

# RESEARCHING LITERARY AGENTS



## WRITER BEWARE

Run by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America, this site covers many genres. They have a "Thumbs Down Agency List," as well as warnings about scammy and unreliable publishers.

<https://www.sfgwa.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

## ABSOLUTE WRITE BEWARES & RECOMMENDATIONS

A forum for querying writers to share their experiences with agencies. Take things with a grain of salt, but it's a good place to find general impressions about agencies.

[www.absolutewrite.com/forums](http://www.absolutewrite.com/forums)



## QUERY TRACKER

Popular with querying writers to identify agents' interests & response times. QT also offers a comments section where querying authors share their experiences.

<https://querytracker.net>



## MANUSCRIPT WISHLIST

One of the best places to find out what kinds of stories an agent is - or isn't - interested in!

<https://www.manuscriptwishlist.com>

(But don't forget to check an agent's website for details & submission guidelines)



## PUBLISHERS MARKETPLACE

The most complete list of sales made by agents to publishers. A month's subscription costs \$25 but is worth it. You can check whether an agent has....

- sold anything in your genre/category in the past 2 years
- sold to publishers you want (e.g. midsize or Big 5 imprints)
- sold to more than one publisher (i.e. is well-connected)

<https://www.publishersmarketplace.com>



## NOTE:

You may be interested in brand new agents, or in agents who head their own agencies. You can use Publishers Marketplace to evaluate the agency instead of the agent alone.

- If it's a new agent, do they work alongside agents who have sold all of the above?
- If the agent heads their own agency, do the agents working under them sell all of the above?



## ASK AROUND!

Fellow writers are your most valuable resource. Ask friends and acquaintances if they know an agent's clients. Many writers are friendly and willing to chat!

ALWAYS ask an offering agent to connect you to a couple of current clients. This is standard, and often very useful if you read between the lines of what they say.



GOOD LUCK!