

# ThrillerChat Transcript for June 30, 2010

All times are Pacific Time

June 30, 2010

- [12:04 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: When writing a globetrotting thriller, what ways do you do your research? [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:06 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Two sources that jump to mind for me are Google Earth & Google Street View. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:07 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: Wikipedia is one that comes to mind as well. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:09 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[stevenkgriffin](#): Wikipedia is one that comes to mind as well. [#thrillerchat](#) < Another great source.
- [12:10 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: There's always the tried and true travel guides as well. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:11 am](#) **[dncallahan](#)**: Hello everyone! [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:11 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: If looking for real-world events and such, searching Google news seems like it could be a good source as well. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:12 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[dncallahan](#) Hello. [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:12 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: Pretty much anything Google works. :) [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:12 am](#) **[thecreativepenn](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I use Flickr.com for precise detail, did scene in Tabriz, Iran the other day - Flickr was fantastic for it
- [12:13 am](#) **[thecreativepenn](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I also did scene in Santiago cathedral and found from their webpage an awesome prop for the story - research adds to plot!
- [12:14 am](#) **[dncallahan](#)**: I would love to take a virtual tour of a place. I wish there were more websites like that. I'd like to tour Haiti for my next novel [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:14 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: They may be a little harder to find, but local history and guide books by local authors can provide a more... [#thrillerchat](#)
- [12:15](#) **[Selorian](#)**: off beat view of a locale than bigger books and sources.

[am](#) [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:15 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @thecreativepenn: [#thrillerchat](#) I use Flickr.com for precise detail, did scene in Tabriz, Iran the other day - Flickr was fantastic for it

[12:16 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Most universities have an International Student Group, and the members can be a source of great local touches. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:16 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Yes, Google anything is invaluable to a writer. I like the Flickr idea. Hadn't thought of that. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:18 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @AllInky: Most universities have an International Student Group, and the members can be a source of great local touches. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:20 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: How about Facebook groups? A ghost hunting group in london or a scuba diving group in Bimimi could give some unique insight. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:21 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: That's an excellent possibility! @stevenkgriffin [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:22 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: I needed information on Greece once and found a lot of assistance at a Greek Heritage Society. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:23 am](#) **[thecreativepenn](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) I also put out a question here on twitter about storms in Arizona and got a lot of useful websites from locals - very handy

[12:23 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Another good spot that may not be obvious. @AllInky [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:24 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) wonder what the ratio between internet research vs. other ways is. I basically live online, I get most info from the web.

[12:25 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: [#thrillerchat](#) of course the danger with finding all your info online is wading through the noise.

[12:26 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I wonder if geneology sites could be useful? [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:26 am](#) **[MetaPhoenix](#)**: @Selorian If my thrillers ever have ghosts, shoot me! I like the scuba diving idea, though. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:26 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: That's why I like to talk to people. They give you anecdotes, colour, and very local history. [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:26 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Twitter is a wealth of info if you ask. @thecreativepenn [#thrillerchat](#)

[12:27 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Heh. Glad one struck a cord. @[MetaPhoenix](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:28 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I know I do most of my research online, but it does include living people at times. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:28 am](#) **[MetaPhoenix](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Twitter needs good group support. It's a better medium than FB for meeting new people. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:29 am](#) **[GargoylePhan](#)**: Hey, is #[ThrillerChat](#) happening right now?

[12:30 am](#) **[dncallahan](#)**: I have all kinds of tabs open now with all of your great ideas. :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:31 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[stevenkgriffin](#) Twitter lives and breaths. :-O #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:32 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) Sounds like a good start to a plotline, huh? lol

[12:33 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[dncallahan](#) I do too. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:35 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I also like that you can pick up dialect when talking to a live person that could come in handy for a story. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:37 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[ReelyBored](#) Hello! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:38 am](#) **[the dos](#)**: What's this about a #[thrillerchat](#)? Really tired, but would love to get involved.

[12:39 am](#) **[MetaPhoenix](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Realistic UK dialect can be super-tricky if you haven't visited there often. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: some interesting stories about locations in their home countries. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:40 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I've heard that before. @[MetaPhoenix](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:41 am](#) **[the dos](#)**: @[MetaPhoenix](#) @[Selorian](#) Try Trinidadian and general Caribbean dialogue. It's hard to write anything sounding genuine. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:42 am](#) **[portiaalex](#)**: Hi there! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:42 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: The real advantage to live people is that there's often an official history and... well, local interpretation. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:42 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[the\\_dos](#) Haha! I'll take your word for it. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:43 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[portiaalex](#) Hi there. Good to see you! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:43 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) @[AllInky](#) Good point. A local's POV would be pretty valuable to have when researching.

[12:43 am](#) **[the\\_dos](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Yeah, the best practise is to write it in standard English and let actors put their own spin on it/trust the talent. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:44 am](#) **[MetaPhoenix](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Robert Downey did an amazingly good Brit accent in the Sherlock Holmes film, helped by a superb script of course. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:44 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[the\\_dos](#): @[Selorian](#) Yeah, the best practise is to write it in standard English and let actors put their own spin on it/trust the talent. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:45 am](#) **[MetaPhoenix](#)**: @[the\\_dos](#) I'll leave that one to you, pal :P #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:46 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Being from Oklahoma originally, I stumbled on a cave big enough to drive a truck into while hunting on a private ranch. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:47 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I used it in a scene in my novel and as far as I know, very few people know about its existence. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:50 am](#) **[portiaalex](#)**: I'm usually hesitant to write about a location I haven't been to. I find it harder to visualize ... #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:50 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I've also joined niche forums to meet people from certain areas with interests my characters have to do research of a locale. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:52 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I hear you, @[portiaalex](#). Flickr, Google Earth, Google Street View, and Wikipedia have been mentioned to help with visualizing. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:52 am](#) **[dncallahan](#)**: @[portiaalex](#) same here and I feel like it limits me as a writer. :( #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:52 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) there are more caves here than people realize. :) What part of OK is the cave you reference?

[12:53 am](#) **[thecreativepenn](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) Finding real places is great, I remember the roof of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, included it as so unusual!

[12:53 am](#) [portiaalex](#): @[dncallahan](#) The only solution?more travel ;- ) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:53 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) funny you should mention caves too...I'm reading James Rollins' Subterranean at the moment. :)

[12:54 am](#) [dncallahan](#): I just googled "virtual tour" and it looks like there are lots of cool options for setting research. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:54 am](#) [AllInky](#): Many universities have a public relations person, I email schools with good lang. depts. first. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:55 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): #[thrillerchat](#) @[portiaalex](#) yes! A good excuse to see the world...I'll just tell my wife I'm doing "research" :)

[12:55 am](#) [dncallahan](#): @[portiaalex](#) so true!! #[thrillerchat](#) Gotta get out in the world.

[12:55 am](#) [Selorian](#): Real places is like hitting the jack pot. @[thecreativepenn](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:55 am](#) [Selorian](#): There are. It's between Claremore and Owasso. My MC is from Tulsa and it starts there. @[stevenkgriffin](#) #[thrillerchat](#) (forgot hash tag)

[12:56 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) nice...i live in T-town. :)

[12:56 am](#) [GargoylePhan](#): I use Google Streetview sometimes, to get a look at a town or street or area & see what it's like; streets, buildings, etc. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:56 am](#) [HeatherMcCorkle](#): @[portiaalex](#) I like to use researching a new place for a book as a reason to travel! #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:57 am](#) [Selorian](#): Really? What a small world. I lived in Claremore and worked in Tulsa for years. @[stevenkgriffin](#) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:57 am](#) [AllInky](#): Nevada Barr has a great mystery set in caves in one of the national parks - very claustrophobic! :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:58 am](#) [portiaalex](#): @[HeatherMcCorkle](#) Oh yeah! I think I want to set my next piece in Hawaii ;- ) #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) [Selorian](#): For videos, YouTube can be a goldmine for seeing a locale. #[thrillerchat](#)

[12:59 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): #[thrillerchat](#) @[Selorian](#) indeed.

[1:00](#) [portiaalex](#): @[the\\_dos](#) Yes, it seems like you've got to be thinking very visual

[am](#) if you're writing screenplays! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) [HeatherMcCorkle](#): [@portiaalex](#) Yes! Actually my next book does take place somewhere tropical. I think I see a trip coming on... [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) [AllInky](#): Seriously, if you do travel, keep receipts. You can claim "research" once you've earned something. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:00 am](#) [MetaPhoenix](#): [@ColinPeters](#) BTW, fascinating discussion about research methods for writing going on right now in [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:01 am](#) [portiaalex](#): I just tickled myself by writing [#thrillercat](#) instead of [#thrillerchat](#)! Perhaps I read too much Lillian Jackson Braun growing up.

[1:01 am](#) [Selorian](#): My one WIP starts in Tulsa and takes place in Bimini. I'd love to get to travel to do first hand research. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:01 am](#) [Selorian](#): RT [@AllInky](#): Seriously, if you do travel, keep receipts. You can claim "research" once you've earned something. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:02 am](#) [the\\_dos](#): [@portiaalex](#) You might be surprised at how many people don't though. And then struggle to tie their concept together. [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:02 am](#) [portiaalex](#): [@HeatherMcCorkle](#) Yes, with lots of beach sitting to absorb the local flavor :-)  
[#thrillerchat](#)

[1:02 am](#) [the\\_dos](#): [@portiaalex](#) A lot of screenwriters write scripts that could as easily, or easier, be radio plays. And that's no good! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:02 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): [#thrillerchat](#) [@AllInky](#) Good to know!

[1:04 am](#) [AllInky](#): Other things librarians know? Writers. They visit libraries all the time - and they have their contact info! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:05 am](#) [portiaalex](#): [@the\\_dos](#) Scriptwriting intimidates me. There's the art of writing and the science of script to consider-a lot to balance [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:05 am](#) [MetaPhoenix](#): I GTG. Awesome chat, guys! [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:06 am](#) [AllInky](#): Librarians can also get you access to special collections. Be nice to them. :) [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:07 am](#) [Selorian](#): RT [@AllInky](#): Librarians can also get you access to special collections. Be nice to them. :) [#thrillerchat](#)

[1:07 am](#) [stevenkgriffin](#): [#thrillerchat](#) [@MetaPheonix](#) see ya.

[1:07 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[MetaPhoenix](#) Nice to meet you. Hope to see you again. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:07 am](#) **[portiaalex](#)**: @[AllInky](#) So true! I used to work in a library. The librarians there were AWESOME! #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:08 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Online magazine articles often suggest some sources of expert info, subscribe to ones dedicated to the region of interest. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:09 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Talking to people in law enforcement can give you some interesting settings and situations as well. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:10 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Online searches find you things you already have a clue about, live people tell you things you never heard of. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:16 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: There has been some really great research ideas thrown out tonight. Places and sources I had never considered. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:17 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: About time to wrap it up for the night. any last minute ideas or thoughts? #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:19 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I'm excited by the turn out for tonight's chat. Thank you all for joining in and the great info you shared. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:19 am](#) **[AllInky](#)**: Keep a good contacts book? People met on one project often have other talents or know other helpful people! #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:20 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: RT @[AllInky](#): Keep a good contacts book? People met on one project often have other talents or know other helpful people! #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:21 am](#) **[stevenkgriffin](#)**: #[thrillerchat](#) Nice to meet you all...good luck in your writing. See you next time.

[1:21 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[AllInky](#) Great bit of info! #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:22 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: Good night folks. Thanks for coming. Another #[thrillerchat](#) next week on Wednesday @ 8pm EST. Topic to be announced.

[1:23 am](#) **[portiaalex](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Great #[thrillerchat](#) ! Thanks!

[1:24 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[portiaalex](#) Thanks. My pleasure. #[thrillerchat](#)

[1:27 am](#) **[Meira Davi](#)**: RT @[AllInky](#): Keep a good contacts book? People met on one project often have other talents or know other helpful people! #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:06 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Meira\\_Davi](#) Contacts book - very good idea. In LA those with the 'rolodex' have a head start (& better job options) #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:10 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: RT @[AllInky](#): Librarians can also get you access to special collections. Be nice to them. :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:12 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[GargoylePhan](#) Yay Google streetview! - excellent tool. #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:14 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) If not too late re research I'd add local podcasts of places to hear dialects, local tidbits etc #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:15 am](#) **[Meira\\_Davi](#)**: RT @[inkgypsy](#): @[Selorian](#) If not too late re research I'd add local podcasts of places to hear dialects, local tidbits etc #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:16 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Another idea: drive thru own neighborhood at weird hour of AM - makes you notice diff things. Then walk it. :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:18 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: @[inkgypsy](#) Excellent suggestions! I'll include anything added up to the time I create the pdf transcript tomorrow morning. #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:18 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[theworldamongus](#) Xlnt! I couldn't organize it - toddler too unpredictable but 11-12am East coast plus 8-9pm PT would be great #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:20 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[theworldamongus](#) Maybe as it gets bigger there could be longer time or multi times #[thrillerchat](#) Don't want to overburden @[Selorian](#).

[2:23 am](#) **[Selorian](#)**: I'm open to longer &/or multiple times. If it's too much, I'm open to letting someone else host an alternate time/day chat. #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:29 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: @[Selorian](#) Awesome! But don't bend over backward just for me - I'll keep reading, adding late comments & join if possible. :) #[thrillerchat](#)

[2:35 am](#) **[inkgypsy](#)**: Oh - obvious research tool: The Twitter hive mind! Put out a question at various times of day, do searches for keywords etc #[thrillerchat](#)