



# Using the Internet to Find Work

**T**oday, having the Internet to provide immediate communication between editor and writer can be a blessing or a curse.

First, the blessing:

In 2004, when I returned to the U.S. from overseas, I looked for a job on Craigslist ([www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)). I saw an ad from a magazine publisher looking for a managing editor to go to meetings, write articles, prepare daily website news items, and lay out and proofread the magazine every two weeks.

I responded with a brief email and referred the publisher to my website, [www.FloridaPublishing.com](http://www.FloridaPublishing.com).

A day later, I received a phone call from the editor in chief, answered a few interview questions, and within a few days, had an offer for \$50,000 per year as a full-time employee of *Insurance Journal*, a twice-a-month business magazine, with headquarters in San Diego.

That job worked out great. For two years, I was managing editor, responsible for writing and editing news and feature articles in nine southeastern states.

During the second year, the firm hired my wife to develop and edit a new website, and paid her \$25,000 per year.

In 2006, a new editor in chief took over and my wife and I lost our jobs at the same time.

My next stop was the Internet, where I went to an assortment of websites looking for work (see sidebar).

One of the best websites was Mediabistro ([www.mediabistro.com](http://www.mediabistro.com)), which had a lot of jobs listed, mainly in the Northeast, but was well worth looking at every few days.

An advantage to applying for jobs on the Internet is that most job listings have either a “direct” link to the person who posted the job, or give an email address at the company where an applicant is asked to send a résumé.

Now for *craigslist*’s bad aspects.

In 2008, I answered a Craigslist ad posted by *AllHeadline News* in West Palm Beach, Fla.

This company, which boasted it had writers all over the world, needed a “news editor” to edit news stories prepared by its “worldwide reporters” and post them on its website, [www.AllHeadlineNews.com](http://www.AllHeadlineNews.com).

Similar to my 2004 experience, I had two phone interviews with the editor and the publisher, and was hired. They told me I was on a 90-day probationary period, at a beginning salary of \$25,000, and that if everything worked out, they would increase my pay after that.

Working with AHN was a fun and interesting job. The firm had full-time writers in the Philippines, Pakistan, and India; and part-time writers in a handful of other countries, including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, and the U.K.

They paid overseas writers very low salaries. After I had worked with the bureau chief in the Philippines for several weeks, he told me the eight reporters working for him were still owed a month’s pay from six months back.

Another major problem developed: I discovered that overseas staff writers were surfing the Internet to obtain

“news stories” and rewriting the information from already published stories and sending them to me to edit.

Upon doing some online research, I discovered the Associated Press was suing both the owner and the editor in chief of AHN.

One tip I learned the hard way: If website publishers offer you an assignment or job, check them out on Google before you accept. It will save a lot of grief. If I had Googled AHN before talking to them, I wouldn’t have wasted my time.

AHN was supposed to pay me twice a month by sending a check on the first and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

After working for this firm for eight weeks without pay, I concluded that they must work employees on probation, without pay, for slightly less than 11 weeks—then give them a reason to quit, or fire them.

When the company finally sent me a check, I deposited it, and it bounced. The following week I quit and reported the company to the Florida Department of Labor.

You see all kinds of ads on Craigslist.

I could go on and on, but in essence the story is the same: It is possible to find good jobs on *craigslist* and other Internet job boards, *but*, it’s essential to double-check those leads and job offers before you waste your time applying for a job.

## Websites that list freelance, part-time, and full-time writing and editing jobs:

**[www.bayt.com](http://www.bayt.com)** lists international public relations jobs and writing jobs overseas.

**[www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)** lists many jobs, but be cautious about these ads; they may be scams.

**[www.fljobnetwork.com](http://www.fljobnetwork.com)** lists Florida jobs and is searchable by category.

**[www.freelanceforaliving.com](http://www.freelanceforaliving.com)** lists jobs.

**[www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)** is a great site that will even send you job listings based on category and your zip code.

**[www.irpa.org](http://www.irpa.org)** is an international public relations association site.

**[jobs.myspace.com](http://jobs.myspace.com)** allows you to search for writing and editing jobs.

**[www.justlanded.com](http://www.justlanded.com)** is a general job-listings site.

**[www.mediabistro.com](http://www.mediabistro.com)** is a great site; its daily job listings of many writing and editing positions. **ASJA**

Dave Kaiser joined ASJA’s predecessors in the mid-1960s and remained a member through various incarnations. For more than 40 years, he has written and edited daily newspapers, magazines, and newsletters. See [www.FloridaPublishing.com](http://www.FloridaPublishing.com).