

Recommended Books for Freelance Editors

(Books and Magazines)

Must have:

The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Ed. (CMOS) (online subscription is best) Primary US authority

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Ed. (download and keep on computer desktop)

The Christian Writer's Manual of Style (CWMS), Hudson. (Needed if you plan to work on Christian manuscripts, fiction or nonfiction.)

AP Style Guide (if you plan to edit magazine articles)

Other recommended books (in order of my preference):

Say What? The Fiction Writer's Handy Guide to Grammar, Punctuation, and Word Usage, Second Edition, Lakin

The Copyeditor's Handbook, Amy Einsohn

Garner's Modern American Usage, Garner (yes, it's big, but you need it!)

The Subversive Copy Editor, Saller

The New Well-Tempered Sentence, Gordon

Line by Line, Claire Cook

A Concise Dictionary of Confusables, Phythian

Grammar Bible, Strumpf

The Elements of Style, Strunk and White

The Elements of Editing, Plotnik

The Editor's Companion, Dunham