



LitChat: February 20 - February 24, 2012

Topic of the Week: All About Agents

Moderated by @LitChat [Carolyn Burns Bass]

The transcripts below cover the #litchat conversation noted above. The order appears sequentially from opening post to the closing post within the #litchat moderated chat time.

Media Monday: Agent Blogs February 20, 2012

LitChat Welcome! Today we're discussing literary agents and their blogs. Who reads them? #litchat -4:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston It's #litchat time! -4:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat While #litchat is underway, please don't use the hashtag unless you're contributing to the convo. Thanks. -4:01 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL I'm here! #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Girl_Who_Reads RT @litchat: Welcome! Today we're discussing literary agents and their blogs. Who reads them? #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat The easiest way to follow #litchat is from <http://t.co/OrNkyWhA>. Simply authorize the app and you're in the convo. -4:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

JSLion Hello #litchat! -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

susanmpls RT @LitChat: Welcome! Today we're discussing literary agents and their blogs. Who reads them? #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

DutchessAbroad I Rea Lit agent blogs occasionally to remind myself what not to do #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat While introducing yourself, please tell us if you 1) have 2) once had 3) need a literary agent. #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana {{{waves}}} RT @LaurenBaratzL: Im here! #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston No agent yet. I'm always on the hunt for a Lit Agent for my writing even when my small press is on the hunt for a Sub Rights agent. #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @DutchessAbroad: I Rea Lit agent blogs occasionally to remind myself what not to do // They're very helpful for that. #litchat -4:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock RT @maggiedana: {{{waves}}} RT @LaurenBaratzL: Im here! //hello, ladies! #litchat -4:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

JSLion #litchat Never had one. -4:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston I read Lit Agent blogs to get a sense of what they are looking for and how effective they are at selling their clients work #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwtrChat411 #litchat started about 5 minutes ago! You're still on time so connect with @litchat and enjoy! -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill I'm an aspiring author but I'm not at the stage where I'm looking for an agent yet. Too soon. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

eilazor_irrek I have an agent but mine is not tech savy so I ended up somewhat her partner #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana I have an agent. She doesn't blog; just a web site. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana (waves back) #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston @eilazor_irrek That's a great combo #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana HIIII! RT @GLHancock: RT @maggiedana: {{{waves}}} RT @LaurenBaratzL: Im here! //hello, ladies! #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LitChat I'm actually on my 6th agent - I'm the Elizabeth Taylor of Publishing! - but this one's a keeper. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston Oh, I forgot the intro, I'm LM Preston and write YA and MG books *Waves* #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
DutchessAbroad Connected with Lit Agent 4 years ago for Memoir. Since then I wrote novel + screenplay, still finishing memoir #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana @LitChat Sorry for all the waving. We will behave ourselves now. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
mvw888 When I see an agent blog, I can't help but think they'd be better off reading more manuscripts than spending their time on a blog #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @GLHancock Hey, you! #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock @JSLion i did - he lost ms of second novel! #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston Wow! Do you have a love potion for agents around I can borrow? RT @LaurenBaratzL: @LitChat I'm actually on my 6th agent #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: Im actually on my 6th agent - Im the Elizabeth Taylor of Publishing! - but this ones a keeper. // LOL. Me too. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012
PickMyBran @LitChat I need an agent who is free or takes a percentage with zero up front cost. :D #litchat #iamreallypoor -4:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012
eilasor_irrek @LM_Preston Somewhat. We have become close friends so I get a good look at the frustrations of an agent. It is a tough job. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL I wouldn't normally link a blog post here, but some might want to bkmrk this for later. It's me at Joe Konrath's blog talking 1/2 #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat @mvw888 But don't you learn anything about what they're looking for and how to best reach agents by reading their blogs? #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana @PickMyBran No reputable agents require up-front cost. If you find one that does, run the other way. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL about my experience of epublising a book with my agent: http://t.co/WaPYasYN 2/2 #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
AmandaSJohn @LitChat #litchat need a literary agent -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Cinnamon_Quill @LM_Preston Snape will brew you a love potion for literary agents. Lockhart told me so. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @PickMyBran Agents should never charge you anything upfront. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat @PickMyBran Reputable agents DO NOT require a fee up front for their clients. If they ask for one, flee as fast as you can. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Writezalot RT @maggiedana: @PickMyBran No reputable agents require up-front cost. If you find one that does, run the other way. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat I love that lit agents have blogs, that they're passionate enough to share their knowledge/interests. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston Yep, we forget they have to 'pitch' novels too! RT @eilasor_irrek: Somewhat. It is a tough job. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: about my experience of epublising a book with my agent: http://t.co/ZVkyUAU3 2/2 // I'll take a peek after #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012
mvw888 @LitChat All that info could be on a website, I would think #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Sorry. No love potion! #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Great Query Writing Skills and product then :-D RT @LaurenBaratzL: Sorry. No love potion! #litchat@Cinnamon_Quill -4:10 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat @maggiedana We are mind-melded. I swear I didn't see your post about reputable agents until after I posted mine! #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL Kristen Nelson has a great blog and even though he's no longer an agent, Nathan Branford rocks his blog. #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Yes! Now *that* will get you there! #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston @SangWrites QueryTracker is a good place to start #litchat but get your mss beta read, your query letter in tight shape first -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat @mvw888 But what about agents as communicators? Why can't an agent do more than just sell books and eval manuscripts? #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
eilazor_irrek @LM_Preston It is that of late even agents are being turned away by publishers much like writers are. At least in Australia #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock can't say much (on Fire) will ans Qs later #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana @LitChat You, me, and several others mind-melded here. @PickMyBran was swamped with advice, all of it the same. #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Andrea_Dunlop RT @LaurenBaratzL: Kristen Nelson has a great blog and even though he's no longer an agent, Nathan Branford rocks his blog. #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL Nathan sneaks in a seals up all the cracks in the questions you have when you're not looking. He's a ninja. #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012
PickMyBran Thanks for all the responses. #litchat The world of agents and submitting is still new to me. -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston Always risk in sales biz RT @eilazor_irrek: of late even agents are being turned away by publishers much like writers are. #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat Shall we call 911? RT @GLHancock: cant say much (on Fire) will ans Qs later #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock agents do a lot more!!! @LitChat #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
eilazor_irrek I'm having breaky first next time. So hungry I can barely think to chat. #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston Great place to get your Query Letter in shape is absolutewrite . com / forums (Query Hell) if you survive you'll have great query #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012
PickMyBran @maggiedana @LitChat I know! It was great! :D Thank you all! #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana @PickMyBran A good place to start a publishing journey is here: http://t.co/53EYwFxm #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 20th, 2012
DutchessAbroad This #agent doesn't mince words http://t.co/0FsQtL9B #litchat good advice -4:13 PM Feb 20th, 2012
mvw888 @LitChat I suppose their jobs are interesting. Lots of posts about how busy they are and the stupid queries they get! #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock @PickMyBran that's why i lists my #kndlpub on AGENTS FOR AUTHORS #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Cinnamon_Quill Lit agents are always looking for something amazing. Helping others to see what that might be raises their chance of getting it. #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana RT @DutchessAbroad: This #agent doesnt mince words http://t.co/x7JoxKfM // She doesn't just mince words, she pulverizes them. #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @litchat ouch! #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana @LitChat Are agents' roles changing as fast as publishing is changing? #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 20th, 2012
JSLion #litchat Is it better for agents to be blunt about your work, or diplomatic? -4:16 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana @DutchessAbroad Oh yeah, I like Janet Reid too. She and I'll both be at the Backspace conference in May. #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat What do you want to read in an agent's blog? What would keep you coming back to that blog after you land an agent? #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston I prefer blunt but not all can do that RT @JSLion: #litchat Is it better for agents to be blunt about your work, or diplomatic? -4:17 PM Feb 20th, 2012
DutchessAbroad ! RT @eilasor_irrek: Trad. agents R supposed to weed out bad manus + hand in good/great onesThat's Y their roles remain as reps #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat Q fm @maggiedana: Are agents roles changing as fast as publishing is changing? #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 20th, 2012
eilasor_irrek Consider it this way: they have to find a good-great manu amongst a lot of bad ones, rep it and have it signed to get paid. #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock agents also negotiate best deal, handle bookkeeping & rights sales & more #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston In some ways I believe yes. RT @LitChat: Q fm @maggiedana: Are agents roles changing as fast as publishing is changing? #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 20th, 2012
DutchessAbroad Remember to interview Lit. Agent, what will s/he do for you -2way street #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock what they are *not* is pro. editors #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL Many agents are responding to the times and enabling existing clients to epub through them if the client so chooses. #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 20th, 2012
lostcheerio maybe not now, but many of them used to be editors. #litchat @GLHancock -4:21 PM Feb 20th, 2012
Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat Agents with a humorous and intelligent insight into literature and publishing will always be worth reading. #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 20th, 2012
maggiedana RT @GLHancock: what they are *not* is pro. editors // Some think they are; some even are, i.e., former editors. #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 20th, 2012
mvw888 I think in ten years there will be much fewer agents...#litchat -4:22 PM Feb 20th, 2012
DutchessAbroad @LitChat on blog of editor I wish to see examples + smart lessons, on agent's blog sharp business insights #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LitChat RT @mvw888: I think in ten years there will be much fewer agents...#litchat #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 20th, 2012
AngelMenchan #litchat bluntly diplomatic. -4:23 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock @lostcheerio but that is not an agents job -nor is it to teach u to write well #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LM_Preston There will always be authors that prefer and need the guidance of an agent in their career. A pub company that wants one too #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 20th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @DutchessAbroad @LitChat And I want to see cruelty on neither. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 20th, 2012
GLHancock @maggiedana ditto u #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 20th, 2012

veraleigh RT @LitChat: RT @mvw888: I think in ten years there will be much fewer agents...#litchat #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @mvw888: I think in ten years there will be much fewer agents... // and far more bad books. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 20th, 2012

AnastasiaAshman how I feel re @foundrymedia“@Cinnamon_Quill: Lit agents look for something amazing. Helping others to see raises chance of getting #litchat” -4:24 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew There are so many different agents out there, some are professional and others you question why they bother #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 20th, 2012

DutchessAbroad With more self + e-publ. role Lit. Agent changing the way bookstores change| coaching role perhaps? #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 20th, 2012

eilasar_irrek @dutchessabroad Sorry, sounds harsh due to short word limit. Rep: represent and promote. Hard work and necessary. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock Different how? @RebekahMcClew #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew @GLHancock Some are great at representing their client while others you wonder if they know what they are doing #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 20th, 2012

mvw888 @maggiedana I think I'd rather count on small presses than agents to deliver quality #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston I prefer to meet agents face to face at pitch session at conferences or even online pitch contest #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 20th, 2012

authorwritis @Janet_Reid writes the toughest blogs, including @QueryShark, yet she wrote me the kindest rejection letter. She really cares. #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill Lit agent blogs are great because it allows me to get a sense of what to do and how to improve well before seeking an agent. #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @DutchessAbroad Coaching? I don't think so. Marketing would be more accurate, in my experience. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew @GLHancock I had a submission from an agent asking me how to do their job and how to find clients to submit for me #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Me too RT @Cinnamon_Quill: Lit agent blogs are great because it allows me to improve well before seeking an agent. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew I work as an acquisition editor and appreciate when an agent is clear and understands their job #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @mvw888 Small presses are great, but they have very limited budgets esp. for PR/marketing which is hugely important today. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @authorwritis I like Janet. She's tough but she's not gratuitously cruel. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill I can admit to indulging in lit agent blogs as I would a box of chocolates. There's no stopping me sometimes. #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Helping your agent position your book for sell isn't a bad thing. If you know what publishers take your kind of work #litchat share it -4:29 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Cinnamon_Quill I think they're useful too for figuring out who you'd *like* to have as an agent. #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @Cinnamon_Quill: Lit agent blogs are great because it allows me to improve well before seeking an agent. // Wise words. #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Large presses are limited too RT @maggiedana: @mvw888 Small presses are great not for PR/marketing which is hugely important today. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL Some agents, based on the tone of their blog/Twitter presence - I'd never refer anyone to them. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL I have a few agent crushes...*ehem* #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 20th, 2012

mvw888 @maggiedana Agree. In a perfect world, agents wouldn't have to worry as much about sales either #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock one diff now is desire 4 est'd platform before repping #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 20th, 2012

DutchessAbroad 2nd that RT @maggiedana: RT @Cinnamon_Quill: Lit agent blogs great cause allows to improve well before seeking agent // Wise words. #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: Some agents, based on the tone of their blog/Twitter presence - Id never refer anyone to them. // LOL. SM no nos #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock RT @LaurenBaratzL: Some agents, based on the tone of their blog/Twitter presence - Id never refer anyone to them. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @LaurenBaratzL LOLLOLOLOLOL!!! #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 20th, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass I agree.RT @LaurenBaratzL: Some agents, based on the tone of their blog/Twitter presence - Id never refer anyone to them. #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston When I first started to query, I queried every agent I could find #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @GLHancock: one diff now is desire 4 estd platform before repping /More for non-fiction than fiction, yes? Fiction all abt wrtg. #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill Authors can do a lot with marketing but I don't think that will affect the need for lit agents. They do so much more than that. #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 20th, 2012

DutchessAbroad @LaurenBaratzL some agents already coach in sense of steering client in certain direction - I.e. suggest book on "..."#litchat -4:34 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana "SM no nos"? Are you talking dirty to me, English? #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat What online services do you or have you used for finding and evaluating agents? #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @maggiedana no - i used to think that too but see they want novelists to have them too #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 20th, 2012

mvw888 Have to return to my second job--driver--and take kids to orthodontist. Great chat! #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 20th, 2012

krisriggle Jumping in for just a quick minute. I was reading my agent's blog for years before she repped me. Kristin Nelson, Pub Rants #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Thanks for stopping in. RT @mvw888: Have to return to my second job--driver--and take kids to orthodontist. Great chat! #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat I'm constantly told about querytracker but I have no idea how it works. I usually google literary agencies... #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Wow, that's impressive RT @krisriggle: I was reading my agent's blog for years before she repped me. Kristin Nelson, Pub Rants #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL Who, me? A Brit? Talking dirty? No way. Just sayin' ! #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @GLHancock same with proposals -used to be only nonfic #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

DutchessAbroad Gotta go thanks y'all was pleasure will read up rest later! Thnx #litchat hostess! -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @krisriggle {{{waves}}}} ... quietly. #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill Also, I find out about lit agents through twitter. Many of which via #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew There are so many agents out there it's nice when you get a chance to interview or ask them questions #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

PickMyBran Is there any benefit to self representation? Is it more work than reward? #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana OK< but what does "SM no nos" mean??? #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 20th, 2012

JSLion Must get back to doing real work. Talk to you all later #litchat. Thanks! -4:38 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @krisriggle When reading Kristin Nelson's blog before she repped you, what did you learn that helped most? #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @PickMyBran It's more that you're unlikely to know what are fair terms in a publishing contract. #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @PickMyBran What do you mean by self-representation? #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock how would you "self-rep"? @PickMyBran #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Thanks for chatting. RT @JSLion: Must get back to doing real work. Talk to you all later #litchat. Thanks! #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew @PickMyBran self representation helps, especially with advertising yourself. Agents can help get you into doors closed to indi pubs #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LitChat AgentQuery is good, Backspace is invaluable for new writers, and there's nothing like word of mouth. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL Social Media no, nos ... those agents on SM you won't refer to. Their SM presence is bad like a no no. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL Yes, I don't think the fictional lawyers in my head could help me find my way around a publishing contract. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL PS: this is one of those cases where 140 characters can tie your knickers in knots. #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew I've seen a person self rep, paid for print copies, advertised, sold his book on his own, many book expos, not bad #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL I sold my first books without an agent and negotiated the contract myself but only after reading 700 pages of publishing law. #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana Ah, many thanks! #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL You are amazing. *faints* #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL One day, we'll have a drink together and chuckle about this. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL sold, not solf - damn tired fingers conspiring to make me look stoopid! #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 20th, 2012

krisriggle @LitChat Trying to think of a specific example. I think I learned how important it is to target your query to the RIGHT agent. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Cinnamon_Quill Or crazy! Some say I'm crazy! #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @RebekahMcClew Wouldn't what you described be self-publishing? When I think of self-rep, I think selling self to trad editors. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew agents do have the benefit of knowing how to approach a publishing company which helps but most can do the same with effort #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @krisriggle: Trying to think of a specific example. I learned how important it is to target your query to the RIGHT agent. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana Send me local address with names of granddaughters and I will send them bookmarks for The Sisters 8 Book 9. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL Well that too...but crazy in an AMAZING way. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock My Fire can't spell; keeps changing what i tap@LaurenBaratzL #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew @LitChat it's not much different, if you are going after a publishing company or editor you need to know how to sell yourself #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Cinnamon_Quill That is very kind to say, thank you. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @krisriggle Yes, some writers think they should just fling their queries at anyone...but that's when it hits the fan. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @RebekahMcClew Big Six pubs pretty much closed to approaches by non-rep'd authors. Unsolicited m/s will be ignored/tossed in bin. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL When that first contract arrived, I negotiated 17 points of it with the publisher before signing. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 20th, 2012

krisriggle @Cinnamon_Quill And it's a waste of energy! #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat What is the biggest mistake a new author can make in choosing an agent? #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @GLHancock Now I'm intrigued! What *were* you going to say??? #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Wow. RT @LaurenBaratzL: When that first contract arrived, I negotiated 17 points of it with the publisher before signing. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock better to spend months researching b4 querying #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL Will do! And they will thank you for the bookmarks! #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 20th, 2012

eilasor_irrek @maggiedana @RebekahMcClew #litchat I've also found big 6 publishers turning agents away as though they were authors. -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Adding #litchat tag. RT @AndyGarner2: @LitChat @mvw888 Or maybe 'many fewer' agents?? -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

krisriggle Sorry to tweet and run, but mundane chores beckon. *heavy, aggrieved sigh* Ciao #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew @maggiedana I don't bother with the large publishing companies, much more room to advance with smaller ones #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker @LitChat Just saying hi. Sorry I'm missing this. We just got out of the car and there's a stray cat on our landing. #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LitChat I don't know that there's a biggest, but just like marrying in haste, jumping into bed with an agent too quickly... #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Adding hashtag #litchat RT @SchwartzWriter: @litchat Geez, let's hope so! #publishing -4:47 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RebekahMcClew Many large publishing companies are not looking for authors, it's the smaller ones that are still working their way up #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LitChat The Legal Dept person at HQ said she'd never seen an author fight for so much. Me: "So I'm a bitch?" Her: "No, smart." #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RHelmsBooks @LitChat I think not being selective enough in targeting particular agents is a big mistake new authors make. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker Some agents are great. They really push books to publishers. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston If small pub can sell sub rights, get u exposure u want RT @RebekahMcClew: @maggiedana much more room to advance with smaller ones #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Thanks for stopping in. RT @krisriggle: Sorry to tweet and run, but mundane chores beckon. *heavy, aggrieved sigh* Ciao #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL OK, I'm done patting myself on the back. If you feed me, LitChat, I will stay. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker @LaurenBaratzL That's a good one. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker @LaurenBaratzL another good one #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Please stay :-D RT @LaurenBaratzL: OK, I'm done patting myself on the back. If you feed me, LitChat, I will stay. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker But often these days hearing of agents not being able to sell books and authors themselves finding independents #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: OK, Im done patting myself on the back. If you feed me, LitChat, I will stay. // Tea, wine, or cookies? #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston You asked nicely but where's the buffet??? #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @LaurenBaratzL Your back-pats are pertinent to the topic. So here, I'll throw you a steak. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL You too? I already have my cat, Severus, demanding to be fed. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @LaurenBaratzL nom this! #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston @LaurenBaratzL Oh I've got chicken stuffed with crab meat, meatballs, mac n cheese, pasta salad and lots of cake :-D #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL Another mistake: agent offers representation and author is so ecstatic she fails to ask imp questions about how agent works. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker @LaurenBaratzL Come to my house. We're ordering in once we find out whose cat it is and I've unpacked. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Research of agent is important RT @LaurenBaratzL: Another mistake: author fails to ask imp questions about how agent works. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Cinnamon_Quill You need to train the cat to feed you. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker @LaurenBaratzL Also good advice -- always look over contract with lawyer, or @LaurenBaratzL #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @LaurenBaratzL But how is someone new to the industry (ie, unagented writer) meant to know what questions to ask an agent? #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar Grrrr! Just remembered #litchat! Heading over for last few minutes. -4:53 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: @Cinnamon_Quill You need to train the cat to feed you. // More important, is the cat roadkill? #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock If agent has good Rep & track record, u don't have to worry. much #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL For those who've offered me sustenance if I stay, I'd like wine and some shrimp please. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL I can't train the cat to do anything. He only teaches himself things that he finds useful. Like turning doorknobs. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wendy_Hollands There are sites where you can learn that, like Backspace. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @Wendy_Hollands That new person to the industry needs to do due dilligence: read and research and not jump in willy-nilly. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @Wendy_Hollands same way u write. well --learn! #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @Wendy_Hollands That's where agent blogs come in handy! #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @Wendy_Hollands Just google "what to ask a literary agent" and you'll find all kinds of good advice. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana HEY! Yoyo heard that! #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

jonclinch Asked a friend if he truly liked his agent. He said, "How much can you? She's better than the last beast." #Unspokentruths #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands Long ago, I purchased a Writers Digest book, I believe it was, on how to find an agent. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana Here's a glass of plonk // RT @LaurenBaratzL: For those who've offered me sustenance if I stay, I'd like wine and some shrimp please. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat We're talking about agents. Got one? RT @TwinkleChar: Grrrr! Just remembered #litchat! Heading over for last few minutes. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @maggiedana Roadki- what?! *cries and holds kitty closer* #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @jonclinch HAHAHAHA! #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @jonclinch Ouch! That is sad. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL i. want. your. cat. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @LitChat Yes, I do have an agent. I've had her for years, and I love her. Would never dare to brave today's pub waters without one. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @wordwhacker *snort* #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LaurenBaratzL I tried to train my cats to use the toilet. It did not end well. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock has <http://t.co/Eo5J9fWP> been mentioned?@LitChat #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @maggiedana He does rock. Some are convinced Yoyo pours my wine. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @LaurenBaratzL Have done research, read blogs, started querying etc. but can't help but feel inexperienced. Such a personal thing! #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Cinnamon_Quill HA! I think it has to be an emergency. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LM_Preston Me too RT @TwinkleChar: @Wendy_Hollands Long ago, I purchased a Writers Digest book, I believe it was, on how to find an agent. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @LitChat Maybe u already talked about this, but u need to know what kind of agent you want. Shark? Hand-holder? Career planner? #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @Wendy_Hollands Hang in there. Every published author was once unpublished. #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana How to find an agent? Write a killer book followed by a killer query that makes the agent set down her coffee and pick up the phone #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @LM_Preston @TwinkleChar Yep, I have the British equivalent - Writers and Artists' Handbook, with lots of useful info. #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Like these handles. RT @TwinkleChar: but u need to know what kind of agent you want. Shark? Hand-holder? Career planner? #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands What? You feel inexperienced? Join the club! I'm 16 traditionally published books in! It's all changing ... :) #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wendy_Hollands Do yourself a favor and join here: <http://t.co/MbMCj4sB> - tell them Lauren sent you. #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

kayfey @GLHancock @WritingSpirit What r the other chats u moderate besides #writechat & #litchat?? #wannaknow -4:59 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat !!! RT @TwinkleChar What? You feel inexperienced? Join the club! Im 16 traditionally published books in! Its all changing ... :) #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL favor, not favor - the fingers are at it again! #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @TwinkleChar Inexperienced in knowing how to ask questions of an agent, yes! Otherwise no. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock best way to get good. agent same as always: referral by author #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock Lol! @kayfey #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Good and valuable comments here today, but we're continuing ALL ABOUT AGENTS on Weds and Friday. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana Agents blogs and web sites are best way to research agents. Writers' handbooks are often out-of-date. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands Seriously, there are books that cover all that. Like others said, Google can probably lead you to a list of them. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Friday's guest hosts are agents from @StonesongNYC and you'll have an hour to chat with them. Be sure to come back prepared. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wendy_Hollands Some sample Qs: What's your preferred form of communication with clients? Do you provide editorial input? #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Gint_Aras #litchat As always, fascinating stuff. -5:02 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @maggiedana Don't you think many of the questions remain universal, though? Even in older books? #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wendy_Hollands More: What publishers would you send this to? Do you work by formal contract or handshake? #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Cinnamon_Quill @LitChat NYC? Then, I must remember. I will remember. I hope I'll remember. WHY DO YOU HATE ME, MEMORY? #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Well, @kayfey, since @GLHancock isn't going to fess up... #litchat is moderated by @CarolyBurnsBass. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wendy_Hollands More: I'm also interested in writing X kind of books - is that something you can handle/would be interested in? #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 20th, 2012

JuliasBlues Not doing research on agent/agency. «@LitChat What is the biggest mistake a new author can make in choosing an agent? #litchat» -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @TwinkleChar Questions may remain universal, but current info changes. Some of these books are reprinted w/out updated info. #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock only Q I'd ask is "which part of your anatomy may i kiss?" #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL Thanks to you both. It's hard to know how personal to be I guess. I worry I'd be too business-like! #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL It's 5:06 and not only am I a pumpkin now, I'm a hungry pumpkin. #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RussellScott3 Good stuff hope to be more talkative Wed. #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @maggiedana Gottcha. Good point. #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock Phone @maggiedana #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Welcome new voices @eilasor_irre @eilasor_irre @RHelmsBook @Wendy_Hollands @keyfey @JuliasBlues. Hope to see you in chat again. #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012

RussellScott3 @JuliasBlues paying a reading fee #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @maggiedana Another reason I like you: you are so sensible. :) **holds out glass, wonders if you're pouring** #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012

Wendy_Hollands @TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL (I guess it's the tone of the questions rather than the questions themselves: those samples v. helpful) #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 20th, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass Time to pour the wine. RT @laurenbaratzl: It's 5:06 and not only am I a pumpkin now, I'm a hungry pumpkin. #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands You can't be too business-like today. Too much at stake. Hard questions are good. #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL Reminder to interested parties: My epub experience: <http://t.co/WaPYasYN> #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands But you also wouldn't want to work with someone with whom you can't communicate well. A little chatty is good. #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock sorry -forgot yr name ... no, thot she joked. @LitChat #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana @LaurenBaratzL Good thing you reminded this old and tired brain ... am going to take a look now. #litchat -5:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012

TwinkleChar @Wendy_Hollands @LaurenBaratzL offered great ideas! #litchat -5:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @TwinkleChar Oh, @maggiedana is always pouring. #litchat -5:08 PM Feb 20th, 2012

PickMyBran I meant not using an agent at all. #Litchat -5:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @TwinkleChar: Another reason I like you: you are so sensible. :) **holds out glass, wonders if youre pouring** //yup #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL Gotta rin, LitChat! Thanks for a fun hour! #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012

rachelhwrites @LM_Preston What's your best tip for authors currently querying agents? #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 20th, 2012

maggiedana RT @LaurenBaratzL: Gotta rin, LitChat! Thanks for a fun hour! // RIN? Am now cutting off your wine tube. #litchat -5:10 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat Can you talk more on Weds abt collaboration w/agent. RT @LaurenBaratzL: My epub experience: <http://t.co/9alH7Wk7> #litchat -5:10 PM Feb 20th, 2012

wordwhacker Oh, well, @LitChat. Husband decided it was ideal time to change bulbs in bathroom ceiling fixtures. Transcript? #litchat -5:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012

GLHancock @PickMyBran how wd you get ms read, sold? #litchat -5:11 PM Feb 20th, 2012

LitChat @rachelhwrites Review today's #litchat feed, then come back on Weds w/more specific questions, plus agents will be here Friday. #litchat -5:12 PM Feb 20th, 2012

WEDNESDAY: February 22, 2012

LitChat Let's begin today's chat by asking what the first thing an unpublished writer should do when seeking a literary agent. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LibrarianMarian @litchat Hi! Children's Librarian, amateur writer, currently working on getting that draft polished enough for an agent. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs Editor and Coach for writers. Teaching writers steps betw. their bk concept and publication since 1990. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

mikemjensen Hello. I'm a humble writer looking to understand yet another piece of the publishing world. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass The first thing an unpublished writer should do when seeking a literary agent is make sure her manuscript is READY TO SELL. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LitChat Here today to ck out writer's exper. w/agents, frustrations, etc. I'll offer ideas when possible. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

eilasor_irrek #litchat I write alternate history urban fantasy. I'm Australian. I am considering trying to be published in the U.S/U.K.What should I do? -4:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock Research x 5. @LitChat #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LibrarianMarian Hi there. Almost didn't recognize you. New avatar - me likey! #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

JVNLA research! target the agents most likely to respond to your work.RT @litchat: 1st unpublished writer shld do when seeking agent. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock cause so much research needed, i feel author can begin process as completing ms #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @CarolyBurnsBass: 1st thng unpublished writer shld do when seeking lit agent is make sure manuscript is READY TO SELL. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LibrarianMarian @DebraMarrs Lol, thank you! #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Practice. I do it by video taping my practice pitches RT @Madison_Woods: just seeking tips for pitching. #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LM_Preston Hi there. Where are you in the process? Finished your book? Ready to query? #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary @LM_Preston Ultimately an agent is going to make a decision based on your writing, so either works. #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LuciaAdams I write American Transgressive Fiction and have been approached by many publishers but can't find an agent for my genre. Help! #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @LM_Preston I've been doing that, and audio. Very helpful! #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock second task is to learn how to write great agent query #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat On Monday, we discussed how agent blogs help an author learn which agents may be right for ms. What other resources are out there? #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs Writers need to understand seeking agents, pitching, etc. is its own JOB. Finish novel so ur ready to go to 'work' #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat @LuciaAdams American Transgressive Fiction. Not a term one hears frequently. Can you explain to those who aren't familiar? #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

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GLHancock if you have pub interested should be no prob getting agent! @LuciaAdams #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig Any tips on writing query's? #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @LitChat I enjoy receiving Chuck Sambuchino's newsltr. (from WritersDigest) bec. intros new agents and offers g8 tips #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon #litchat I've learned more at conferences than anywhere else on where to submit and query. - 4:14 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock @DebraMarrs can't write constantly - no harm to do some reading on agents #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @LuciaAdams @LM_Preston Videoing pitches is a fab idea. What are you learning as u review them? #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @EverettMaroon Agree that: I've learned more at conferences than anywhere else on where to submit and query #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary To me the most important thing about pitching is knowing how to succinctly explain plot and what's special about the book #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Thr plural is 'queries' @RileyEmig #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @ABLiterary So right on: Ultimately an agent is going to make a decision based on your writing... #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs re: video pitch, I'm learning how uncomfortable I look and sound, and how unprepared. My goal is to become comfortable. #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Not if ur agent handles foreign rights @eilasor_irrek #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
mikemjensen Agent @Ann_Collette tweets live reactions to queries. Great insight on what she likes and what doesn't work and why. Fantastic! #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA Conferences can be great. I would hate a video pitch. It is your words on the page that count. #litchat - 4:16 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat - 4:17 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon #litchat Other writers are helpful too: they'll tell which agents were interested in what, who returned emails, etc. -4:17 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary @eilasor_irrek A lot of the time, pubs in the US or UK print a version to be sold in Australia. It's probably the same in Australia #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RozPattyWriters RT @JVNLA: Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig @GLHancock Ha, thanks! #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat RT @JVNLA: Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston Better delivery of pitch RT @DebraMarrs: @LuciaAdams Videoing pitches is a fab idea. What are you learning as u review them? #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston RT @ABLiterary Ultimately an agent is going to make a decision based on your writing, so either works. #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ChanelDolz RT @JVNLA: Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Yes -third thing to do is learn to write synopsis. @ABLiterary #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston I'm finished book, fully edited and starting to query RT @DebraMarrs: Hi there. Where are you in the process? #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary @eilasor_irrek In other words, if you have an Australian agent, you probably can't have a US or UK agent. #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock 8-) @RileyEmig #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @JVNLA I'm much more confident on paper than when trying to record my pitch, but they aren't to send but to practice. #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon #litchat It's hard for new writers to know when a ms really is ready. Writers, find a writer mentor. Make friends with editors, assists, etc -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods Good to get jitters behind you by practicing, isn't it? #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
CarolyBurnsBass I've known many writers who had killer queries, but didn't get agent b/c ms was not ready. *points finger at self* #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary RT @JVNLA: Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston It's tricky to put entire book into itty bity Synopsis RT @GLHancock: Yes -third thing - learn to write synopsis. @ABLiterary #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig What should I look for before signing up for a conference? #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs exactly! #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @CarolyBurnsBass What did you discover you needed to do to better novel? #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock you can have multiple agents - some don't handle all rights; some specialize #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon #litchat Definitely conferences' mileage may vary. I started with smaller, regional conference, am moving toward genre-specific. -4:21 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Q fm @RileyEmig: Are all conferences about the same, or are some better than others? #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston I want face time with agent. Also nice if they read my query prior to pitch RT @RileyEmig: are some better than others? #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
eilasor_irrek @ABLiterary Hmm. Tricky then as each country and House has diff submissions requirements and demands. We also don't have contacts. #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock @LM_Preston synopsis can be harder to do than ms! #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston There are several great online pitch contest, submission areas that have seen success for writers #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LibrarianMarian @SaraMegibow also will tweet reactions to queries on Thursdays #10queries10tweets. It's excellent insight #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @LM_Preston Congrats on completing your novel. Plans to attend any conferences in near future? #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary #litchat The other nice thing about conferences is that the agent might tell you what's off about your idea. Then u can fix it b4 u send it -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon @RileyEmig #litchat Look for which agents are attending; what you get w/membership, subjects of the workshops if they fit w/your work & cost -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig @LM_Preston can you get face time with an agent at a conference? #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

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CarolyBurnsBass Best writer's conference I've attended is the annual Backspace (@bksp_org) in NYC. Always face time w/ writers & agents. #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Actually as a writer only one and I'm a conference coordinator that is recruiting agents/editors for it RT @DebraMarrs #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

WordsmithyMedia RT @LitChat: RT @JVNLA: Never send out a manuscript until it is the best it can be because you usually only get one chance #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Yes, you pay for a session and the proceeds goes to the sponsoring organization RT @RileyEmig: can you get face time with an agent #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig okay, so it sounds like the goal at the conference is to make contact with the agents. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock if u write a murder mystery, don't forget to tell whodunit in synopsis #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass True test of how well you know your story. RT @gl Hancock: @LM_Preston synopsis can be harder to do than ms! #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Oh yes, can be tricky RT @GLHancock: if u write a murder mystery, don't forget to tell whodunit in synopsis #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig @GLHancock Good to know, I wrote about a murder but the reader knows who the murderer is. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @ABLiterary that would be wonderful feedback. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

eilasor_irrek #litchat Advice on submitting in the US? Ideas on who I should approach re urban fantasy that is accepting manuscripts? Heard big 6 aren't. -4:25 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock agents do not appear at all cons - choose con w/care. @RileyEmig #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LM_Preston Lovely! That should get you an inside track as recruiter of agents/editors #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig If I find an agent who represents writers whose writing is similar to my own. Will they list the conferences they attend on web? #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat What are the elements of a good query letter? What should a writer not include in a query? #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary Sometimes I've listened to pitches that sound so rehearsed that they don't sound natural. Don't pitch your memorized query letter #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock @eilasor_irrek sounds as if ur confusing agents and publishers #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat Sometimes. Also read their blog. RT @RileyEmig: ...agents... Will they list the conferences they attend on web? #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston It helps me to understand how hard their job is RT @DebraMarrs: Lovely! #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CassBlakeman Is Winchester the best UK conference as far as F2F time with agents are concerned? #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

EverettMaroon @LitChat #litchat Never include apologies, that your book is just like Eat, Pray, Love, or that you know there's a 7-book series here. -4:28 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @ABLiterary more conversational in tone is better? LOL, I would hate to be so busy thinking of my 'lines' that I couldn't answer q's. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LM_Preston Yes, interesting to get the insider p.o.v. on agents/editors work #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass When writing a #query, don't tell agent your book is the next DA VINCI CODE or you're the next Stephen King. #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston What about voice in your synopsis? Is that important? #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

carlywatters @litchat Good query: articulate, to the point, appropriate word count, good hook, short but strong bio, follow guideline, spelling. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

JVNLA Don't bury the description of your book in your query. This should be front and center. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary A pitch is like a job interview. If you spew out a memorized answer in an interview it can sound unnatural and be a turn off. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @JVNLA So good to have you here participating in #litchat. Posting excellent tips -4:31 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass When writing a #query, don't say how great Johnny Depp would be in role of your protag. Sounds presumptuous, arrogant and nuts. #litchat. -4:31 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

sthompsonauthor RT @JVNLA: Don't bury the description of your book in your query. This should be front and center. #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

EverettMaroon There are a ton of great query letter tip books and blogs out there. Find the commonalities, write to the middle. #litchat (1of2) -4:32 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @CarolyBurnsBass: When writing a #query, don't tell agent your book is the next DA VINCI CODE or you're the next Stephen King. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary @Madison_Woods I think so. Agents at the conference I went to said the same. The important thing is to be clear & succinct. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

EverettMaroon #litchat Start with word count, title, genre, why you want to work with this agent. Then logline, synopsis, publishing creds, & contact info. -4:32 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @JVNLA: Dont bury the description of your book in your query. This should be front and center. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat Q fm @LM_Preston: What about voice in your synopsis? Is that important? #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig So your query should contain an introduction of yourself and then provide a synopsis of your book - anything else? #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston @RileyEmig Great places to get help with query is absolutewrite . com / forums in the Query Hell section. They'll whip it to shape #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary Absolutely! Your voice is what sets your book apart. @LM_Preston What about voice in your synopsis? Is that important? #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods Should I introduce myself by my pen name or real name, or does it matter? What about in queries? Sign off with pen or real? #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

EverettMaroon @LitChat @LM_Preston #litchat Yes & no. The synopsis should show the ms's voice. The rest should be business writing. -4:35 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock @LuciaAdams @LuciaAdams Do you tell them that X publisher is interested in your work? Have you asked pubs to recommend agents? #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

JVNLA @Madison_Woods That is an interesting method. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig I have written a book and I'm not quite sure if the audience is YA or adults. Will an agent be able to sort that out? #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston What means more? The story or your experience as a writer? #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

JVNLA @DebraMarrs It is my pleasure. I know how hard it is to navigate the Agent world for authors. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
EverettMaroon #litchat Got to run, folks, but thanks for the chat! Great topic today. -4:37 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar YIKES! #litchat! NOW! -4:37 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA @RileyEmig You are better off doing your research first by reading both YA & Adult books #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Thanks for stopping in. RT @EverettMaroon: #litchat Got to run, folks, but thanks for the chat! Great topic today. #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig @EverettMaroon Thanks for advice!! #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @JVNLA Yeah, me too. Wish it wasn't so difficult. @LitChat is such gr8 resource for helpfulness #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock @Madison_Woods Which name do you want to receive the paychecks? #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary @Madison_Woods Sometimes authors explain they're writing under a pen name and sign off w/ their real name. Just be clear about it. #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @JVNLA not sure I'll ever like being on camera, but it's helping with the discomfort. I have what feels like stage fright. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
carlywatters @madison_woods I suggest real name as if an agent calls and asks for your pen name, we won't find you ;) #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA @LM_Preston Story is what we all will end up plunging in to. Your story, while important is not key unless it is for Non Fiction #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Finding an agent is not tricky, just takes lots of time and a little luck. Both mandatory. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @EverettMaroon Enjoyed your input today in #litchat. Excellent tips and points made #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @GLHancock real. I've done what @ABLiterary suggested for short stories w/no problem. Just wondered how to handle live interaction. #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary I'd say the story and the writing. @LM_Preston What means more? The story or your experience as a writer? #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @carlywatters excellent point! #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods Consider going to Toastmasters or joining a speaking club to get over stage fright/public speaking #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Queries are not complicated - only 3 elements needed, plus the personalization which is what take so much time in research. #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LuciaAdams I wrote my 4th book in 10 days. The unedited draft got 5 full requests from major & small publishers. Do I mention this in a query? #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston @ABLiterary @JVNLA I always wondered if a multi-pubbed author trying out a new genre or a newbie with a great story which would win #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock If you don't know what personalizing a query to an agent means, it takes more than a tweet or two to explain. Why I wrote epub! #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea @LuciaAdams Be very careful with this. You only have one shot at the agent and if they read the 1st draft? You might regret it. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA @LuciaAdams Not unless you have an offer #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @LM_Preston Definitely writing means more. The story/ability to write what's being purchased as #1; then ur ability to help sell it #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea @LuciaAdams You don't want to burn any bridges. Just saying...#litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston I 2nd that! RT @ixtumea: @LuciaAdams You only have one shot at the agent and if they read the 1st draft? You might regret it. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs that's a good idea. I'll have to see if we have any near here. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea @LM_Preston I know from experience. Still kicking self for some 'dumb' things I did. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat @LuciaAdams Where did they hear about it to request, if not a query? #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Remember that a query letter (even email) is a business letter. Pseudonyms seldom write business letters. It's so fake! #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs Many authors overlook necessity to build visibility & platform as part of pub process #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston Girl we've all done that RT @ixtumea: I know from experience. Still kicking self for some 'dumb' things I did. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea @LM_Preston And one of my dream agents got my story before it was done and passed. **Head thump. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs Not sure that is 100% true these days. You gotta prove you can sell, sometimes before landing an agent. Expected, no? #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA @LM_Preston The great story wins #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @DebraMarrs: Many authors overlook necessity to build visibility & platform as part of pub process #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock @LitChat Good question - and why not follow up with publishers??? #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs I ask author prospects 'do you have 100 ppl who will buy+read+talk abt ur book' If not, get going on creating a list of 100 #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston RT @DebraMarrs: I ask author prospects 'do you have 100 ppl who will buy+read+talk abt ur book' #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA With non-fiction - already having your followers in place is crucial #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs how long does it take from scratch to get to that point of finding 100 potential sales? #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @JVNLA @LM_Preston So agree: The great story wins. I'll add PLUS fine crafting #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ABLiterary @LM_Preston It depends on how good that multi-pubbed author's books have sold, and how different the new genre is. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea What I've learned is if get antsy to send out a project before it's done I email writer friend to help stop me. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs Recently heard an agent say some publishers now expect near promise from author they can sell 5000 copies on their own. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
JVNLA Got to go. I wish you all the best of luck in finding your perfect match! NB if an agent passes, then that agent is not for you. #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Topic of the Week:

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www.litchat.net

ixtumea Before me it takes fine tuning on your novel before it's ready. Yes, some can pitch an idea but they have agents. Others, no. #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs Not always true, you need big platform, but def more important to be networked with readers, I think. Agree? #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Is a Sub rights Agent different than a Lit Agent in audience, pitch style delivery? #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig Is there an online directory of agents listed by genre? #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ixtumea Jeez, that's believe me..#litchat -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

eilasor_irrek #litchat So should I take it from all the hope and activity everyone has that the US publisher are printing lots of new authors? -4:47 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @TwinkleChar I'm not at all surprised abt that statistic. Most writers can't come up with 100 - it's gotta start there #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @JVNLA thanks for offering advice today! #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary @TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs If you're writing nonfiction it's much more than that. I haven't heard a number quoted for fiction. #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs Excellent advice. It's gotta start. #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs Even when pub'd, word of mouth and handselling will be key. You must be well-networked to have success. Start now #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat @LM_Preston You don't need a sub-rights agent until your book is published. Your agent will work with the sub-rights agent. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock Writing fiction and getting it traditionally published is a loooong and involved process. Don't look for short cuts. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods RT @DebraMarrs: Even when pubd, word of mouth and handselling will be key. You must be well-networked to have success. Start now #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat @JVNLA Thank you so much for your help and insights today. Really appreciate you stopping in. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs #litchat is a gr8 place to begin requisite networking. Building a following of folks who will champion your book when pub'd #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston RT @LitChat: You don't need a sub-rights agent until your book is published. Your agent will work with the sub-rights agent. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ixtumea @LuciaAdams Don't send it out!! Yes, revisions are painful but are a necessary part of pubbing. How I wish I'd done that. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston I Ditto that RT @ixtumea: @LuciaAdams Don't send it out!! Yes, revisions are painful but are a necessary part of pubbing. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LuciaAdams RT @DebraMarrs: Even when pub'd, word of mouth and handselling will be key. You must be well-networked to have success. Start now #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

TwinkleChar @ABLiterary Agreed on the nonfiction and MUCH higher numbers. I've published both. No cake walk these days! #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat <http://t.co/9KIZm1Ss> or <http://t.co/XBmpoaxP>. RT @RileyEmig: Is there an online directory of agents listed by genre? #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ixtumea @LuciaAdams My first bk got lots of interest after I finished draft one. My mistake was thinking it needed to go out...NOW. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary @LM_Preston Sub-agents do film, foreign, audio rights etc. You shouldn't pitch a sub-agent. Most agents work w/ sub-agents. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Topic of the Week:

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www.litchat.net

GLHancock The best way to get an agent still is the old way - a referral by one of the agent's author/client. Network, network, network! #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs From an insider. Don't send anything but pluperfect ms to agent. Will ruin future reputation and potential. Edit closely #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LM_Preston RT @GLHancock: The best way to get an agent still is the old way - a referral by one of the agent's author/client. Network! #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig @LitChat great, thank you!! #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Adding hashtag. RT @Lucia Adams I had the rough draft posted on a few websites and they contacted me via email. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock Sorry, but there is no one directory in print or online that lists all agents by genre. Some (best) agents listed nowhere! #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
CarolyBurnsBass Same here. #litchat RT @ixtumea: @LuciaAdams My first bk got lots of interest after I finished draft one. My mistake was thinking it... -4:53 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @ABLiterary @TwinkleChar Sadly, fiction authors skip what non-fiction writers know. Must be able to link bk to buyers on ur own 2 #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @GLHancock Agree: The best way to get an agent still is the old way - a referral by one of the agent's author/client #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat @LuciaAdam Suggest when querying agents, don't mention ATF, instead call it literary fiction. More doors will open. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar @DebraMarrs You betcha. Some thing getting traditionally published vs. self pub means you don't have to sell. Quite opposite. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
RileyEmig @GLHancock In other words, get my sneakers on because I'll be pounding the pavement. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @GLHancock I have that referral in place, waiting until my ms is polished. I still want it to be as perfect as I can manage. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs Caution: "notice" by potential agent doesn't mean send me bad drafts. Bow out til ms is pluperfect. Better to wait than be sorry #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar @LitChat If you call it literary fiction, that's what it better be. :) #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods @GLHancock Good for you! Recognizing that ms is not ready yet. Honors that referral's connection too #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Agents following convo: What are YOU looking for? How can a writer improve chances with YOU. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea @DebraMarrs Yes, exactly. I'm finding that just having 'interest' really means nada if your story isn't finished. ...#litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
GLHancock @RileyEmig Ha ha! Hardly. Start w/WD book of agents and/or online subscription, work your networks - Internet makes it go faster. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
ixtumea First drafts are called sh**y drafts for a reason. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @LitChat: Agents following convo: What are YOU looking for? How can a writer improve chances with YOU. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @TwinkleChar Amen, sistah! RT: @LitChat If you call it literary fiction, thats what it better be. :) #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat American Transgressive Fiction is literary.RT @TwinkleChar: @LitChat If you call it literary fiction, thats what it better be. :) #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @LitChat: Agents following convo: What are YOU looking for? How can a writer improve chances with YOU. #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LuciaAdams @LitChat @LuciaAdam Thanks, I will try that. #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig @GLHancock I think I just dated myself with that saying - internet = less wear and tear on the Asics. #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods RE: how long to get to 100? You need to know that many peeps personally who will tell others who tell others #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

carlywatters A talented writer. Follows website guidelines to query. Knows their stuff and the industry. Wants not only to get a deal but thrive #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass There is a heady feeling when finishing a first draft. We want people to read it NOW! Make it your trusted circle of beta readers. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods When I say 'personally' that includes ur network of internet friends such as in #litchat etc. -5:00 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs so a small-town gal is going to have a tough time with that. Big cities offer more exposure to groups of like minds. #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

RileyEmig Got to run - thank you all so much for your time and advice - very helpful. #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs ah-ha! THAT I think I have done ;) #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

GLHancock "Agents for Authors" not only helpful #epub I have in my Amazon store at <http://t.co/8p9x0LkS> - help ourselves! #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat We're at the end of the scheduled hour, but please continue as long as you wish. Great convo today. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods Become highly visible 2 potential readers. Share writing tips. Info abt the craft. What you are learning/know #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary I'm looking for relatable, realistic characters, writing that pulls me into their world, and tension that keeps me turning the pgs #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @CarolyBurnsBass So agree: Beta readers must be vetted. Trusted. Ppl who will be ruthless in helping u perfect #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs I have very good following on my blog, and we do a lot of talking to each other on it. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LM_Preston Thanks for this RT @GLHancock: "Agents for Authors" helpful #epub at <http://t.co/991OabNs> - help ourselves! #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

carlywatters I'm out. Thanks, @litchat. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @LitChat: Were at the end of the scheduled hour, but please continue as long as you wish. Great convo today. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

ABLiterary @Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs That's what Twitter, blogging, social media is for. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Memor_Author RT @DebraMarrs: RT @LitChat: Were at the end of the scheduled hour, but please continue as long as you wish. Great convo today. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Memor_Author RT @LitChat: We're at the end of the scheduled hour, but please continue as long as you wish. Great convo today. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

Madison_Woods @ABLiterary yes, I'm good there. I was afraid she meant 'personally' personal. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods Excellent. Blog great place to start. Want to post your URL? #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 22nd, 2012

LitChat Want to shout out special thanks to the agents who stopped in today: @JVNLA @ABLiterary @carlywatters @WordsmithyMedia. THANK YOU! #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs I'd be happy: http://t.co/j6tt2v8g :) Thanks! #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Be sure to return on Friday when agents from @StonesongNYC will be here to take your questions. #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods 'being good there' ok but ask will they buy? Even if u aren't traditionally pub'd? That's the Q of the day :) #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
DebraMarrs RT: @LitChat Shout out special thx 2 agents who stopped in today: @JVNLA @ABLiterary @carlywatters @WordsmithyMedia. THANK YOU! #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
LitChat Welcome new voices in #litchat: @wordsmithymedia @RileyEmig @carlywatters @LuciaAdams @KristiHelvig @CassBlakeman. Swing by again soon. -5:07 PM Feb 22nd, 2012
FRIDAY: February 24, 2012
With guest hosts @StonesongNYC team @AlisonFargis, @Escordado & @Emmanuelle15
LitChat Welcome to Friday's #litchat. Today we have @EScordato @emmanuelle15 and @AlisonFargis from @StonesongNYC taking your questions. -4:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Hi! #litchat how exciting! -4:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JSLion #litchat HI everyone. -4:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 Hi @litchat, thank you for hosting us! #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat The savvy @StonesongNYC agency offers traditional literary representation as well as custom book services for the trade. #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato hi! thanks for hosting us. look forward to talking about producing beautiful books! #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 What time is it in Japan, lol? #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar Welcome agents. We appreciate your bravery. :) #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis Hi @LitChat! Thanks for hosting. Looking forward to the next hour. #litchat -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 Hello, everyone and @litchat. Excited for today's #litchat. -4:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat While everyone is gathering, please introduce yourself to the @StonesongNYC agents and tell us about your writing & interests. #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SPassick My company rocks! Go #stonesongNYC #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Hi, I'm LM Preston and I write MG and YA have several books out and still love writing :-D #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
dosankodebbie @LitChat @CarolyBurnsBass Hi, I'm half in and half out, but I will be clinging to this discussion as closely as I can. #litchat -4:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JSLion #litchat Hi @stonesongNYC, Jonathan here. Aspiring poet. -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @TwinkleChar Thank you! #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 Hi @StonesongNYC. I'm Sara. I write YA and women's fiction and non-fiction. #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell Hey #litchat! Fantasy author, pausing editing a novel to drop in for the hour. Looking forward to the agent chat. -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
dosankodebbie @Emmanuelle15 It's just past 6 AM in Japan. I've been up for an hour or more, though. :) #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey Hi I'm Samantha Kymmell-Harvey, I write YA gothic and have had some short stories published #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

TwinkleChar 16-time traditionally published agented author here. Interested in all things related to the crazy world called today's publishing. #litchat -4:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Madison_Woods I'm Madison and I write speculative fiction, one book in polishing phase and more on the back burner when this one's done. #litchat -4:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 Hi, @samill1, I'm always looking for YA and women's fiction. :) #litchat -4:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JLichtenberg RT @BookBundlz: #Writers looking for #book agents, don't miss today's #litchat convo 4-5 pmET @StonesongNYC the guest. @#amwriting via @twinklechar -4:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe marc nash too radical for UK agents (apparently) :-) #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston Hello @Emmanuelle15 it's L Preston from MWA funny meeting you here! And excited to be at the chat #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

mikemjensen I'm Mike. Writing a Utah western, based on a local, very popular historical figure. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JLyetGassman @StonesongNYC Welcome! I write literary fiction. Will be in and out. Grading English papers. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

samill1 Good to hear @Emmanuelle15. I'm polishing my latest YA novel write now. Hoping to have it ready for submissions next month. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @SKymmellHarvey YA gothic definitely interest me! #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

dosankodebbie Hi. I'm a literary translator living in northern Japan. #litchat -4:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat Let's get the convo rolling by some background about @StonesongNYC. Can you tell us more about the agency and its divisions? #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston Nice to "see" you again! #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 24th, 2012

TwinkleChar RT @dosankodebbie: Hi. Im a literary translator living in northern Japan.//Fascinating stuff. Fascinating. #litchat -4:06 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 @LitChat #litchat Hi I'm Russell Scott (Anderson) I've written screenplays, a monthly literary column, and a couple novels. -4:06 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LitChat We started out as an imprint of Grosset back in the 70s and became a book packager in 1978. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SandiBJones Hi, #litchat. I'm a HS librarian, historical romance and gothic YA writer. -4:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SKymmellHarvey @AlisonFargis Thanks!! I love writing it but sometimes it seems hard to place. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Tamstarz Hi all! I'm Tameka & I write multicultural fiction that delves into topical social issues. My current work deals with adoption. #litchat -4:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LitChat @escordato and I bought the company in 2002 and began agenting as well as packaging. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat @RussellScott3 You are also a practicing physician, right? #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LitChat Now about 80% of our titles are agented and the remainder packaged. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

whateversusan Hey, I'm Susan Jane Bigelow, I write SF for small press. Don't have an agent, curious to learn about. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LuciaAdams @LuciaAdams @LitChat @StonesongNYC #LitChat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JulieBritt Oops. I'm late. I write fiction. Hey, y'all. #litchat -4:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 @LitChat #litchat Yes I'm an oncologist and a former Navy diver. -4:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

February 20-24, 2012

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EScordato one dept of @stonesongnyc does design & production for books under contract with publishers, who come to us cuz for great design. #litchat -4:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL I'm late but I have candy so that should count for something. 23 pubbed books into my career, I write a little of everything. #LitChat -4:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 @EScordato, I'm a sucker for a well-designed book. It makes all the difference in my purchasing decisions #litchat What a great concept. -4:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL **holds out hand, hopes for chocolate** #litchat -4:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams Hello, @LitChat and @StonesongNYC. I'm Lucia, I write Transgressive Fiction, Literary Fiction, YA Fantasy, and NonFiction. #LitChat -4:11 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @EScordato @stonesongnyc Do these publishers typically not have in-house design? Or simply prefer yours for aesthetics/costs? #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato one dept of @stonesongnyc helps authors prepare their books for ebook publication, if they want that #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @samill1 We're known for creating beautiful books that's why publishers come to us for titles like Daring Book for Girls series. #litchat -4:11 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @TwinkleChar Peanut-butter cup, mint patty, Hershey's kiss? Take your pick. Got sugar-free too. And wine! #LitChat -4:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @SPassick #litchat I like your enthusiasm. -4:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @wiswell Sometimes they prefer ours, sometimes they need things done more quickly than can be done in-house. #litchat -4:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Does agents prefer authors that can produce more than one book a year? #litchat or does it matter? -4:13 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat We've been discussing how to find the right agent this week. What advice can you give us for what you're actively seeking? #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @AlisonFargis do you envision the high design book as an artifact as against the downloadable 'non-materiality' of an e-book? #litchat -4:13 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar @LaurenBaratzL **chooses libation, mint patty** Thanks! #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston I've never seen an agent say no to either approach so long as the writing's good. #LitChat -4:14 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston It depends on the genre. For commercial fiction, yes. But quality over quantity is always best. :) #litchat -4:14 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JillEdmondson #litchat Online book promotion: Crunching the numbers http://t.co/kTqzKcm0 -4:14 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Have you ever seen an agent push for one approach, though? #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @21stCscribe No, I don't think of it as an artifact. it's just a different choice #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston @Scorpedo @Emmanuelle15 @LaurenBaratzL @joshuabigger That's good to know. Thanks! #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey Are there genres that are more desired than others these days? #litchat -4:15 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat I rep cookbooks, how-to & MG, YA & adult fiction. Web site tells more #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

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Tamstarz @stonesongnyc Does an author have to be previously published to come to you for design or e-book services? #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @Emmanuelle15 do agents/publishers still have room 4 non-commercial writers they believe in? Does art have any role in today's lit? #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LitChat We post our interests on our website too. :) #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DoggieDog RT @LitChat: Welcome to Friday's #litchat. Today we have @EScordato @Emmanuelle15 and @AlisonFargis from @StonesongNYC taking your questions. -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @LitChat: We've been discussing how 2 find the right agent this wk. What advice can you give us for what you're actively seeking? #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @EScordato so you don't see it as a possible niche antidote to e-books? #litchat -4:16 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SPassick check out the website, re-designed and gives a great picture of who we are #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LuciaAdams #LitChat @StonesongNYC Are authors who write in multiple genres more appealing to agents, or is it better to establish oneself in one genre? -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

thequeenswife RT @LitChat: Welcome to Friday's #litchat. Today we have @EScordato @Emmanuelle15 and @AlisonFargis from @StonesongNYC taking your questions. -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston Where do agents get their authors? Conferences? and Query Letters only? What other places can authors get their stuff to agents #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

EScordato @tamstarz No, not at all. We've worked with first-time authors and organizations many times. We really spend time with our clients. #litchat -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Wiswell I have not. Sometimes I have one book a year. Last year, I had 7 pub dates including paperback rereleases. #LitChat -4:17 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 I'm looking for adult and children's fiction, and narrative nonfiction in the areas of psychology, pop science, and memoir #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @21stCscribe I don't think 4C illustrated non-fiction is going away any time soon. #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

samill1 Great questions @LM_Preston. I'm curious too. #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston Queries, conferences, and connections are best. #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @AlisonFargis I meant illustrated/design/typographical fiction #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston @samill1 Thanks :-D I've got lots #litchat -4:18 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Madison_Woods Is 'speculative fiction' considered an actual genre, or do you prefer a specific name like 'fantasy' or 'scifi' in pitches/query? #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 24th, 2012

EScordato @21stCscribe, no I don't think 4/c illustrated, beautifully printed books are a niche any more than any other great products are. #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LM_Preston All of the above. Many authors find me through acknowledgements in my authors' books. #litchat -4:19 PM Feb 24th, 2012

TwinkleChar RT @AlisonFargis: @LM_Preston All of the above. Many authors find me through acknowledgements in my authors' books. #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 24th, 2012

EScordato @21stCscribe Ah, illustrated/design/typographical fiction will soon look a LOT better on e-readers. Just did an EPUB 3.0 conference #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

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AlisonFargis Apologies if any questions are falling through the cracks! #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 24th, 2012
deadlyletters #litchat Hey mystery writers: I'm wondering about weapons http://t.co/YwPqG7QG -4:20 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey RT @AlisonFargis: @LM_Preston All of the above. Many authors find me through acknowledgements in my authors books. #litchat -4:20 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @EScordato sorry not expressing myself well, not niche, but offering antidote to those who don't necessarily like e-readers #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Tamstarz @EScordato This is good to know, thank you! #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Madison_Woods Yes, you can use that term. I consider it an umbrella term that incorporates SFF, paranormal, magical realism, etc #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 RT @AlisonFargis: @LM_Preston All of the above. Many authors find me through acknowledgements in my authors' books. #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat You surely get dozens of query letters daily. What sets the good ones apart from the rest of them? #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @EScordato really? Could you give an indication? #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs RT @AlisonFargis: @LM_Preston All of the above. Many authors find me through acknowledgements in my authors books. #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston How do you read through all the tons of query letters you get? What makes one stand out? #litchat -4:21 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods @Emmanuelle15 great, because what I write is a blend of a few and it's easier to call it that. Thanks. #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston @DebraMarrs @SKymmellHarvey @TwinkleChar @AlisonFargis @Emmanuelle15 Thanks for answering that good to know #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey When responding to a query with a rejection, do you give pointers to the authors as to what they need to improve? #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
deadlyletters #litchat Authors should cultivate good relationships with libraries. Here's why: http://t.co/BWCvIcq2 -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @deadlyletters #litchat I can probably help with that later. -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs RT @Emmanuelle15: looking for adult and childrens fiction, narrative nonfiction in the areas of psychology, pop science, memoir #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @21stCscribe Why do you express it as "antidote" rather than "alternative"? @EScordato #litchat -4:22 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @21stCscribe Ah yes, if someone doesn't like e-readers, they will buy print. Some buyers now buy both: print 4 home, ebook 4 travel #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt @AlisonFargis LOL. We move fast. #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat A well-polished query letter that does not rehash the entire plot works. #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
ShibaGracie Joining late -- Jeanne Ketterer from Chapel Hill. #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston ALA and PLA events too RT @deadlyletters: #litchat Authors should cultivate good relationships with libraries. http://t.co/UcfogMNL -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat Practice your pitch verbally with people to make sure it's crystal clear. #litchat -4:23 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @AlisonFargis: @LitChat A well-polished query letter that does not rehash the entire plot works. // #amwriting how to get agent #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

samill1 @ESCordato I agree. I but both formats. It usually depends on the genre of the work or how much I love the author. #LitChat @21stCscribe -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @SKymmellHarvey We each receive 20-30 queries a day, so responding to each one in that way isn't possible. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @Wiswell because it's not just paper books, but high end designed paper books. An artifact in itself #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LM_Preston A well-written query letter is essential plus spelling my name correctly is a bonus. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Wiswell @AlisonFargis What do you find to be the best elements of polish in a query? Easily quotable? Full of teases? @LitChat #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 RT @AlisonFargis: @LitChat A well-polished query letter that does not rehash the entire plot works. #litchat -4:24 PM Feb 24th, 2012

ESCordato @21stCscribe We are finding diff formats appeal to diff types of readers. Very soon the tech won't be a barrier to design. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Tamstarz @Emmanuelle15 Can you break down the adult fiction category a bit more for us? #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat Hey you! Today I'm at MickyDs in Chapel Hill (15-501). RT @ShibaGracie: Joining late -- Jeanne Ketterer from Chapel Hill. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @ESCordato I'm thinking something like Foer's book "Tree Of Codes" #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston How do you split your time with finding new authors, selling current authors, and maintaining business of long-term authors #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

deadlyletters #litchat What I've gained from doing online book promotion <http://t.co/CRMAT6vL> -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SKymmellHarvey @Emmanuelle15 Thanks for your answer. That definitely makes sense! #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LuciaAdams Writing in multiple genres isn't required. It depends on where your skills lie and what you want to be writing. #litchat -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

deadlyletters RT @LM_Preston: ALA and PLA events too RT @deadlyletters: #litchat Authors should cultivate good relationships with libraries. <http://t.co/UcfogMNL> -4:25 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LizEnslin Joining late. I'm finishing up memoir on Nepal and eager to learn about pub industry. #litchat #litchat -4:26 PM Feb 24th, 2012

TwinkleChar RT @Wiswell: @AlisonFargis What do you find to be the best elements of polish in a query? Easily quotable? Full of teases?//Smart Q #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @SKymmellHarvey Most of the queries I see are for projects that aren't ready to be sold. I'm a big believer in readiness. #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @Wiswell A connection to what I rep for one, a compelling pitch and a great bio are all good components. #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 24th, 2012

ShibaGracie What are you not looking for? #litchat -4:27 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @TwinkleChar Great query letters describe a book in a way that makes you want to pay to read it. :) #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat While #litchat is underway, we appreciate if you don't use the hashtag unless you are contributing to topic convo. (@deadlyletters., thanks) -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SKymmellHarvey @Emmanuelle15 What steps can writers take to better ready their projects? #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @LM_Preston Excellent question. We work ALL THE TIME. Seriously. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @21stCscribe I agree! the book as beautiful object will continue to exist. In fact, the really beautiful ones will thrive. #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @deadlyletters #litchat are you actually here or being accidentally disruptive? -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh #LITCHAT i almost forgot. I can't wait to learn. I write YA and Romace -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar @AlisonFargis What makes for a "great bio"? Platform? #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat @AlisonFargis When you say a great bio, what are you looking for? Education, experience, platform, etc? #litchat -4:28 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @TwinkleChar If you write a great query, those sentences may end up on jacket and back-cover copy. :) #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @ShibaGracie Picture books and genre fiction. #litchat -4:29 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL RT @Emmanuelle15: @TwinkleChar Great query letters describe a book in a way that makes you want to pay to read it. :) #LitChat -4:29 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey RT @Emmanuelle15: @TwinkleChar Great query letters describe a book in a way that makes you want to pay to read it. :) #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat Depends if it's non fiction or fiction. YES to platform for nf but awards, previous books, MFA, etc for fiction #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams @Emmanuelle15 Thank you for the reply. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
ShibaGracie @AlisonFargis Thank you! #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Tamstarz @EScordato What in your opinion is the next "literary trend" & as an agency are you into these trends? #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @Emmanuelle15: @TwinkleChar Great query letters describe a book in a way that makes you want to pay to read it. :)//#amwriting #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @ShibaGracie I'm not looking for poetry, picture books, cozy mysteries, or how-tos. #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Should an author query book even if they think the trend for that type of book is over? ie: Vamps, Love triangles or Dystopian #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @AlisonFargis that's so different to UK where very little MFA or Awards... #litchat -4:30 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @AlisonFargis What do you see as the big appeals for bio details in marketing adult fiction? Any notable cases in marketing? #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Tamstarz Trends change all the time and I try not to chase them. :) #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @TwinkleChar Yes for non fiction. Fiction not so much but education, awards, previously published articles or books helps. #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey @LM_Preston I'm wondering the same thing since I write steampunk and I hear that is trending downwards #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Nothing is ever completely over. There will always be room for one more if the writing is solid and the premise fresh. #LitChat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @AlisonFargis And no poetry either. #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs RT @Emmanuelle15 Most of the queries I see are for projects that arent ready to be sold. Im a big believer in readiness. #litchat -4:31 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston The standard gets very high for books in the tail end of a trend. It has to be spectacular. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston @SKymmellHarvey I personally think readers are loyal to what they like. I still hunt for vampire books, shows etc #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @Wiswell Bios are less important in fiction. They can be short. Any interesting detail will do. #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods How important to you is author 'visibility' at the time you sign them? Will they have time to build platform later? (fiction) #litchat -4:32 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @Emmanuelle15 Are there any key elements to readiness, in your experience? #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JLyetGassman #litchat When you talk about awards, what are ur thoughts about residencies? Ragdale? Yaddo? Grants? -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @DebraMarrs @Emmanuelle15 Like Hamlet said, the preparedness is all. #LitChat -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh #litchat Is it difficult to get in with a book packager as an author? -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @Tamstarz yes, @Emmanuelle15 is right on target, we don't chase trends. We do know what editors are buying, which is different #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 @Madison_Woods It's never too late to build your platform. The process might lead you to connections that will help you sign. #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @Madison_Woods A platform with fiction is not key for me. #litchat -4:33 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Madison_Woods It's less important for fiction, and yes, there is time to build that in the year or two it takes to publish. #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 @Madison_Woods I meant "too early" Sorry phone was distracting me. #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @JLyetGassman Those are great for literary fiction. #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods @samill1 never too early? #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat @Emmanuelle15 When you say queries for projects not ready to be sold, do you determine from the query or from reading the ms? #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @JLyetGassman Yes, all essential to mention in query letter. #litchat -4:34 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 If we miss your question, please repost! #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @AlisonFargis That makes sense. Thanks for patiently answering all those Q's - didn't mean to pester! #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Do winning contest help get manuscripts noticed by Lit Agents? #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @Madison_Woods #litchat That's a question I have, publicist for existing works? Prior to soliciting a change in representation? -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LizEnslin What about platform for narrative nonfiction and memoir? What do you look for there? #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @samill1 @Madison_Woods I was going to say - pretty popular to build a platform early (and often)! #litchat -4:35 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Wiswell You can list where you live, any writing credentials, and perhaps how you came up with the idea. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LM_Preston I suppose it depends on the contest. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

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EScordato @HopeWelsh No, not hard. Packagers hire authors w particular expertise for particular projects Experience in the subj is important! #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LizEnslin Yes, that is important or at least a compelling author story to warrant the memoir. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LizEnslin Yes, platform is very important for nonfiction. We look for visibility and a high following. #litchat -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @Emmanuelle15 @EScordato #litchat If you've self-pubbed already, does that make it harder to land an agent? -4:36 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat What are some of problems in a ms that makes it not ready to be sold? #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Should authors get their work edited by 3rd party before they submit it to agent? Other than peer critiques and beta readers? #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell For all our agents: in what ways have you most helped clients build their platforms? #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis For both nf and fiction, a large Twitter/Facebook following (& now Pinterest) certainly can help. #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods @Wiswell @samill1 It takes a good bit of time to cultivate connections, and a 'hunger' seems evident when in a hurry. #litchat -4:37 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @AlisonFargis large being how many? #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LizEnslin Published articles, blogs with 60,000 unique hits a month or more, public speaking, relevant degrees #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Tamstarz @Emmanuelle15 RT: Trends change all the time and I try not to chase them. :) #litchat [Hallelujah!] -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @LaurenBaratzL Manus. + author readiness is so essential. Am astonished @ writers who jump ahead too early #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Wiswell If you're writing nonfiction, you should have a platform before writing the book. #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @HopeWelsh If you are interested in getting assignments from packagers, list prev writing experience on yr resume and send to us! #litchat -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AuthorandPoet My #Poetry THESE THINGS, OUR NATURE & THIS NATURE http://t.co/3iR3DPka #poem #videopoetry #amreading #litchat #books #readers #fridayreads -4:38 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt RT @Tamstarz: @Emmanuelle15 RT: Trends change all the time and I try not to chase them. :) #litchat [Hallelujah!] #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Tamstarz @EScordato We don't chase trends. We do know what editors are buying, which is different #litchat [So refreshing to hear this!] -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @Wiswell After a sale, we advise authors on how to promote their books and themselves. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JLyetGassman @Emmanuelle15 Good to know! I have a few of them! :) Working on more. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @21stCscribe For nf in the high thousands, lower ok for fiction. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
BigDaddyKeltik RT @whateversusan: Hey, I'm Susan Jane Bigelow, I write SF for small press. Don't have an agent, curious to learn about. #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @DebraMarrs That's most of them! #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @AlisonFargis okay thanks! #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston @LaurenBaratzL Thanks bcuz I've beta read authors with good story but they need help cleaning it up #litchat -4:39 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @DebraMarrs It's all a learning curve. People who decide to be doctors don't expect to operate the next day. Writing reqs patience. #LitChat -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @AlisonFargis #litchat You can buy followers now. There are groups will get you so many followers for so many dollars. -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat Plot development, voice, character development, the list goes on #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Should author put character's 'voice' in query? #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @AlisonFargis #litchat and does that mean I shouldn't block the porn spam? -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LizEnslin Thx for specifics RT @Emmanuelle15 Published articles, blogs w/60,000 unique hits a month..., public speaking, relevant degrees #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LitChat If you can put a manuscript down, so will the reader. And any editor. #litchat -4:40 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston I have extensive freelance editing experience so you can always refer people to me. #LitChat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
ealexandraki RT @LaurenBaratzL: @DebraMarrs Its all a learning curve. People who decide to be docs dont expect to operate the next day. Writ... #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 RT @Emmanuelle15: @LitChat If you can put a manuscript down, so will the reader. And any editor. #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LM_Preston Do you mean write the query in the voice? #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @RussellScott3 There are other ways to gauge visibility and measure platform for nonfiction authors. #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @Madison_Woods Never allow power of hunger to be published overshadow readiness #litchat -4:41 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Yes, the character's voice RT @AlisonFargis: Do you mean write the query in the voice? #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JLyetGassman Agree that chasing trends is a waste of time. Write the book that you're passionate about. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston I don't understand your question, lol. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @RussellScott3 That's a personal choice ;) #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Tone of query should reflect tone of work but I wouldn't try to be too cutesy by writing in tone of character. #LitChat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LM_Preston That's a tough one. I would stick with your own voice. #litchat -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JSLion #litchat Thanks for the lessons in book pitching! Gotta get back to 'real' job. take care everyone! -4:42 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston Character's voice in the query RT @Emmanuelle15: I don't understand your question, lol. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods @DebraMarrs I agree with that. I meant hunger or desperation to make connections though. #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 24th, 2012
360BEYOND RT @LM_Preston: Should author put character's 'voice' in query? #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @LaurenBaratzL LUV your analogy. Drs. and authors - both need follow thru, training + practice b4 ready #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 24th, 2012

authorwritis How long do you give ms to capture attention before you put it down? What about books like a locomotive? Slow start, then speedy? #litchat -4:43 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston No, treat the query like a business letter, from author to prospective agent. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @LM_Preston Also, avoid rhetorical Q's in query, e.g., "Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be buried alive?" #LitChat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @LaurenBaratzL Totally agree! #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe @Emmanuelle15 IN UK rare to have to send qery letter alone without partial MS #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat We're chatting with the agents from @StonesongNYC for the next 15 minutes (until 5pmET). Post your questions now. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published by Arielle Eckstut & David Sterry is a key read for everyone. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 RT @LaurenBaratzL Tone of query should reflect tone of work but I wouldnt try to be too cutesy by writing in tone of character. #litchat -4:44 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 @ealexandraki @laurenbaratzl @debramarrs Well they do. We just don't let them. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

360BEYOND RT @LM_Preston: Do winning contest help get manuscripts noticed by Lit Agents? #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Tamstarz RT @JLyetGassman: Agree that chasing trends is a waste of time. Write the book that you're passionate about. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JulieBritt @LaurenBaratzL Ha! I saw that on Days of Our Lives. Looked unpleasant. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @Emmanuelle15 I don't know with which specific thing, but I thank you! #LitChat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @Emmanuelle15 Excellent! I so agree: Published articles, blogs with 60K+ unique hits/mo., public speaking, relevant degrees #memoir #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SKymmellHarvey About how long should a synopsis be? #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @EScordato Does that include fiction or just non-fiction (re packaging) #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JulieBritt RT @LitChat: Were chatting with the agents from @StonesongNYC for the next 15 minutes (until 5pmET). Post your questions now. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @authorwritis It has to grab a reader in a bookstore, so it should be great from the start. #litchat -4:45 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @SKymmellHarvey Every agent and editor has a different preference but I like 1 to 2 pages single-spaced. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @JulieBritt I think they've done that one on Days many times. #LitChat -4:46 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @SKymmellHarvey I don't want longer than 2 pages if possible. #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @RussellScott3 Smiling back at you, doc :) #litchat -4:46 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @authorwritis I would think the pacing might be off. Perhaps the story is starting in the wrong spot. #LitChat -4:47 PM Feb 24th, 2012

EScordato @HopeWelsh We don't produce packaged fiction right now at Stonesong. We only produce and package nonfiction titles. #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams Should you mention when you have publisher interest in your book in your query, or is it wiser to omit this? #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt @LaurenBaratzL They've done everything on Days many times. #litchat -4:47 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LuciaAdams Definitely mention that. #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs Re: Platform RT @AlisonFargis: For both nf and fiction, a large Twitter/Facebook following (& now Pinterest) certainly can help. #litchat -4:48 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston RT @LaurenBaratzL Avoid rhetorical Q's in query, e.g., "Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be buried alive?" #LitChat -4:49 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @360BEYOND Contest wins are a plus but it's the reading experience that counts most. #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LuciaAdams Publisher interest (not a small press) might get you bumped up my list too #litchat -4:49 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt @DebraMarrs I haven't jumped into Pinterest at all. Can barely keep up with Twitter and Facebook. :(#litchat -4:50 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @LaurenBaratzL Do you all prefer the standard 250 word query? #LitChat -4:50 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston What elements in a book does a Lit Agent knows = a big seller #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams @AlisonFargis Okay, thank you. I'll do that. #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey How do you get publisher interest without an agent? #litchat -4:50 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs Avoid trying too hard. Having read many query ltrs. it's easy to spot desperation. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @JulieBritt: @DebraMarrs I havent jumped into Pinterest at all. Can barely keep up with Twitter and Facebook. :(//Here, here! #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @luciaadams Interest from a small press will be less important. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @HopeWelsh I'm not an agent! Just an old writer with 23 books pubbed and a lot of opinions. #LitChat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @SKymmellHarvey The major publishers generally don't work with unagented authors. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @HopeWelsh I've never counted but if it's a compelling & succinct that is a plus. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SPassick RT @DebraMarrs: Avoid trying too hard. Having read many query ltrs. its easy to spot desperation. #litchat -4:51 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @DebraMarrs Amen #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JLichtenberg RT @LaurenBaratzL: @HopeWelsh I'm not an agent! Just an old writer with 23 books pubbed and a lot of opinions. #LitChat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @LitChat gr8 Q! #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato @HopeWelsh --and to all! The agents at Stonesong do fiction & nonfiction. The packaging & production division does only nonfiction. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @JulieBritt You're not alone. I'm not on Pinterest either bec. fear falling into rabbit hole 'bright shiny objects' #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JLichtenberg RT @DebraMarrs: Avoid trying too hard. Having read many query ltrs. it's easy to spot desperation. #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @LaurenBaratzL with 23 books--I think I'd like your opinion, LOL #LitChat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012

dosankodebbie @Emmanuelle15 Are there agents that specialize in lit translated into English from other languages? #litchat -4:52 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @AlisonFargis Sounds like you've smelled a few 'desperados' too :) #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @Emmanuelle15 (or whichever, I'm so lost) Should a query be 250 words and leave cliffhanger? #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @DebraMarrs It's like hoarders for the Internet but I love it! #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 A phenomenal manuscript and query is what I look for every time I dip into my "Queries" folder. #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 24th, 2012

CassBlakeman @Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston re query = business letter, presumably this means it should be short? #litchat -4:53 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @HopeWelsh HA! Well, my opinion is that a query should be no more than one page - single most imp pg you'll ever write. #LitChat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @EScordato Thanks :) Always wanted to publish a charmed and supernatural book, LOL #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @HopeWelsh One page, three or four paragraphs, is a good guideline. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

AlisonFargis @dosankodebbie Yes. Publishers Marketplace and the acknowledgements in a book offer a good start. #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

taradublinrocks @LitChat What a great idea! @DenisLeary & @SteveMartinToGo already have books of their tweets, so why not great writers' advice? #LitChat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JulieBritt @Emmanuelle15 How often do you find that? #litchat -4:54 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @CassBlakeman Yes, queries should be one MS Word page, pasted into the body of an email #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs @AlisonFargis Hoarders! LOL - I'd be doomed then; would luv it too, I'm sure #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @Emmanuelle15 What is the general turnaround time on a query? And should one query more than 1 agent at a time #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @JulieBritt I request a full manuscript every 50 queries or so. #litchat -4:55 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LM_Preston Do Lit Agents have to write Pitch Letters or Query Letter also when submitting to publishers? Just curious...#litchat -4:55 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Spassick RT @Emmanuelle15: @CassBlakeman Yes, queries should be one MS Word page, pasted into the body of an email #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat Five more minutes with the agents from @StonesongNYC. Post your questions now. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 @Emmanuelle15 #litchat You can't even approach most of them. My agent handled everything, with Timedonors -4:56 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Topic of the Week:

February 20-24, 2012

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www.litchat.net

Emmanuelle15 RT @LaurenBaratzL HA! Well, my opinion is that a query should be no more than one page - single most imp pg youll ever write. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LM_Preston Yes, agents write pitch letters to accompany manuscripts on submission. #litchat -4:56 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LM_Preston Absolutely. We have our phone pitches and our e-mail pitches to editors. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @Emmanuelle15 Very true--a good query is imperative. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe @Emmanuelle15 @Emmanuelle15 that's a higher proportion than I might have imagined #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams @Emmanuelle15 Thank you. I will just mention the large publishers that asked for my MS then. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @HopeWelsh It's understood that writers will query multiple agents at once, unless they're on referral. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LM_Preston Unless it's a referral, I assume authors are querying other agents. #litchat -4:57 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston @AlisonFargis @Emmanuelle15 It's nice to know we authors aren't the only ones that have to write queries :-D #litchat or pitches -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Wiswell @LitChat @StonesongNYC Thanks for the chat! #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @Emmanuelle15 #litchat We went from Torr Forge to St. Martins to McMillan it took three years and I never knew who we were talking to. -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @AlisonFargis #litchat Turn around time, please? -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL Peeps who need help with queries, pay modest fee to join Backspace - http://t.co/MbMCj4sB - best investment you'll ever make. #LitChat -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat Q for each @Emmanuelle15 @AlisonFargis @Escordato: Why did you go into this business and what do you get out of it? #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar RT @Emmanuelle15: @JulieBritt I request a full manuscript every 50 queries or so. #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LuciaAdams Publishers (plural?). Umm, send me a query now! #litchat -4:58 PM Feb 24th, 2012
SKymmellHarvey @StonesongNYC Thanks so much for answering my questions! Happy Friday! #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
ealexandraki RT @LaurenBaratzL: Peeps who need help with queries, pay modest fee to join Backspace - http://t.co/3mfk5Zrv - best investment y... #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Madison_Woods Yes, thanks for answering my questions! #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @HopeWelsh I read queries that come into me within 6 to 10 weeks. We have an automated response, confirming receipt. #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LitChat We love books! #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
21stCscribe many thanks to you all at @StonesongNYC for taking the time to answer our questions #litchat -4:59 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL This has been fun and, damn, but I'm a chatty know-it-all! #LitChat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
ShibaGracie @StonesongNYC Thank you for being here today! #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JLyetGassman @stonesongnyc Thank you for answering our questions! #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
TwinkleChar Thanks, agents. You did good. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012

EScordato @LitChat I went into publishing because I love to create the conditions that let good books & good writers come to be & to flourish #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LM_Preston I really enjoyed this chat. I learned a lot. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat And we love you for it. RT @LaurenBaratzL: This has been fun and, damn, but Im a chatty know-it-all! #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat Went into this job b/c of nepotism but I ended up falling in love with my job. Still love it after 16 years of doing it. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs Writers lose perspective after mos. of writing. Need 2nd opinions to determine readiness #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @LitChat We want to support authors and help bring fantastic books into the world. #litchat -5:00 PM Feb 24th, 2012
samill1 Thanks for the great discussion @litchat. And thanks to @Emmanuelle15 @EScordato @AlisonFargis for all of the info. #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt @Emmanuelle15 Thanks. Striving to be a 1 in 50 writer. ;-) #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs RT @EScordato: I went into publishing bec. luv to create the conditions that let good books & good writers come to be & to flourish #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LitChat Do we get to do the good-news thing today? #LitChat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Spassick just got into the business and can't get enough of the creative energy, talent, and genuine love for what we do #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 #litchat Thanks for coming. Thanks for sharing. Have a good weekend. -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LuciaAdams @AlisonFargis Thanks, Alison! :) #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat Great stuff from the agents at @StonesongNYC today. Look for the archived chatscript over the weekend. #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @RussellScott3 Agents help authors understand the publishing process. #litchat -5:01 PM Feb 24th, 2012
dosankodebbie @AlisonFargis Thank you for your reply. I'll pay more attn to acknowledgements from now on. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @Emmanuelle15 It's been fun - great to meet you! #LitChat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Spassick RT @EScordato: I went into publishing bec. luv to create the conditions that let good books & good writers come to be & to flourish #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat Do you have a #hoot? Do it now! RT @LaurenBaratzL: @LitChat Do we get to do the good-news thing today? #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis Thanks, everyone. This was fun! #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
PickMyBran I learned a lot last time, but I'm still wondering. If my goal is a short story collection is it better to have most published 1st? #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt RT @LitChat: Great stuff from the agents at @StonesongNYC today. Look for the archived chatscript over the weekend. #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat You can learn more about the agents at @StonesongNYC from the website at http://t.co/4KqT0dcq . #litchat -5:02 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @LaurenBaratzL Good to know I'm not the queen litchattic anymore. You're tagged! Luv your input ev. time :) #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @LaurenBaratzL I'd love to pick your brain, LOL #LitChat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt Thank you all for the advice. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh RT @LitChat: Do you have a #hoot? Do it now! RT @LaurenBaratzL: @LitChat Do we get to do the good-news thing today? #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @dosankodebbie Keep a running list of agents, editors and publishers that are mentioned in acknowledgments. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt RT @LitChat: You can learn more about the agents at @StonesongNYC from the website at http://t.co/bmH9X09J . #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AprilBrownWrite RT @emmanuelle15: A phenomenal manuscript and query is what I look for every time I dip into my "Queries" folder. #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @AlisonFargis Thank YOU SO much for your insights today. Gracious graciousness :) #litchat -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
RussellScott3 @DebraMarrs #litchat I certainly do. I also need someone to tell me to stop re writing. I see a published work and still want to change it. -5:03 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @LitChat thank you! I was hoping for their website. I can't read as fast as this moved #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @PickMyBran Publish your short stories in journals etc, but a collection should be 80% original work. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LitChat Let's give @StonesongNYC agents @Escordato @AlisonFargis & @Emmanuelle15 a huge round of {{{APPLAUSE}}} for being here. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Spassick http://t.co/YcX3RtxC CHECK US OUT! #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
JulieBritt You can read my fiction here. Feedback is welcome: http://t.co/E5Bu6mre #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
dosankodebbie RT @AlisonFargis: @dosankodebbie Keep a running list of agents, editors and publishers that are mentioned in acknowledgments. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @Emmanuelle15 Your responses were phenomenally useful today. Thx so much from all of us at #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
EScordato this was so much fun! Loved making new connections and answering questions. #litchat -5:04 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @LitChat Barnes & Noble's Heart-to-Heart blog gave a rave to THE BRO-MAGNET today: http://t.co/OXqT1b0a #hoot #LitChat -5:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @DebraMarrs Thank YOU! :) #litchat -5:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012
LaurenBaratzL @DebraMarrs Thank you! #LitChat -5:05 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs {{{APPLAUSE}}} to @StonesongNYC agents @Escordato @AlisonFargis & @Emmanuelle15 for being here KUDOS! #litchat -5:06 PM Feb 24th, 2012
Emmanuelle15 @litchat Thank you for hosting us! #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @LaurenBaratzL Your twitter info should tell us more :) What do you write, if I may ask. #LitChat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
AlisonFargis @LitChat Thank you for hosting us! #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @LaurenBaratzL CONGRATS!: Barnes & Nobles Heart-to-Heart blog gave a rave to THE BRO-MAGNET today: http://t.co/THuEUHUY #hoot #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
HopeWelsh @Emmanuelle15 Do lit agents ever hire people to weed through their queries before they get a 'good' list to read? #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
CarolyBurnsBass #hoot 1: You can buy a copy of my shortstory STILL LIVE WITH LOVERS for download to your ereader: http://t.co/87rWyQmD #litchat -5:07 PM Feb 24th, 2012
DebraMarrs @EScordato Appreciate YOU! Thanks for bringing your brilliance to #litchat -5:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL @HopeWelsh For adults, teens, children. Historical, contemp, comedy, drama... All at <http://t.co/TZ3Vi3nT> #LitChat -5:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

julichilliard RT @Emmanuelle15: A phenomenal manuscript and query is what I look for every time I dip into my "Queries" folder. #litchat -5:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @LaurenBaratzL thanks, going to look now. #LitChat -5:08 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs Recommend @CarolyBurnsBass shortstory STILL LIVE WITH LOVERS for download to ur ereader: <http://t.co/4JuRUCmp> #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL RT @CarolyBurnsBass: #hoot 1: You can buy my shortstory STILL LIVE WITH LOVERS for download to ereader: <http://t.co/i0lbi3DE> #LitChat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass #hoot 2: You can read a published excerpt from my yet-unpublished novel at @MetroFiction: <http://t.co/rsVllxNg> #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

RussellScott3 #litchat Will follow you all, and whoever was new today. See you next week -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh any of you know about the rules re querying self-pubd and e-book publisher books to agents? #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LitChat Many new voices to welcome: @SPassick @SKymmellHarvey @JLyetGassma @SandiBJones @360BEYOND. Hope you return soon. #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

JulieBritt RT @CarolyBurnsBass: You can buy a copy of my shortstory STILL LIVE WITH LOVERS for download to your ereader: <http://t.co/1gy3YnAx> #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LizEnslin RT @DebraMarrs: {{APPLAUSE}} to @StonesongNYC agents @Escordato @AlisonFargis & @Emmanuelle15 for being here KUDOS! #litchat -5:09 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Madison_Woods I'd like give a s/o to the community of writers called the #FridayFictioneers over at my blog evry Friday. Copious #100word flash. #litchat -5:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LuciaAdams @LitChat @StonesongNYC @Escordato @AlisonFargis @Emmanuelle15 Thanks! A very informative hour & the help was much appreciated. #litchat -5:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012

LaurenBaratzL RT @CarolyBurnsBass: #hoot 2: You can read a pubbed excerpt from my yet-unpublished novel at @MetroFiction: <http://t.co/QNVK7YAs> #LitChat -5:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs RT: @Emmanuelle15 A phenomenal manuscript and query is what I look for every time I dip into my "Queries" folder. #litchat -5:10 PM Feb 24th, 2012

21stCscribe fancy some experimental linguistic writing? My amazon page <http://t.co/SBZaFPwN> #litchat Videos on my author page -5:11 PM Feb 24th, 2012

Emmanuelle15 @hopewelsh We don't hire people outside the company to read or filter our queries. #litchat -5:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012

CarolyBurnsBass ★ RT @laurenbaratzl: @LitChat Barnes & Noble's Heart-to-Heart blog gave a rave to THE BRO-MAGNET today: <http://t.co/r0Wru4N> #hoot #LitChat -5:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh @Emmanuelle15 I always wondered if publishers or agents did #litchat -5:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh kind of like slush-pile readers #litchat -5:12 PM Feb 24th, 2012

SandiBJones Thanks for hosting, @LitChat. I'm glad I (finally) discovered you. #litchat -5:13 PM Feb 24th, 2012

DebraMarrs RT @CarolyBurnsBass: #hoot 2: read a published excerpt from my yet-unpublished novel at @MetroFiction: <http://t.co/AK11pu7e> #litchat -5:13 PM Feb 24th, 2012

HopeWelsh I'd like to find an agent for foreign rights #litchat I think... -5:14 PM Feb 24th, 2012