

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
- In Canada, The Employment and Social Development Canada: 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.
- 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.

Finding Conventions And Events

- www.upcomingcons.com is pretty much what it says – a schedule of upcoming conventions.
- www.geekcal.com is an online calendar of geeky events.
- 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, 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 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 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. www.wordpress.com will host sites, as will many others.
- A potential alternative to WordPress is 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 may be for you.

Self-Publishing

- A good eBook converter/publisher is 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 or through Amazon at www.createspace.com.
- You can sell and publish eBooks via www.lulu.com as well, Kindle books via kdp.amazon.com, the Nook at www.nookpress.com, or a variety of platforms with some limits at www.smashwords.com.
- There are also many sites that you sell electronic good such as 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 and www.cafepress.com will do business cards – and many other products – for you.

Relocating

- 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 its 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.escapefromcubicleation.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.