

Research Guide

Weapons:

Boston's Gun Bible; available at Amazon.com

This book was recommended by a Live Journal user and here's the description that was sent to me, I couldn't put it any better! This book and others like it are written by and for those interested in (perhaps with no evil intent) possibly less than legal weapons usage and avoiding prosecution for legal weapons usage. It's also got a fantastic amount of practical information about guns, much of it intended for non-gun folks to be able to understand. It's also got a lot of the thought patterns of such people laced through it.

Boston's Gun Bible is practically schizophrenic in the variety of information it has, but almost all of it will be useful to writers of SPN fics, including the more tactical bits, the lifestyle bits and even the paranoia. Hey, this is the sort of crazy Henderson thought John was and there's a reason.

Supernatural's Weapons Box: <http://www.freewebs.com/spnweapons/>

<http://www.freewebs.com/spnweapons/Guns1.html>

Survival skills:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/survival/how-to-survive/how-to-survive-tips.html>

Tidbits like this:

When considering shelter site selection, use the word "BLISS" as a guide.

B - Blend in with the surroundings.

L - Low silhouette.

I - Irregular shape.

S - Small.

S - Secluded location

Screencaps:

Marishna has a great collection of screen caps for many shows. This is her master list.

<http://marishna.livejournal.com/403129.html>

homeofthenutty.com/supernatural/screencaps/index.php

 **spn caps** (http://community.livejournal.com/spn_caps/) is where many cappers post to - entries are tagged and in memories.

http://community.livejournal.com/bunny_icons/tag/screencaps:+supernatural

<http://www.screencap-paradise.com/>

<http://oxoniensis.livejournal.com/tag/screencaps:%20supernatural>

<http://winchesterbros.com/gallery/index.php>

Supernatural Specific facts and things:

Superwiki page - info updated and changing all the time. Not only actual SPN info and trivia, but also actor info.

http://www.supernaturalwiki.com/index.php?title=Main_Page

For exact episode dialogue:

a) English subtitles for the episodes

<http://www.tvsubtitles.net/subtitle-19-4-en.html>

b) user-written transcripts, timelagged and thus incomplete:

<http://dana.thedudes.nu/roadhouse/supernatural/>

Episode background details, music, clips, screencaps, etc -also a little actor info, interviews with Eric, etc,

<http://www.supernatural.tv/>

Actor info (including old interviews, bio data, and pictures from DOOL onwards)

<http://www.jensenacklesfans.com>

http://www.supernaturalwiki.com/index.php?title=Main_Page

<http://community.livejournal.com/newbieguide/13894.html> this is basically a list of everything Supernatural on Live Journal and a few other places too.

For timelines:

<http://www.supernaturalwiki.com/index.php?title=Category:Timelines>

<http://www.dbw-ink.com/spn-roadmap-and-timeline.html>

Timelines/road maps Season 1 and Season 2

<http://www.dbw-ink.com/spn-roadmap-and-timeline.html>

Maps:

Google Earth

<http://www.dbw-ink.com/spn-roadmap-and-timeline.html>

<http://www.strangeusa.com/>

Bible Info:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/> is a must-have for all things biblical.

Folklore:

<http://www.pantheon.org/> can't write folklore-based stories and miss this site.

Wikipedia

<http://www.angelfire.com/theforce/haunted/hauntedplacesofindiana.htm>

Demons:

<http://demonlair.50webs.com/demonnames.html> I'd double check any of their demons, but they're a much better start than most places.

Misc & General Research Aids:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Main-Page> rather random and some articles are poorly written, but some very good stuff in here along with the junk.

<http://community.livejournal.com/spnroundtable/143218.html> This is a workshop done by art_savage for a Live Journal community.

Contributed by calamitycrow on Live Journal: (she had so much to offer I just copied and pasted her email to me.)

1. the yahoo groups: crime writers and fanfic med. These two groups have probably discussed anything you can imagine you want to do to hurt or kill a character.

2. The map collection to end all map collection:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/texas.html>

Not just texas maps, everything you could imagine and then some.

3. Searches.

Don't forget that you can add 'forum' or 'board' or "listserv" to a search and discover some very interesting sites. For example, instead of looking up 'bounty hunter', look up 'bounty hunter, forum'. You will find there is forums and boards for everything you can think of. Once you find one, don't search the board directly. Go back to google and do your search for your specific topic in google's advanced search and do a search (example 'california law) using the web address of the board. A lot of times, these boards have restricted access and this will usually get you right around the restrictions.

add state names in your searches. A lot of time, this will bring up sites attached to state museum and on-line archive sites. If that doesn't work, guess by adding more words like "archive" "oral history" or "historical society".

add "magazine" or "journal" to your search. Publications by enthusiasts are often small and hard to find. And have copious amounts of data squirreled away on their websites.

add "FAQ" or "pdf" or "doc". Often this will bring up school or college links about the subject.

Don't forget to flip to the image search and see what web sites come up. Again typing something like "1920s crime scene" will probably bring up some very interesting sites.

4. Find different googles. For example, if you type www.google.fr you will go to the French google and www.google.uk for Britian. If you need to, go to Altavista, use babelfish to generate search word for your searches. Once you get hits, click on 'translate this page'. (yes, my human once tracked down a needed piece of info to a Russian website this way) Just be aware the translator program is very odd, although its screwed up English attempts can make for some very entertaining reading.

5. Having a library card not only gets you access to the library but often to online pay sites and journals. Check local library, museum, and colleges and ask how you can get a card/access and what their lending priviledges are. Also ask what their agreement is between other libraries. Often libraries have lending agreements, which will allow you

into other libraries. It may be worth a trip to a nearby town and \$50 for that 'out of district' library card, if it gives you access to local colleges and online pay sites. Or paying \$25 to be a member of some local museum or historical society, if it gets you access to specialized collections.

6. Don't ever forget Google books (free), www.gutenberg.org (free), gutenberg.net.au (free - less strict copyright laws) Again, for Gutenberg, click on advanced search for google, and do a search by specific website. Or if you must have that out of print book, try Abebooks.com - often, a 'reading copy' (i.e. damaged but readable) can be found for practically nothing.

7. Check the New York Times. They have practically every article ever scanned into its system from the 1800s on.

8. Finally, check the bottom of the website you are looking at. There is usually someone's email on a website and a polite email to that person asking for assistance will usually get you some friendly pointers. Just keep your question short enough to put in the subject line. Example "Have questions on 1920s gardens?" And keep your email brief and super polite.

Refur's Cunning Guide to Cheating Latin <http://kroki-refur.livejournal.com/215662.html#cutid1>

http://community.livejournal.com/research_spn/ When I went there and read through some of the posts I was amazed at the amount of details large and small available here. These folks are amazing and very nice!

<http://community.livejournal.com/spnwriterlounge/> You must be actively writing and posting somewhere to join here, but this is a great community with loads of nice people. There are weekly rants, workshops and other resources for writers.

Don't forget to ask people who may work or have skills in a specific field you're needing help with.

When doing a search put your specific terms in quotes, that will narrow your search on any search engine.

A set of books by Rosemary Ellen Guiley can be found on eBay or Half.com for next to nothing. They are worth every penny.

The Encyclopedia of Angels

The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits

The Encyclopedia of Vampires, Werewolves and Other Monsters

The Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft

The Encyclopedia of Magic and Alchemy

The Encyclopedia of Saints

<http://www.strangeusa.com/>

Monster Spotter's Guide to North America by Scott Francis

Check out things like Smithsonian Magazine or the History Channel, they can provide good inspiration and ideas and neat details to a story.

Slash, Yes you need to research too:

General slash writing tips - <http://www.squidge.org/~minotaur/classic/eroc.html>

Posting:

HTML really is your friend:

Live Journal template for posting. Switch from Rich tab to HTML tab and copy and paste the template with the spaces removed. I keep a copy of one for each of my fics to make it go faster, but you have to create a NOTEPAD document to do that. Most computers come with Notepad as a standard thing. Go to your list of programs, in Windows it's under ACCESSORIES. They can be saved and stored as you would any other doc.

```
<b> Title :</b>
<b> Author: </b> < lj user=" " >
<b> Genre: </b>
<b> Characters/Pairings: </b>
<b> Rating: </b>
<b> Spoilers </b>.
<b> Summary: </b>
<b> Series: </b>
<b> Disclaimer: </b>.
<br>
<b> A/N: </b>
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remember to remove the spaces when using this to post.

<i> will start italics.

</i> will end italics

 start bold

 ends bold

 puts a space between paragraphs.

Linking to another site or page: < a href= "insert URL "> Insert title—this is what will show up in your post

You can do a few things to post the body of your work to an LJ post. There is a character limit. If you use Word there are hidden coding characters inside the document that will count against your limit. You can get around this by copying and pasting your chapter or story to a notepad document and manually putting in the codes for italics, bold etc. Or, you can copy and paste your info/summary etc and then switch to RICH tab. Copy and paste your chapter, you'll get a message asking if you want to allow access to your clipboard. Say yes. Then you'll get a box asking if you want to use the clean-up box, say yes to that too. A small pop up box will appear. Click in the white part and press **ctrl+v** that will transfer your text to a box that says PASTE FROM WORD, you can edit within that box if you want. When you have everything the way you'd like it, click on OK and it will transfer your Word doc to LJ post without the internal, invisible coding.

Other sites work basically the same way.

Adding pictures to sites such as Live Journal and Supernaturalville:

You'll need an account at Photobucket or some other photo storage site. To add a banner or some other picture to LJ again switch to the HTML tab and insert the html coding generated by the site. You'll find that with your stored picture, there is usually a list of ways to share your picture. Some sites want the html coding, others you can use the direct link (such as using an icon on a forum board).