

*Written for Boundless Connections, a technology company expanding their business to build new tech centers in several cities in the Northeast US. This article is slated for publish on their website in January of 2018.*

You're an indie author. You're a team of one. Lonely hours are spent tending to the many technological platforms you need to grow your business, slouching over your computer with your phone in your hand to get more done. A headache is threatening to hammer the inside of your skull, and when you look at the clock you want to either cry or take a sword to your laptop. Either will do, because yet another file you're trying to upload has decided to be glitchy. You can't even remember the last time you sat in a room of writers to talk shop. It's the life of an indie author at times: the endless hours of writing, editing, promoting, launching, and maintaining your website so people can find you. Formatting manuscripts, posting on social media, visiting online forums...the list of tasks is endless, and you are the sole proprietor. Wouldn't it be nice to have a place where you could meet with other indie authors, a space for discussion to share ideas, help each other through troubleshooting, and support each other's efforts? It might be even better if that meeting could happen in a place where trained experts in technology could give you a hand if you need the help, wouldn't it? Maybe that seems about as likely as finding a genie in a bottle. Allow me to introduce you to Boundless Connections.

Imagine walking into a comfortable, open room filled with light. A warm, friendly person greets you, and you say you're there to join the indie author group. You are invited to come get a cup of coffee or tea, and to help yourself to a snack. With your tea and cookies in hand, you head to the meeting space where the Tech Center has one of their trained staff leading the group. You have no idea what to expect, but the person leading the meeting welcomes you to sit down, introductions take place, and when it's time, the meeting begins. Rather than a boring lecture, everyone is treated as a valuable source of information to share, and you are all invited to discuss the subject at hand. When a new subject is introduced, a fun game explores the topic to stimulate discussion, and at one point a little boy with a robot wanders into the room accidentally, but no one minds. He gets a moment to show off the robot he built in the class down the hall, and he's only six years old.

During the meeting, all the other authors genuinely offer supportive, kind advice, listen carefully, and make you feel at ease. The whole atmosphere of the meeting has taken you right out of the stupor you were in last night, and now the stirring of inspiration is taking root again. In fact, your entire attitude has switched from nervous curiosity to actual excitement. Who are these people working their magic? The session finishes with a competitive race in the escape room, and everyone gets laughing so hard no one actually escapes. You are all rescued mercifully by the staff, who tell the group that for the next meeting a tutorial is being planned to teach the group how to use the sound equipment for recording audio books, and you can't believe your luck. Only last week you were eyeing up a mid-range microphone to start recording your latest novel because audio books are so hot right now, but you were dreading having to invest hours learning yet another software program. Now, maybe that audio book won't be so hard to make after all.

On your way out of the meeting you ask the staff if they can possibly help you make a book trailer for YouTube, and they tell you, "Of course!" The next thing you know, you're signing up for a tutorial session. "Do you help with websites, by any chance?" you ask, hoping against hope

that maybe you can finally get all your pages organized. “Absolutely!” is the answer, and your shoulders lower as you take a nice, deep breath. Indie authors no longer need to slog away on their computers alone, hiding in cramped offices full of papers, loud coffee shops full of chatty customers, or hushed library tables lost in the stacks. Instead, authors can now meet in the comfort of Boundless Connections Tech Centers, where they can join groups to share, learn, discuss, and support each other. With all the tech indie authors need to know, you have a wealth of support you can access from the trained experts available to teach you in workshops, tutorials, and even done-for-you models.

Christina Lopez and Mike Marvin started their first Tech Center with the idea that every Tech Center would be a place where anyone could come to learn how to use technology of any kind. They believe technology belongs to everyone, and no matter what your level of ability, they can help you. Between these two creative minds is a wealth of 50 years of tech experience, paired with the Virtues Program to ensure all members and visitors are treated with respect and kindness, and will leave feeling confident and ready to tackle the technology in their lives. Through their expanding vision, tech centers are offering opportunities for specific groups to come to the space for only \$5 per person for each meeting, facilitated by a trained member of their staff to lead the group masterfully toward a cohesive and productive goal using their Virtues training as the pivot for every individual need. For only \$15, anyone is welcome to purchase a day pass which will give individual access to the equipment (like sound booths, video equipment, 3-D printers, laptops...just ask for the tech, and you have access). If you’re completely overwhelmed, you can ask for a tutorial with a trained staff member who will give you one-on-one attention for \$25 per half-hour session. Finally, if you want to splurge on the done-for-you final product because you just can’t wrangle that tech on your own, or don’t have the time...you can schedule an appointment to discuss a personalized quote for your tech needs to be fulfilled.

Boundless Connections Tech Centers are like having a tech genie in a bottle. For indie authors, whose livelihood depends on technology, this is a goldmine of endless possibilities. Recording your new audiobook? Buy a day pass, or even a month-long membership to get it done. Need help learning how to better use Microsoft Word to format beautiful, professional manuscripts? Schedule a tutoring session with an expert. Want a place to connect with artists to create cover art, editors who can polish your writing, or marketing gurus to help you with social media? Head to a tech center club meeting for indie authors to mingle with other indie pros. All you have to do is ask. Boundless Connections Tech Centers have so many options to assist any indie author with all the tech in your life, even down to having a friendly, pleasant place to sit while you write. Coffee, tea, and snacks are free when you come aboard. All you need to do is go online and click on the “contact us” option in the menu of the home page of [BoundlessConnections.com](http://BoundlessConnections.com). You’ll receive a reply within 24 hours. Remember, endless possibilities await you, author. Expand your online authorship—go get your genie in a bottle!