



Northwest Independent Editors Guild 2006 Rate Survey












| 1. Do you do editing part-time or full-time? | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------|-----------|-----|
| Part-time |  | | | | | | | 43 | 57% |
| Full-time |  | | | | | | | 33 | 43% |
| Total | | | | | | | 76 | 100% | |
| 2. What was your annual gross income from all forms of editing (freelance and staff combined) in 2006? | | | | | | | | | |
| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option. | 0-\$9K | \$10-19K | \$20-\$29K | \$30-\$39K | \$40K or more | N/A | | | |
| | 21 36% | 17 29% | 7 12% | 4 7% | 3 5% | 6 10% | | | |
| | 0 0% | 2 7% | 8 27% | 7 23% | 11 37% | 2 7% | | | |
| If part-time | | | | | | | | | |
| If full-time | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. What is your rate for freelance proofreading? (Choose the amount that's closest. Choose N/A if you don't do freelance proofreading.) | | | | | | | | | |
| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option. | \$15 | \$20 | \$25 | \$30 | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 or more | N/A | |
| | 0 0% | 5 7% | 6 9% | 8 12% | 4 6% | 1 1% | 9 13% | 36 52% | |
| | 2 3% | 6 8% | 28 37% | 4 5% | 1 1% | 2 3% | 8 11% | 24 32% | |
| Corporate, technical, Web | | | | | | | | | |
| Book publishing, journalism, individuals, nonprofits, other | | | | | | | | | |

4. What is your rate for freelance copyediting? (Choose the amount that's closest. Choose N/A if you don't do freelance copyediting.)

| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option. | \$20 | \$25 | \$30 | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 | \$50 or more | N/A |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| Corporate, technical, Web | 1 1% | 3 4% | 6 9% | 10 15% | 6 9% | 3 4% | 13 19% | 25 37% |
| Book publishing, academic, journalism, nonprofits, individuals, other | 2 3% | 12 16% | 13 18% | 19 26% | 3 4% | 2 3% | 11 15% | 11 15% |

5. What is your rate for freelance developmental/substantive editing? (Choose the amount that's closest. Choose N/A if you don't do this type of editing.)

| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option. | \$30 | \$35 | \$40 | \$45 | \$50 | \$55 | \$60 or more | N/A |
|---|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| Corporate, technical, Web | 1 2% | 4 6% | 3 5% | 6 10% | 2 3% | 1 2% | 11 18% | 34 55% |
| Book publishing, journalism, individuals, nonprofits | 3 4% | 8 11% | 10 14% | 9 12% | 13 18% | 2 3% | 8 11% | 21 28% |

| 6. What is your rush fee? | | | |
|--|--|----|------|
| None |  | 48 | 66% |
| 25% |  | 13 | 18% |
| 50% |  | 11 | 15% |
| 75% |  | 0 | 0% |
| 100% |  | 1 | 1% |
| Total | | 73 | 100% |
| 7. How many editing-related clients did you work with in 2006? | | | |
| 0 |  | 2 | 3% |
| 1-5 |  | 35 | 44% |
| 5-9 |  | 27 | 34% |
| 10+ |  | 15 | 19% |
| Total | | 79 | 100% |
| 8. Which of these methods helped you obtain new editing-related clients in 2006? | | | |
| Guild Web site (member directory or Job Board) |  | 31 | 40% |
| Referral from other clients or editors |  | 65 | 84% |
| Networking event or other social occasion |  | 15 | 19% |
| Advertising |  | 3 | 4% |
| Your own Web site |  | 14 | 18% |
| Cold call/sending resume |  | 16 | 21% |
| Other (please specify) View Responses |  | 19 | 25% |

9. Just one more big question and then you're done! What percentage of your editing income came from each kind of work below in 2006? (It's OK to guesstimate!)

| Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option. | 0-24% | 25-49% | 50-74% | 75-100% | N/A |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Freelance proofreading | 38 60% | 10 16% | 1 2% | 0 0% | 14 22% |
| Freelance copyediting | 13 19% | 16 24% | 20 29% | 12 18% | 7 10% |
| Freelance developmental/substantive editing | 23 37% | 15 24% | 7 11% | 6 10% | 12 19% |
| Freelance writing | 20 39% | 9 18% | 6 12% | 2 4% | 14 27% |
| Freelance teaching (language-related) | 11 30% | 2 5% | 1 3% | 1 3% | 22 59% |
| Staff proofreading | 2 5% | 5 14% | 2 5% | 0 0% | 28 76% |
| Staff copyediting | 2 5% | 5 14% | 1 3% | 1 3% | 28 76% |
| Staff developmental/substantive editing | 3 9% | 2 6% | 0 0% | 0 0% | 28 85% |
| Staff writing | 4 12% | 1 3% | 1 3% | 0 0% | 28 82% |
| Staff teaching (language-related) | 2 6% | 0 0% | 0 0% | 0 0% | 29 94% |

10. Comments and suggested questions

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | How much experience do you have/how long have you been editing? |
| 2 | Should have some allowance to fill in two boxes or indicate if answer falls on a border between these. Perhaps more exploration of the writing and relevant teaching areas (e.g., whether journalism, novels, poetry, corporate bios; e.g., whether teaching in a community college, secondary school, university). Basically, though, good survey! |
| 3 | Where I got work: from Guild listserv (not listed with job board and member directory on question #8). |
| 4 | 1. Some of my income comes from indexing. 2. Most of my large corporate clients pay a per-page rate, which they determine -- anywhere from \$2.50 a page to \$3.50 a page. |
| 5 | --Regarding rush fees: Include "other"? I don't charge a separate rush fee, but I do charge a higher project or hourly rate (I suppose I could have calculated the percentage of that...hmm, much lower than |

| | |
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| | <p>25%, time to rethink that, along w/ rates and clients across the board)</p> <p>--Do folks charge hourly? By the project? By the page?</p> <p>--How many editors does it take to change a lightbulb?!</p> <p>Thanks for putting this together!</p> |
| 6 | In #1, perhaps clarify what you mean by "part time." It could be part time by choice, or part time because can't find as much work as would like. |
| 7 | How long have you been working as an editor (staff and/or freelance)? How often do you adjust your rates? |
| 8 | What else I do that is related to these skills--I teach teachers to use writing for teaching in their subjects and teach them to teach writing. The copyediting I do is incidental within my main endeavor of dev/subst editing. |
| 9 | Question #1 was a little difficult for me to answer, because I do editing in my full-time job and in my freelance work. An option for that may be nice to have. |
| 10 | I don't really consider freelance teaching part of my editing income. Do you mean freelance teaching of editing? I don't do that but I do teach writing classes. |
| 11 | Maybe something about the types of clients we have? Our specialties? |
| 12 | to q3: not n/a but sliding scale. |
| 13 | I would have appreciated a question or two about how much time we spend interacting with a client before the actual editing begins, and at what point we start charging It's a discussion that recurs on the Editors Guild posts. |
| 14 | Whether we use other fee methods! Page rate, project fee -- in 2006 I charged for most of my book editing this way. My "rate" responses are based on the hourly income I earned from my page/project billing. My corporate work is generally billed hourly, but they want an estimate for a P.O. |
| 15 | Don't know, but maybe find a term other than first rate survey; I kept wanting to put a hyphen between first and rate! |
| 16 | Hard to do estimates if your staff job also involves other tasks. |
| 17 | If freelancing is your main source of income, does it allow you to have health insurance? A retirement plan? |
| 18 | There was no question related to fees for those of us who do only writing. Q1/Q2 also omit writers, so I wasn't sure how to answer. Granted, we're the "editors" guild, so maybe my info shouldn't be considered for this kind of survey...don't know how many other members are writer-only. Great survey from an editorial perspective though! |
| 19 | How long have you been freelance editing? |
| 20 | I do managerial editing--managing writers and then editing their work. I put that as developmental/substantive editing. |
| 21 | Just curious what other editors do: when you sign a contract with an on-going client at one rate, then raise your rates ... do you give your on-going client a break, or raise their rate? (A: I give them a break!) |
| 22 | found no place to mention indexing |

| | |
|----|--|
| 23 | How long have you been active in publishing (proofreading, editing, writing). |
| 24 | Are you satisfied with your rates, or would you like to be able to charge more for what you do? |
| 25 | Add a category for 50K or more? (gives one hope!) How many years total experience/freelance experience? |
| 26 | it might be helpful to ask not just full time or part time, but how many hours/week the participant works in editing (to capture just how "part time" is part time, and to capture those that work 75% and consider themselves full time.) Also, I charge a range depending on the project (\$25-35 for copyedit, \$40-50 for substantive, etc. so it was hard to put a number on some of these. |
| 27 | how long in business |
| 28 | Better definition of full- and part-time: My full-time job is freelancing; I average 30 hours or more but never know from one month to the next that full-time or near-full-time jobs will continue. In 2006, I probably had as many hours as an employee of a firm who receives 2-3 weeks vacation, holidays, and sick leave. Yet, I still consider myself a part-time editor. Also, being a freelancer with two or three steady clients, I perform substantive editing, copyediting, proofreading, research and fact checking, and often writing small portions of documents. Therefore, it is difficult to break down the percentage of time devoted to each. |
| 29 | For full-time editors, what is interest level in going contract or finding more opportunities to write? |
| 30 | Can I make a living as a single woman freelancing full-time? Answer: NO! |
| 31 | If you edit as full-time staff, do you also freelance? |
| 32 | I also do manuscript evaluations, rewriting assistance, book proposals & query letters, and agent/publisher research. It would be interesting to know how many Guild editors do other kinds of editing-related activities. |
| 33 | You might put government in as a category - that's what my clientele is - not the same as nonprofit because it pays much better. I answered in the "technical" category. |