

# The Ultimate Blogger's Quick-Start Resource List

Save yourself time and research by using this handy resource list whenever you need to do so. These resources have been specially chosen to help you get to information and products you can use without having to experience hours of research and huge learning curves to do so.

## WordPress Themes

When choosing a blog theme, it is important to invest in one that:

- Is easy to work with
- Is customizable
- Contains no malicious code

Not everyone can handle the sometimes complex customization that comes with the two top, superb frameworks, [Genesis](#) and [Thesis](#) so here is an easier alternative.

- [Socrates](#)

At only \$27.00 for a single-site license, \$47 for multiple, Socrates is the least expensive of this trio. It has an active forum, both WordPress and Socrates tutorials, superb support – and a gallery of great header graphics.

If you really must have a free theme, stick to the ones provided in WordPress.org's own [Themes Gallery](#).

## Essential WordPress Plugins

All of these plugins are free and can be searched for and easily installed right from within your WordPress dashboard. (Some need to be configured, but you will be prompted to do this.)

[Akismet](#) -- Absolutely essential spam filter.

[All-in-one SEO Pack](#) – Powerful SEO boost that will not upset Google. Use it for every post.

[Wordfence](#) -- Powerful security plugin. Offers API key with cellphone sign in as an option.

[ThemeCheck](#) -- If you use free themes, use Theme Check to test for malicious or damaged code – but be aware it sometimes gives 'false positive' results.

[Google Drive](#) -- Allows you to back up your WordPress database.

[Shareaholic](#) - Social sharing buttons and more.

[WPtouch](#) -- “automatically enables a simple and elegant mobile theme for mobile visitors of your WordPress website”.

[Dynamic Content Gallery](#) – [Optional] Creates “a dynamic gallery of images” from your content

[Yet Another Related Post](#) – [Optional] Suggests other posts from your archives on the topic your reader is reading about. Good for when you have a lot of content on your blog.

## **Webhosting**

[Reliable Webs](#) – starts at \$12.95 per month for multi-site plan

[MomWebs](#) - starts at \$5.00 per month for single-site plan

## **Updating your WHOIS information**

<http://www.icann.org/en/resources/registrars/consensus-policies/wdrp/faqs>

## **Blogging Instruction**

[Prologger's Guide to your First Week of Blogging](#) -- \$19.99

[31 Days to build a Better Blog](#) (Prologger) -- \$29.99

[How to start a WordPress Blog](#) – Excellent beginner-level article from ClickNewz

## **Affiliate Marketing Instruction**

[Super Affiliate Handbook](#) -- Veteran super-affiliate, Rosalind Gardner's “bible” book. Currently on sale at \$27.00

[ClickNewz](#) - World class blog packed with excellent resources and articles by veteran super-affiliate, Lynn Terry. Free.

There is also an active ClickNewz forum you can register with in both free and paid access.

## **Graphics and Infographics**

[20+ Tools to Create Your Own Infographics](#) - Comprehensive article presenting top infographics sites (both free and paid)

[Image Monthly](#) – Kelly McCausey's hot new complete image resource site - \$9.97 per month

[Box Shot King](#) -- Cloud graphics even a beginner can create and use (including 3D graphics). \$60.00 for 6 months (current special rate). 8 week free trial.

[Morguefile](#) -- Free public-domain graphics you can use on your blog. (Do check the licensing information to ensure it's part of the free collection.)

## **Outsourcing**

Many blogging tasks can be outsourced, leaving you free to concentrate on what you specialize in – and what makes you money.

[Time Freedom Business](#) - The ultimate site for information and resources

[AllCustomContent](#) – Choose from content creation, infographics creation, transcription, autoresponder and email message series and much more – all custom-written for you.

[Outsource Weekly](#) -- Nicole Dean's 12-month course (\$27.00 monthly). If you have no clue how to outsource and have actually lost money trying to do so, this course will send you to a whole new level

## **Recommended Articles**

[6 Tips to Help you Write Product Review Articles Faster](#) – From veteran copywriter Tiffany Dow

[11 Ways I Diversified Traffic sources for my Blogs to Become Less Reliant on Google \[with a Surprising Twist\]](#) – by Darren Rowse. The title says it all!