

Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

The ISTC is the UK's professional association for people involved in disseminating factual information. It aims to raise standards in the delivery of technical and scientific information to support products and services. This includes instructional and reference documents on screen and on paper.

Technical communication encompasses varied disciplines, including:

- Technical writing
- Technical illustration
- Technical journalism
- Online help design
- Website design
- Information design
- E-learning development
- Publications management.

Members of all grades receive:

- *Communicator*
- Monthly newsletter
- Online discussion group access
- Online contracting group access
- Oxford Reference Online access
- Discounted rates for conference
- Discounted prices for standards
- *Southern Communicator* access.

Corporate members are entitled to use the suffix MISTC or FISTC.

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Communicator

The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators
 Winter 2005

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Single sourcing a project painlessly

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 Bringing action into technical illustrations

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The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators
 Spring 2006

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Upgrading to FrameMaker 7.2



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Content

Communicator is the quarterly journal of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators (ISTC). Written for and by working technical communicators, it contains articles ranging from practical advice that helps readers achieve better results, to inspirational features about ambitious projects. These are complemented by reports of research and news demonstrating the theoretical basis and commercial drivers for recommended practices.

Launched in 1968, *Communicator* has been updated regularly to reflect changing practices. After a major redesign in 2001, it has gone from strength to strength. Well-known industry figures have contributed on highly topical subjects, such as:

- An introduction to DITA by an information architect at IBM
- Using 3D modelling and animation from illustrators at Rolls-Royce
- Inclusive intranet design from the only British organisation in useit.com's Ten Best Intranets of 2005.

More and more ISTC members are sharing practical experience from their own workplaces or projects. Alongside their articles are unusual features, such as a history of botanical illustration from the Society of Botanical Artists, and papers from academics carrying out research in relevant areas.

'I've just received the latest issue and I have to say it looks a particularly strong one. Many of the articles are very topical and all are well-written.'

Submissions

The Editor welcomes contributions and correspondence on all aspects of technical communication. To submit an article:

1. Download our Contributor Guidelines and House Style from www.istc.org.uk/Publications/communicator.htm. There is also a template for those writing in Microsoft Word.
2. Write a synopsis describing the topic, your planned treatment of it, the level of knowledge expected in readers and the predicted length.
3. Send your synopsis to the Editor at journal.editor@istc.org.uk.

The Editor will contact you to discuss the details and, where appropriate, scheduling options.

Advertising

Communicator is a highly targeted forum for promoting products and services for creating, managing, translating and publishing content. As well as an international print circulation, it is available online to members of the New Zealand and Australian technical communication societies in a reciprocal deal.

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'As a relatively new member, I am very pleased with the ISTC. Both the journal and newsletter are good to read and seem to strike the right balance of news, technical developments, information and humour.'

'May I offer my congratulations on the continuing quality of Communicator? Although I have not read it all yet, almost all the articles in the latest issue appear both interesting and relevant from my viewpoint.'

Free

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