

In Order To Write A Book, You've Got To Hit The Books

Knowledge is power. That's an old saying, one we've all heard before. Yet, like a lot of old sayings, it contains a nugget of truth.

Knowledge is power because what you know, as well as how much you know, determines your chances of success in any activity you may choose.

Also, knowledge is powerful because the person possessing that knowledge is able to commoditize what they know and earn profit from transferring that knowledge to another. So, one of the preliminary steps in the book writing process is determining what you know.

Everybody knows something. We all have a skillset, or set of skills, that sets us apart from others. These skills are based on what we know and what we have learned from others. They are also based on direct experience gleaned from practicing those skills. This skill, or skills, are the very foundation of your book.

When deciding on a book subject, remember not to devalue your knowledge. Keep in mind that there is an audience out there for your subject. People want to know what you know, no matter the subject. If you doubt this, take a look at the varieties of subject matter available at your local bookstore, library or online. The variety is, for all intents and purposes, endless. This means there is a place in the marketplace for your knowledge too.

Another point to remember when planning your book is that you learned everything you know from someone else. Someone taught you the skill that is going to be the basis for your book. As we all know, you're never too old to learn. This applies to your subject as well. Think about brushing up on your knowledge of the subject before you start writing.

A great way to do this is to read other authors who have published on the subject you've chosen. A lot of useful facts can be gleaned by doing this. After all, why reinvent the wheel. Another technique is to take a look at the references and/or bibliography provided by an author on the subject whose work you admire. The references and bibliography can lead you to other sources that you were not previously aware of. Take a careful look at these sources. Not only do they

represent potential new knowledge for your book, they can also lead you to even more source material that you can use. It's best to leave no stone unturned when doing background research.