The challenge for any business is to make sure that when people look for a product or service like yours, they find you and not a competitor.







OPTIMISE FOR YOUR PERSONAS, NOT SEARCH ENGINES

First and foremost, write your buyer personas so you know to whom you're addressing your content. By creating quality educational content that resonates with your ideal buyers, you'll naturally improve your SEO.

BLOG AWAY

Blogging is perhaps the most effective way to increase your organic site traffic. It lets you go into more depth than your website allows and creates a large catalogue of helpful, persona-optimised content centred on your market niche. However, poorly-written, spammy or too-cheap content can do more harm than good. Avoid it.

PLUG INTO THE BLOGOSPHERE

The blogosphere is a reciprocal sort of place. Read, comment and link to other people's sites and blogs, particularly those operating in your market, and they'll hopefully read, comment and link to yours, attracting more prospects.

USE LONG TAIL KEYWORDS

Don't just go with the most popular keywords in your market. Use keywords that are more specific to your product or service. In time, Google and other search engines will identify your website or blog as a destination for that particular subject, which will boost your content in search rankings and help your ideal customers find you.

GET YOUR META DOWN The meta title, URL and description are the

three key ingredients for an optimised web page or blog post. It's simple but effective.

CONSISTENTLY CREATE QUALITY CONTENT

Try to write and publish as often as

possible, but not at the cost of quality! The more quality content – including thought leadership articles and blog posts - you have on your website or blog the more opportunities you create for organic traffic to come your way.

Once you've built up a decent back catalogue of content you can link to it in blogs and on

USE INTERNAL LINKS

your website, guiding visitors to more relevant content. This can keep visitors on your website for longer, which helps boost your search rankings. Don't, however, overuse internal links; too many and it starts to look like spam.

Google prioritises sites that have a lot of incoming links, especially from other

INCOMING LINKS

ENCOURAGE

trustworthy sites. Encourage clients, friends, family members, partners, suppliers, industry mavens and friendly fellow bloggers to link to your site. The more incoming links you have the higher your site will rank. But beware SEO snake oil salesmen who try to trick Google with spammy links from low-reputation sites. Some links can actually damage your SEO.

You can also link to your content yourself, on your own personal blog, Facebook,

BLOW YOUR OWN TRUMPET

Twitter, LinkedIn, StumbleUpon, etc - no spamming, mind.

Build a presence on social media networks

USE SOCIAL MEDIA

like LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Google+ etc. All of these activities help to get your name out and website address out on the internet. Add share buttons to your site to make it easy for people to share your content. And write content worthy of sharing.

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