

Storytelling With Scrivener

Lesson: An Overview of The Scrivener Interface

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Welcome back to Storytelling With Scrivener, writer. In this video, we'll work through an overview of the Scrivener program as it first appears after opening a new project. A quick note: if you've made any changes to your Scrivener default settings in the past, such as to the icons available in the Toolbar at the top of your screen, your interface may look slightly different.

Now, with that established, let's dive in, beginning with that Toolbar we just mentioned. The Toolbar runs along the top of your screen and contains icons that serve as shortcuts, allowing you to quickly access or switch between certain features in the program. We'll go over each of these icon shortcuts and how you can customize your Scrivener Toolbar in lessons to come.

Below the Toolbar, in the middle of your screen, you have your standard text window. This window can also serve a few more core functions utilizing different features such as Corkboard mode and Outliner mode, but for now, it's enough to know that this center window is where the vast majority of your work as a writer will take place.

On the left-hand side here, we have a column that serves as one of Scrivener's most fantastic features, in my opinion. This column is called the Binder, and it acts in much the way you'd expect from its name. In the Binder, you can create individual files representing notes or scenes, as well as folders in which to house those files, helping you organize all of your work for a single work-in-progress right here in an easily accessible format. This feature, the Binder, has saved me countless hours of scrolling through folders on my computer and switching between individual file windows for different chapters, scenes, and research notes. I love that I can view, organize, and open all of my work for a single project super easily with this feature.

Then, finally, on the right-hand side of your screen we have what's called the Inspector. It can be accessed using this blue "I" icon in your Scrivener Toolbar at any time. The Inspector is a tool that allows you to easily organize your notes, bookmarks, keywords and meta-data, comments and footnotes, and even the previous drafts of a single file at a time. So, for example, if we returned to our Binder on the left-hand side of the screen and selected the file called "scene", any work we do inside the Inspector now on the right-hand side here relates solely to this particular scene. A pretty neat tool for organizing your work and making the writing process more efficient, especially on long and often complicated projects.

This wraps up our overview of the Scrivener program at a glance. If you're feeling confused or overwhelmed about any of these features—the Toolbar, Text Window, Binder, or Inspector—have no fear. We're going to talk about them in much more depth in upcoming videos in our course. So stay tuned, writer.