



Welcome to April 🌸

"A complete poem is one where an emotion finds the thought and the thought finds the words." – Robert Frost

As the world begins to bloom again, it's the perfect time to breathe new life into your manuscript. Whether you're in the thick of a first draft, polishing up a final chapter, or somewhere in between, spring invites a creative refresh—and trust us, tidying up your story is much more satisfying than decluttering your closet. A little manuscript spring cleaning can go a long way toward sharpening your writing and impressing both your editor and future readers. Whether you're drafting or polishing, our checklist offers practical ways to revitalize your manuscript—from cutting filler words and checking consistency to polishing dialogue and identifying "crutch" words.

So grab a cup of something warm, open your latest draft, and give your story the fresh start it deserves.

Featured Blog: Rejected—Now What?

Rejection stings, but it doesn't have to be the end of the road. In Part I of her series, Anne Brenner offers practical, level-headed guidance for authors considering an appeal after a manuscript rejection. From cooling-off periods to crafting a respectful, point-by-point response, this article is packed with advice on how to professionally challenge a decision—and possibly turn a "no" into a "yes."

Featured Blog: The Post-DEI Shake-Up in Academic Publishing

As executive orders dismantling DEI programs roll out, major academic institutions are already scrubbing language like "health equity" and "marginalized populations" from new publications. This month's blog explores how societies like NASEM and ASM are responding—and how scholars are pushing back. What does a "post-DEI" era mean for research integrity and academic freedom?

Our project spotlight this month is Hannah Kate Warner's memoir, *The Platinum in the Poison*.

April is a celebration of the written word. National Poetry Month honors the power of language to stir emotion and spark imagination; National Library Week (April 6-12) reminds us of the vital role libraries play in access, education, and community; Shakespeare Day (April 23) pays tribute to one of history's most enduring storytellers; and Independent Bookstore Day (April 26) highlights the local champions who bring books to readers and foster literary culture. Together, these celebrations highlight the full spectrum of publishing—from creation to connection.

Enjoy! 🌸



Spring Cleaning for Your Manuscript 🌿

Here at the Technica office in lovely, pollen-dusted North Carolina, it's spring, and it feels like the perfect time for a little creative refresh. It doesn't matter if there's still a bit of snow on the ground where you are, if spring is a little late in coming, or if you're knee deep in a first draft, polishing a finished manuscript, or somewhere in between—this is the perfect time for a little story spring cleaning.

Just as decluttering your house and sprucing up your workspace can welcome in fresh energy and motivation, tidying up your manuscript can breathe life back into your writing and make your editor (and future readers) very happy.

Follow our [Spring Cleaning Checklist](#) to bring new energy to your project.

- **Cut the Clutter** – Start by trimming those filler words and redundant phrases. They're weeds in your literary garden that muddy clarity.
- **Check for Consistency** – It's easy to lose track of the little details. Check for consistency with your names, settings, timeline, tone, etc.
- **Polish Your Dialogue** – Our favorite trick to achieve authentic sounding dialogue is to read it aloud. Does it sound natural? Does it flow?
- **Look for "Crutch" Words** – We all have them. What are yours? Common culprits: just, really, very, suddenly, so, that... Eliminate them!
- **Chapter by Chapter Pass** – Step back and take a good look at your chapter content and sequence. Does each one move the story or argument forward?

Pro Tip from the Editors at Technica:

If you're too close to your manuscript to see the issues (which is totally normal), take a 3-day break—then read it on your phone or tablet. The change in format can trick your brain into noticing what you've missed. Trust us, this really works!

🔪 Ready to take your spring cleaning even further?

We offer manuscript editorial services, as well as a variety of author resources. It's a great way to get professional feedback on what's working, what needs tightening, and what can wait until the next round. Think of it as a deep clean... with a literary eye.

[Check out our Author Services.](#)

Happy writing! Your best draft is just around the corner.

Technica Tidbits

📖 [ALA Releases Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2024](#)

💰 [American readers are worried books will get pricier thanks to tariffs](#)

🗣️ [A scholarly communications futurecast](#)

🏛️ [American Library Association, AFSCME challenge Trump Administration gutting of Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)

🔑 [Strengthening and expanding access to scholarly publishing](#)

🗑️ [Naval Academy removes hundreds of library books in DEI purge](#)

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Manuscript Rejected? How to Successfully Appeal the Decision, Part I

by Anne Brenner

As an author, when you've put lots of effort into submitting your work to a journal or publisher only to have it rejected, it's natural to feel pretty frustrated. But if you take a deep breath and step back, you'll realize that you have, in a nutshell, two options. First, you can write a rebuttal to the rejection decision and continue to try to get your work published in the same venue. Or, you can move on from that venue and go in a different direction. Part I of this two-part series will focus on the first option.

So, you're not throwing in the towel on this journal or publisher just yet. Now what?

Delve into the details [here](#).

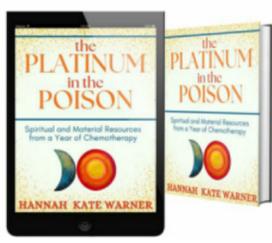


Academies Continue to Scrub New Publications in Trump's "Post-DEI" World

by Chris Moffitt

As [previously mentioned](#), the Trump Administration has been relentlessly pushing new executive orders targeting various policies from the previous presidential administration. Much of the focus in the publishing industry so far has been on the efforts of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to cut various government programs and grants in its unending search for a balanced budget (a search so heavy-handed that it would make even Herman Melville roll his eyes). However, the administration's dismantling of DEI practices has been equally impactful on publishing with ramifications already being seen across multiple academic societies. [Read on](#).

Project Spotlight



The Platinum in the Poison By Hannah Kate Warner

Technica worked with author Hannah Kate Warner on her memoir, *The Platinum in the Poison*, an honest and passionate account of her year-long journey on chemotherapy. We copyedited the manuscript and created an epub.



Looking to finally finish that manuscript you've been working on? Take the next step. Technica Editorial offers editorial support including copyediting, developmental editing, interior page layout and design, cover art, and more.

[Contact us!](#)



Spring Cleaning Checklist

A Technica Resource

Before you hit send on your manuscript—whether to an editor, agent, or critique partner—take a little time to polish and tighten your work. This quick 'Spring Cleaning Checklist' will help you clean up common issues, improve clarity, and get your writing one step closer to being submission-ready. Print it, mark it up, and keep it handy as you revise. You've got this!

✔ Clean up some common issues, check out our [Spring Cleaning Checklist](#).

Seeking additional guidance or inspiration? Explore our [Resources](#) for downloadable author guides and tools!



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