Technical Writer

What does a technical writer do?

A technical writer prepares information that helps users. This can include:

- *instructions for programming your video*

- a maintenance guide for your car

- *on-line help for a computer program*

- procedures for large businesses or local authorities

- *multimedia presentations for schools*

- the content of web pages on the Internet

Where does a technical writer work?

A technical writer may work in many places, such as

- *in manufacturing industry*

- in financial institutions

- *in software companies*

- for government agencies

What skills does a technical writer need?

A technical writer needs a variety of skills, such as

- *an excellent standard of written language*

- curiosity about the way things work

- *interviewing skills*

- graphic design awareness

- *planning and analysis skills*

- ability to communicate information

- *structure information logically*

How can I become a technical writer?

You can train to become a technical writer in a number of ways:

- *ISTC Open Learning courses leading to certification*

- specialised degree courses

- *related degree courses followed by practical training*

- practical training and on-the-job placement

Details of courses are available on the ISTC web site
http://www.istc.org.uk/Training_education/training_overview.htm

Who does a technical writer work with?

A technical writer will work with

- subject matter experts

- *graphic designers*

- training developers

- *printers and publishers*

- development engineers and designers

- *and most important of all, with users*

Related occupations:

- other professional writing in marketing, journalism and advertising

- *editors and proofreaders*

- printing and publishing

- *graphic design*

- multimedia design

More information

The professional body for technical writers in the UK is the Institute of Scientific and
Technical Communicators (ISTC)

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