

# INKLINGS OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY - #WRITINGCOMMUNITY: A LOOK AT THE INFORMATION SEEKING PRACTICE OF WRITERS

Arielle VanderSchans, University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Information and Media Studies. avand4@uwo.ca

## Introduction

In the LIS field, the study of fiction writers is relatively understudied. While works have not focused on fiction writers specifically, they have looked at the information seeking behavior of other creative groups, for example theatre artists.<sup>3</sup>

My work aims to broaden the research done on writers as information seekers, focusing on information seeking within a community of practice.



## Proposed Research Questions

My work aims to explore the following questions in regard to #writingcommunity and the writers that participate in it.

1. What is the effect of the writer's relationship to #writingcommunity on their information seeking?
2. What do they get from being a part of the #writingcommunity?
3. What levels of trust are given when information seeking in the #writingcommunity?
4. At what stages of writing do writers rely on help from the #writingcommunity?

## The Inklings

A group, as Tolkien explains, that was for ““people with vague or half-formed intimations and ideas” and “those who dabble in ink”—thus doubly suitable for a group of writers discussing works-in-progress”.”<sup>1</sup>



## #writingcommunity

Writers are drawn to communities of practice to help them learn the craft, improve upon their work, and navigate the world of publishing.



## Proposed Research Methods

While other researchers who have looked at fiction writers have focused on specific genres or audiences<sup>2</sup>, I will investigate the act of fiction writing from as broad of a perspective as possible. This will allow for potential patterns to emerge across genres or audiences and other variables.

I propose to answer the research questions and for exploring the #writingcommunity that conducting an online survey with #writingcommunity participants is beneficial. This survey will provide a base to formulate questions for interviews held with writers who participate in the Twitter community.

This mixed-methods approach of qualitative and quantitative will allow for a wide breadth of data.



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