



HOW TO GET A MOVE-ON WITH MARKETING

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Overwhelm-free business promo for editors

If you're an editor or proofreader who finds marketing your business overwhelming, here are 6 ideas to help you rethink your mindset and pull you out of the mire.

Recent discussions with colleagues on social media made me realize two things:

- Some editors are perceived as busier marketers than is actually the case.
- The struggling marketers aren't always inspired by the busy bees. A sense of overwhelm and disillusionment takes over.

It made me sad to think that some of my colleagues could be negatively affected by those of us who find marketing easier or who enjoy it more.

If you're one of those who's struggling, this is for you. It looks at the perceptions that might be triggering your discomfort and offers you new ways of thinking about each problem so that you can move forward.



Perception 1: It shouldn't be done unless you can do it perfectly

Some editors are suffocated by their perfectionism. Not being able to do marketing perfectly and completely stops them from starting it. And so nothing gets done. Here are five examples that reflect the truth of the matter:

- It is ideal to have a consistent and regular promotion strategy, but it is better to market a business sporadically than not at all.
- It is ideal to have a complete LinkedIn profile, but it is better to have a partial LinkedIn profile than none at all.
- It is ideal to have testimonials on each page of your website, but it is better to have a website with no testimonials than no website at all.
- It is ideal to have a strong headshot on your website and social media profiles, but it is better to have a cropped holiday snap that shows off your smile than no photo at all.
- For would-be bloggers, it is ideal to have a blog banner that identifies the space for what it is, but it is better to have a blog without a banner than no blog at all.



I have been blogging since 2011 and I only just got around to uploading a banner image that reflected the parlour theme of the blog. I'm confident that my audience will forgive me. Those who won't are likely not my audience.

If you're someone who finds themselves falling into this trap, give yourself a break, please. Everyone else will. Social media profiles can be tweaked, banners can be uploaded, testimonials can be added, and headshots can be updated.

In fact, **everything about your marketing strategy can be amended, deleted or completely rethought whenever you wish.**

Ask yourself this: When you edit for a client, do you guarantee perfection? Do you think it's even possible? I don't. One reason is that much of what I do depends on brief, style, preference or voice. Editing work isn't an exact science.

I have some good news for you – nor is effective marketing.

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 1

You don't have to do it perfectly. You just have to do it.

A vertical black and white photograph on the left side of the page shows a row of parked motorcycles. The motorcycles are parked in a line, and the image is cropped to show only the front portion of each bike, including the handlebars, mirrors, and front wheels. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Perception 2: Everyone else is doing way more than you

It might look like that but the reality is probably different. A colleague recently told me: 'I know how hard you work on marketing. I can tell by how many posts you write and share on LinkedIn each day.'

I tend to share 3 blog articles throughout the day on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. That's 21 social media shares of my blog content every week on each platform. But at the most I write one blog post a week. Just one. I share that new post on a Monday. The other 20 are reshares of older blog articles that I hope my community will be interested in if they missed them the first time around. And people might well have missed them. Tweets and posts on Facebook are more likely to be missed than seen on busy social feeds with ever-changing algorithms. That's why many editors reshare their older content.

Those of us who've been blogging for a few years have a lot of content banked, which means we have plenty to share. If you're starting out on your blogging journey, you'll have a smaller bank.



And that's absolutely fine! It's not a numbers game; it's a content-delivery game. If you have older blog posts, reshare them. If you don't, wait until you do and then reshare.

And if you'd rather write an article every two weeks, or once a month, that's your choice too. It matters not that I'm sharing 21 articles and you're sharing 2 or 5 or whatever. What matters is that we're delivering articles that will solve our colleagues' and clients' problems, and making our businesses more visible.

Don't waste precious time worrying about my 21. Those are mine and for me to worry about. You need to think only about how to promote your 2 (or 5 or whatever) posts because those are what will drive traffic to your website.

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 2

Focus on delivery, not numerical comparisons. All that's relevant is what you do for *your* business.



Perception 3: Some editors don't do any marketing but have loads of work anyway

Marketing has many faces. Remember my 21 blog-post shares? Those are part of a strategy to make me discoverable online and appealing to self-publishing authors of fiction. What I do with my blog is a very visible form of marketing because the international editorial community is active on social media, and I use social media as one delivery tool for my blog content.

But what if an editor has a different target client base? Imagine Dan. He's a copyeditor who specializes in social science books. His primary client base is publishers. Last week he did the following:

- Sent emails of introduction to four presses for whom he's never worked
- Sent hello-how-are-you emails to five presses whom he's worked for in the past but whose radars he's slipped off
- Updated his SfEP directory entry with a new testimonial, a reworked pitch, and several book jackets



None of this marketing activity has been tweeted, liked, shared or commented on. No one knows what Dan was up to last week. However, it's excellent, targeted promotion, and worth every minute he spent on it.

What one editor does to put themselves in front of potential clients will not necessarily mirror what another is doing.

An editor whose schedule is full but who doesn't appear to be busy with marketing is likely **promoting their services in less visible but just as powerful ways.**

None of us is handed work. We have to find it, or enable it to find us. Perhaps the marketing work you need to do is not about blogging, vlogging, tweeting or chatting. Maybe it's about making a telephone call, attending a networking group, writing an email, sending a letter, or advertising in appropriate spaces.

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 3

Follow your own path. Marketing doesn't have to be shiny and out there. Good marketing focuses on your business and your clients, not your colleagues' business and clients.



Perception 4: Unlike everyone else, you don't have anything to show off about

I bet you do! Once a week in my Facebook group, I host a marketing #Carnival. It's a celebration of wins. Any wins – big or small. And lots of people post, even newbie editors and proofreaders.

And it isn't just shiny-shiny stuff like winning an award, securing a new client, launching a new product, or publishing a 2,000-word blog post.

It could also be completing a test, sending out 10 letters to prospective clients, filling out a LinkedIn profile, uploading a picture to a website, booking a course, securing a testimonial, creating a marketing to-do list, buying a domain name, or applying for a membership upgrade to a professional editorial society.



Anything that takes our businesses forward is worth celebrating. I'm good at holding a list of my wins in my head but you might prefer to keep a physical record of your achievements.

You don't need anything fancy – a spreadsheet, a notebook or a space on your wall for Post-it notes.

Then, when the overwhelm hits, look at that spreadsheet, notebook or wall, and remind yourself of all that you've achieved. That focuses attention on what's been done rather than what's left to do.

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 4

Create your own carnival. Record what you've achieved as well as what's left to do. Busy people's wins deserve to be celebrated, however tiny those wins are. And they all add up!



Perception 5: Editor X is producing a seemingly impossible amount of regular new content

Unlikely! I suspect repurposing is what's going on. Bear in mind the following:

- Old content can be updated
- Guest content can be offered in a new format
- Existing content can be republished on other platforms and in different formats

I've done the following with some of my older blog posts:

- Republished on Facebook's native blogging platform using copy and paste
- Edited drastically and created a Twitter thread
- Reformatted as a booklet
- Reformatted as a video
- Reformatted as a slideshow



- Reformatted as a slideshow
- Used the content to build some of the key themes discussed in an online round-table discussion
- Used the content in a conference presentation
- Used the content in a live video in a closed Facebook group

There are even more ways to repurpose content for promotional means but you get the picture.

Repurposing is quicker than creating from scratch and therefore great for the time-poor editor. But it also respects the fact that people like to access help in different ways and at different times.

Even if an editor appears to produce a lot of visible content, it's more likely that they're taking shortcuts to make life easier. And so can you!

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 5

The busiest editors are not magicians. They're just good at recycling. Follow their lead and repurpose as much as you can.

A vertical black and white photograph on the left side of the slide shows a row of parked motorcycles, likely scooters, in a parking lot. The motorcycles are parked in a line, and the image is cropped to show only the front portion of each vehicle.

Perception 6: There's just way too much to do at once

You've made a list of all the things you've seen others doing and it's huge. Overwhelming, in fact. Ugh. There's so much:

- Social media engagement
- Blogging
- Learning how to do video
- Advertising in directories
- Building a list of publishers, packagers and project management agencies and contacting them all
- Creating or refining your website
- Developing a newsletter mailing list
- Attending online and offline networking meetings

And a bajillion other things.



You don't have nearly enough time in your life to get all of it sorted. It would take months and months and months to do all that!

Yep, it would. It might even take a couple of years to get up to full speed. And you know what? That's fine! It's supposed to be like that because you're a professional editor not a professional marketer.

So, if you feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be done, **take a breath and think in ones.**

Even the most visible and active of marketing editors started out with just one blog post, just one tweet, just one small list of publishers, just one directory entry, just one page on a website, just one online group they lurked in.

Everyone has to start somewhere. None of us creates a marketing strategy and nails it a month later.

And marketing gets easier over time because there comes a point where it starts to work for you instead of being a burden. Take me, for example ...



- I can use scheduling tools to quickly access old content and share it.
- I have old blog content that I can repurpose.
- My website's up and running so I'm tweaking rather than building.
- I've already created my directory entries so I only need to renew and tweak once in a while.

Some years back, I was still in the process of developing that stuff. I didn't do it all at once. I did a bit, then a bit more, then a bit more. Over time, the foundational work was completed, leaving me space to focus on the marketing activities that work best for me now.

Look at your own marketing list. Instead of seeing it as an ocean in which to drown, break it down into cups from which you can sip. Create a doable schedule. Choose a couple of things and an acceptable time frame in which to do them. Then choose a couple more and do those ... small steps that respect and reflect your client base, your personality, and the demands of your work and personal life.

OVERCOMING OVERWHELM: TIP 6

Think in ones. Schedule step by step so that your goals are achievable in the long arm and suit your business, not mine or anyone else's.

A black and white photograph showing a row of parked motorcycles on a cobblestone street. The motorcycles are parked in a line, and the cobblestones are visible in the foreground. The image is positioned on the left side of the slide.

Beating the overwhelm

There's more than one way to do marketing.

- Your way might look different to mine.
- It might be less visible.
- It might involve targeting different clients.
- It might require a different pace.

That's all fine.

Remember, marketing is not about catching up with colleagues. It's a journey, a building process. It does require your time, but you get to choose the methods and the schedule.

