

Online Resources

Originally presented at the [Oct. 2009 SPAC-APMP conference](#) and the following month online for Florida's regional proposal management association. This list is occasionally updated. Please email me at wendybkalman@gmail.com to notify me if any of these links no longer work. Thank you.

Hyperlinks to sections below

How to write

Presentations

Graphics

Data visualization

Free Photo sites

Quotes

Gathering info on competition and own field / industry

Media, marketing, corporate communications libraries and e-newsletters

Feedback gathering & email tracking

Miscellaneous

How to write proposals and develop business (library of articles or webinars and/or e-newsletter)

Procurement websites

LinkedIn Groups offer articles, Q&A and access to other members

How to get press or speaking engagements

BONUS: Blogs (courtesy of contributors to the RFP Database LinkedIn group) (I have not checked these out yet)

How to write

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/CMS_FAQ/qatopics.html

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/> Modern Language Association style

<http://www.publicationcoach.com/> weekly e-newsletter (and daily blog) with great tips

http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability_test_and_improve.jsp free online readability test

<http://www.online-utility.org/english/> many other tools at same website

<http://www.apstylebook.com/> (cost)

<http://www.acronymfinder.com> Acronyms

<http://dictionary.reference.com> Dictionary

<http://thesaurus.reference.com> Thesaurus

<http://translate.reference.com> Translator

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/stylemanual/browse.html> Government Printing Office (GPO) Style Manual

http://www.pit-magnus.com/pitmagnus/books/pr_marks.pdf Proofreading Marks

<http://www.nlr.gov/sites/default/files/documents/44/stylemanual.pdf> NLRB Style Manual

<http://www.ggmark.com/guide.html> Guide to Proper Trademark Use

<http://www.hemingwayapp.com> Tool for checking for passivity and wordiness. Seems to work better in Chrome than in IE; replace existing text on page and click on Edit.

<http://textmechanic.com> A collection of simple, single task, browser based, text manipulation tools

<http://www.unit-conversion.info/texttools/> Text formatting and other tools, including mathematical, phonetic and encryption based ones

<http://www.diffnow.com> Compare to each other MS Office files, source code in different languages and other archive formats; doesn't seem to work in IE, but does in Chrome

<http://www.publicationcoach.com/no-cost-tools-for-writers/> Tools for writing

Presentations

<http://duarte.com> Nancy Duarte

<http://www.presentationzen.com>

<http://www.betterpresenting.com> e-newsletter, The Presentation Summit annual conference

<http://www.presenteronline.com/resources/>

<http://thinkoutsidetheslide.com> reports, documents, tutorials, slide makeovers, online tools and more

<http://www.reximedia.com> looks at the science behind the ppts, what people remember

<http://www.brightcarbon.com> great free webinars plus resources

<http://lauramfoley.com> for monthly Design Dispatch e-newsletter; she'll redo one slide for you for free

<http://www.powershow.com>, <http://www.slideshare.net> and www.ted.com all provide examples of great ppts

Graphics

http://www.colorschemer.com/colorpix_info.php nifty free graphic tool for determining RGB or CMYK of color on screen

<http://www.brandsoftheworld.com> logo bank

www.ideabook.com e-newsletter points to examples of good design

<http://www.gdusa.com/subscriptions/freesub.php> free subscription to magazine for corporate in-house Graphic Designers

<http://www.billiondollargraphics.com/> has library of free business graphics and industry solutions

<http://www.photoshopsupport.com/> free e-newsletter, tutorials, brush sets, etc.

<http://www.breezetreecom/articles.htm> Flowchart resources (articles, templates, cheat sheets)

<http://ronandjoe.com/funfree/funfree.html> Eclectic and free photos, graphics and animations

<http://new.myfonts.com/whatthefont> tool to identify fonts

<http://www.wordmark.it> tool to preview all the fonts on your computer

<http://www.wordle.net> for creating word clouds

<http://copypastecharacter.com/> easy way to access, copy and paste symbols

<http://mashable.com/2012/07/17/famous-fonts/> 24 famous fonts you can download for free

<http://mashable.com/2013/11/21/font-games> 18 font games for when you have nothing to do :-)

<http://behappy.me/generator> tool to generate social media friendly solid color graphics with quotes or other wording on them

<http://www.canva.com/> design tool for everything from social media to infographics to ppt graphics

<http://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-image-sizes-guide> "Always Up-to-Date Guide to Social Media Image Sizes"

<http://sproutsocial.com/insights/free-image-creation-tools/> "36 Free Tools for Creating Unique Images"

<http://picresize.com/> Free online tool to crop, resize and edit images online

Data visualization

<http://www.vizipedia.com/>

<http://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/great-visualization-examples>

<http://www.creativebloq.com/design-tools/data-visualization-712402>

<http://www.tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations>

Free Photo sites

<http://www.morguefile.com> copyright-free, license-free no fee high resolution photos

<http://www.designskilz.com/free-photos/> lists 30+ free photo sites, notes if they have any restrictions
<http://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/free-stock-photos> 10 “non-cheesy” sites with free photos
<http://freeimages.com> (formerly <http://sxc.hu>)
<http://www.freephotos.se> unrestricted free photos
<http://www.freedigitalphotos.net> small photos are free
<http://stockvault.net> some are free
<http://unprofound.com>
<http://www.gettyimages.com/Search/Search.aspx> Free to embed online in non-commercial websites, blogs, etc.
<http://www.pond5.com> Public domain, almost 80,000 video clips, photos and sounds recordings

Quotes

<http://www.quotesandsayings.com/quotes/find> allows you to fill in search boxes on a number of other sites with databases of quotes, saving time
<http://en.thinkexist.com/>
<http://www.imdb.com/> Search quotes
<http://offers.hubspot.com/marketers-guide-to-writing-well> Guide includes some great quotes, especially on getting over fear

Gathering info on competition and own field / industry

<http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en> set up alerts on competitors, own company, topics, etc.
<http://www.socialmention.com> set up alerts via social media & set up a feed on your site
www.hoovers.com, www.factiva.com two of many for finding out competitor info (at cost)
www.thefreelibrary.com
www.glassdoor.com insider info on salaries, company reviews, interview questions

Media, marketing, corporate communications libraries and e-newsletters

<http://www.bnet.com/> business
<http://www.mediapost.com/> media, marketing, advertising
<http://www.ragan.com> corporate, executive & governmental communications
<https://library.hubspot.com/> also useful for graphics, free photos, etc.

Feedback gathering & email tracking

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/> easy-to-use online survey tool; free version is good; paying allows you to share access to results online
<http://www.getsignals.com>. Plug in that works with Outlook to see if recipients opened email and/or clicked on links in it; requires Chrome
<http://mashable.com/2014/02/20/chrome-streak-email> Another plug in for detecting opened emails

Miscellaneous

<http://www.sharelinkgenerator.com/> Generate Share this, Tweet This, Pin This and other links. Free.
<http://statcounter.com/> easy-to-use powerful website stats. Free; cost only for 250K+ page loads/month
<http://www.timeanddate.com/> for coordinating in different time zones worldwide

<http://www.speakernetnews.com> speaker-submitted tips are great resource for frequent travelers & presenters
<http://paper.li> create free newsletters with supplied content from social media & other sources
www.appsbar.com easily create free mobile apps
<http://onepagerapp.com> Create simple one page websites (there is a free option, link below the others)
<http://dleasy.net/gimp> Free photo editing software
<http://printfriendly.com> Makes any page on a website print-friendly
<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3029239/infographic-of-the-day/30-simple-tools-for-data-visualization> 30 tools, many free, for visually presenting data
<http://smartbrief.com/browse-topics> Industry-specific e-newsletters; content (incl. premium content) from national & regional publications, business weeklies, monthly magazines, trade publications and blogs in conjunction with trade associations, professional societies, corporations, etc.
www.freetrademagazines.com Free trade magazines for many different industries if you qualify
www.mynextconsultant.com Free listing for experts/consultants (5% commission on work booked through site)

How to write proposals and develop business (library of articles or webinars and/or e-newsletter)

<http://www.captureplanning.com> library of articles; free e-newsletter
<http://mandelman.newsvine.com/news/2009/03/12/2537141-a-few-words-about-differentiation-in-your-proposals-just-do-it> specific article
<http://blog.confluentforms.com/> blog with useful articles
http://www.santcorp.com/demo/webinar_archive.htm best practices, etc.
<http://www.theproposal.guys> entertaining blog
http://www.24hrco.com/free_stuff_open.shtml free Bid Winning Proposal e-zine
http://www.fedmarket.com/articles/index_FreeResources.shtml
<http://www.ociwins.com/resources.html> articles from an APMP partner
<http://www.rfpmentor.com/rfp-report.html> is actually how to write RFPs; gives insight to other side. Free e-newsletter and archive of past issues.

Procurement websites

Finding RFPs – often you don't get details for free, but you can either subscribe or continue sleuthing online based on what you do find. All but first two seem limited to governmental only.
<http://www.rfpdb.com/> credits give access RFPs; buy or earn more by uploading other RFPs (receive some to start)
<http://www.onvia.com/fp/Default.aspx> get 5 leads free
<http://www.govcb.com> one week free; otherwise cost
<http://www.bidsync.com/> sign up for free reports; extensive reports cost something
<http://www.bidnet.com/> costs, but they'll send you a free analysis of current and past RFPs
<http://www.governmentbids.com/government-search-advanced-en.jsa>
<http://www.stateandfederalbids.com/> basic search and daily email alert for free; otherwise cost
http://www.nigp.org/eweb/StartPage.aspx?Site=NIGP&webcode=gs_stateproclinks list of State Procurement offices' sites
<http://www.proposalwriter.com/intprocure.html> International bids and tenders
http://www.ted.europa.eu/Exec?Template=TED/editorial_page.htm&DataFlow=ShowPage.dfl&StatLang=EN Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) for European tenders in English
<http://www.input.com>

<http://www.findrfp.com>

LinkedIn Groups offer articles, Q&A and access to other members:

[Linked RFP Writers](#)

[RFP Professionals](#)

[CapturePlanning.com Business Development & Proposal Management](#)

[Association of Proposal Management Professionals](#)

[The RFP Database](#)

[Corporate Communication](#)

[Proposal Professionals](#)

[MarketingProfs](#)

[Bid and Proposal Management Professionals](#)

[Global Proposal Management Professionals](#)

[PROPOSAL WRITERS GROUP](#)

[Tender Writers Guild](#)

[Marketing Communication](#)

[Proposal Management Professionals](#)

SharePoint for Proposal Management

How to get press or speaking engagements

www.helpareporter.com free, three times a day

<http://pitchrate.com/> free, once a day (pay to add a press kit)

www.sourcebottle.com/ free, women's topics, active in Australia, U.S., Canada, U.K. and Asia Pacific

www.mediadiplomat.com/ free, international

www.radioguestlist.com once a day

www.speakerfile.com free for event organizers and free option for speakers

www.muckrack.com a way to engage with journalists and bloggers

BONUS: Blogs (courtesy of contributors to the RFP Database)

LinkedIn group) (I have not checked these out yet)

http://www.nebs.com/nebsEcat/products/product_ideas/articles/article344/index.jsp

<http://sbinformation.about.com/cs/bizlettersamples/a/proposal.htm>

http://www.slu.edu/research/proposal_development_toolkit.html#crafting

http://www.biztree.com/?cm_source=go-

www.biztree.com/?cm_source=go-cw&cm_adgroup=D091&cm_kw=sample%20of%20business%20proposal&gclid=CKzK6fGX6JwCFREsawodWkoXGA excellent for templates

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Proposal-Writing-Strategies&id=134974>

<http://psbdelegation.blogspot.com/2009/01/what-are-you-reading.html>

www.rainmakerz.biz

<http://thinkinsidethebox.squarespace.com/blog/2009/9/27/eight-tips-for-putting-respect-into-rfps.html>