

## Fan To Pro: Recommended Resources

When I wrote the update to [Fan To Pro](#) I added a list of resources for people. I've bundled them up in this document to help out people looking for a quick reference for ideal resources.

### Career Information

Most governments will have career, labor, and business information that you can use to find out about careers. A few examples from my part of the planet:

- In the US, The Bureau of Labor Statistics: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)
- In Canada, The Employment and Social Development Canada: [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca)

There are probably similar resources if you're in countries other than those in North America – though it also can't hurt to see how other countries interpret jobs.

### Learning

- There are many online tutorial and learning sites, paid and not paid. The premier paid one is [www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com).
- [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) is the site of many tutorials people create, from professionals to amateurs, and is worth investigating.
- Always remember that specific sites for specific hobbies might include tutorials.

### Staying Informed

- I recommend everyone have a newsreader stocked with good RSS feeds, and my favorite is [www.newsblur.com](http://www.newsblur.com).

### Finding Conventions And Events

- [www.upcomingcons.com](http://www.upcomingcons.com) is pretty much what it says – a schedule of upcoming conventions.
- [www.geekcal.com](http://www.geekcal.com) is an online calendar of geeky events.
- [www.animecons.com](http://www.animecons.com) is an online list of anime conventions (important as “anime” conventions cover a lot of ground in most cases)

### Networking

- [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), the business/professional social media site is a must-join for any careerist. With plenty of features, tools for connecting, communities, and more it's a tool that everyone uses – for good reason.
- [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) is a social site to help people find and start gatherings of like-minded people. A good place to get connected professionally or socially – or both.
- [www.helpareporter.com](http://www.helpareporter.com) is a way to connect with reporters who want to leverage your expertise.

### Getting Your Website Or Blog Up

- Most good hosts provide some basic website creation tools that let you get a website up with little or no coding.

- If you want to do a blog, you can use WordPress, which most hosts will provide or install automatically or which you can get at [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org). [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) will host sites, as will many others.
- A potential alternative to WordPress is [www.joomla.com](http://www.joomla.com).
- If you're up for coding HTML, but want to leverage a lot of power, the Bootstrap framework from Twitter at [www.getbootstrap.com](http://www.getbootstrap.com) may be for you.

## Self-Publishing

- A good eBook converter/publisher is [www.jutoh.com](http://www.jutoh.com), though there are others depending on your preferred format.
- If you want to publish physical books you can go through [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) or through Amazon at [www.createspace.com](http://www.createspace.com).
- You can sell and publish eBooks via [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) as well, Kindle books via [kdp.amazon.com](http://kdp.amazon.com), the Nook at [www.nookpress.com](http://www.nookpress.com), or a variety of platforms with some limits at [www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com).
- There are also many sites that you sell electronic good such as [www.ejunkie.com](http://www.ejunkie.com).

## Getting Business Cards

- Most office supply stores will have business card deals. You often get limited but cheap deals. There are many specialist business card businesses you may want to investigate.
- [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) and [www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com) will do business cards – and many other products – for you.

## Relocating

- [money.cnn.com](http://money.cnn.com) has an annually-updated “best 100 places to live in the United States” list which is worth reading.

## Must-Read Books

- David Allen's book *Getting Things Done* and it's sequels *Ready for Anything* and *Making it All Work*. Also, most anything else he's written.
- *Never Eat Alone: And Other Secrets To Success* by Keith Ferrazzi.
- Orville Pierson's *Highly Effective Networking*.
- If you want to start your own business, read *Escape From Cubicle Nation* by Pam Slim – and visit her site at [www.escapefromcubiclenation.com](http://www.escapefromcubiclenation.com).
- *The \$100 Startup* by Chris Guillebeau, is worth reading for starting your own business.
- Gregory Shea and Robert Gunther's book *Your Job Survival Guide* is your guide to thinking ahead career-wise. This book helped me out numerous times.