **Evernote** for collecting inspiration and research.
- **Scrivener** so many reasons. You can tag characters, then pull up only scenes with that character & look for continuity.
- **Scrivener**, because of the notecards outline function and the ability to move the cards and thus move the written pieces of the story (as the cards and text are linked).
- I love **Scrivener**. The outlining function that's been mentioned is most important, but I also like how easy it is to import and save links for web-based research into my project.
- **Power Structure**!! A filmmaker buddy told me I had to check it out because it's so great. Simplifies organizing so hugely, both physically and visually, that it has literally saved me an months on my novel!!! (Can use for novels, screenplays, plays). **Word** is good and has some features that **P.S.** doesn't, but for most things, I definitely prefer **Power Structure**.
- I've actually written most of my first manuscript on a 17-year-old version of **Microsoft Word**, lol. I have thought about looking at other writing software, but I like to keep things simple.