



InfoPlus

Monthly newsletter from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

February 2023

Contents	
ISTC Social Media	4
ISTC Local Area Groups	5
Training courses	5
Blogs and Podcasts	
Roundup	8
Upcoming webinars	8

The ISTC is the largest UK body representing scientific and technical communicators. If you are involved in technical writing, technical illustration, or communicating technical information in other ways, it's the professional association that can support your career. Interested in membership? Find out more here.

This free newsletter is emailed to about 1500 people. As well as ISTC news, *InfoPlus* contains listings and articles of general interest to the profession. Subscribe here.

Advertising:
istc@istc.org.uk

Editorial: [Michaël McFarland Campbell](#)

Layout Editor: [Bob Hewitt](#)

ISTC Office: Unit 19 Omega Business Village Thurston Road Northallerton, DL6 2NJ

Tel: +44 (0)20 8253 4506
Email: istc@istc.org.uk
Web: www.istc.org.uk

ISTC News

Communicator Awards

Linda Robins FISTC, President

Correction from *InfoPlus* January 2023

Last month I reported that 2022 was the second year we had held the *Communicator Awards*. In fact, these were first held in 2020, so last year's competition was the third in succession.

and for 2023

These awards are now an established element of the ISTC's annual awards programme. We are always keen to discover which articles and topics appeal most to our readers. The request to vote for their favourites is a useful way to gather this information. This year, readers will be invited to vote for their favourite articles and for their favourite regular columns.



ISTC Annual survey covering employment

Linda Robins FISTC, President

You can help make a difference!

The ISTC Annual Survey covering employment is now available for all technical communicators in the UK. This survey aims to collect data relating to qualifications, experience, and remuneration of technical communicators in the UK.

We hope many of you can participate so we get a good representation of our profession. The survey is open to ISTC members and non-members.

Results will be made available to ISTC members through the ISTC publications. If you are not an ISTC member and would like to receive a copy of the survey results, please send an email to istc@istc.org.uk.

Please click on the link to get started.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RVVJGK5>.

Do not hesitate or delay! It will take you 10 minutes at most (guaranteed). The deadline for the survey is 28th February 2023.

ISTC Membership Renewals for 2023

Linda Robins FISTC, President

Renewals for ISTC Members opened on 1 December and payment can be made via the website or by contacting the ISTC office. Members received an email with details or they can check the [renewals page](#) of the ISTC website.

Payment was due by 31st January and a reminder email will be sent next week to those who haven't renewed yet.

TCUK 23 – latest news from our TCUK23 team

The TCUK countdown begins!

by James Bartley

At time of writing we're dotting the i's and crossing the t's on contracts, so we'll be announcing details very soon. We'll shout it from the rooftops when details go live, but you can always check the website at istc.org.uk/tcuk or the latest issue of our newsletter, [InfoPlus](#).

In the meantime, thanks to those who are already discussing what they'd like to see at conference later this year. You can join in by logging into the website and visiting the new TCUK forum area, or by emailing us at tcuk@istc.org.uk.

The forum already has some brilliant ideas for talks or workshops, such as 'How do I write help for APIs when I hate APIs?', 'What do I do now my tech comms career is winding down?', and 'Can someone please show me what writing markup actually looks like?'.

Not sure what to suggest? Think about it this way – what problems do you have? TCUK is a chance to draw on the experience of real people who are in the same boat or have already dealt with similar problems to you. Still not sure? Just come and chat, we can work it out together.

We're looking forward to seeing you later this year, and we'll be in touch again soon."

Calling all ISTC Members: Submit your CPD Record for review

Linda Robins FISTC, President

This year, we invite all Members and Fellows to submit their CPD records on a voluntary basis, for review. Please send your CPD record by email to istc@istc.org.uk using the subject line "ISTC CPD record 2022". You may send a Microsoft Word or PDF document as an attachment, or send a link to a web address.

For guidance on our CPD framework, check the website CPD information for members. The deadline was 31 January; but we welcome any you would like to submit.

For general questions about CPD, please email Warren Singer MISTC, Council member for CPD at cpd@istc.org.uk.



ISTC meets Jon Geraghty

February 2023

<https://istc.org.uk/events/istc-meets>.



Visualising Data for Effective Communication

Technical writing isn't just about words – we also use tables, charts and diagrams to explain concepts and guide users. In this session, Jon will explore the art and science of data visualisation and give some pointers on how writers can use visual techniques to make complex information easier for users to understand.

This presentation is for anyone who's ever been asked to put data into a table or graph. It's suitable for writers at any stage of their career.

About Jon

I began my career in data analytics and came to data visualisation through a passion for design and User Experience. I act as a consultant within the dunnhumby data science community, helping analysts, product managers and UX designers to tell compelling stories with data.

Did you know you could advertise in this space?



■ Reach an engaged, specialist audience of content professionals!

■ Join MadCap, 3di and many others who advertise in this e-newsletter!

■ Ideal for product releases, news, courses/events, brand awareness, and recruitment!

Contact istc@istc.org.uk for further details!

ISTC Social Media

ISTC on LinkedIn

There are ISTC groups on LinkedIn for ISTC members which include:

- Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators
www.linkedin.com/groups/1858546

England

- Cambridge Technical Communicators
www.linkedin.com/groups/1805651
- ISTC Midlands Area Group
www.linkedin.com/groups/4835591
- Thames Valley Area Group
www.linkedin.com/groups/4805266
- ISTC Yorkshire Area Group for Communication Professionals
www.linkedin.com/groups/4662452

Scotland

- Technical Writers (East Scotland ISTC)
www.linkedin.com/groups/13536907

Ireland

- Irish Technical Writers – An ISTC Area Group
www.linkedin.com/groups/3369559



ISTC on Facebook

Our main Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/ISTC.org.uk

® You can join the ISTC Community group at www.facebook.com/groups/490570891153888 for discussion with fellow professionals.

The TCUK Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/techcommuk/

ISTC on Twitter

Follow us on Twitter at [@ISTC_org](https://twitter.com/ISTC_org) for everything ISTC, and specifically, [@TCUK_conf](https://twitter.com/TCUK_conf) for everything to do with our annual conference TCUK.

ISTC on Instagram

If you use Instagram, you can follow us there too www.instagram.com/istc_org/.

ISTC on YouTube

You can subscribe to our videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/istctechcomm>.



ISTC Local Area Groups

The ISTC groups offer opportunities for technical communicators to network and share knowledge and expertise. They are open to everyone (you don't need to be an ISTC member) and are free to attend. The groups meet at intervals during the year and hold talks, peer discussions, demonstrations and social evenings. Joining a group is an excellent way to meet like-minded people in your area and get to know fellow specialists.

Current ISTC groups

Name	Leader	Email
Cambridge	Deb Stevens	cambridge_areagroup@istc.org.uk
Thames Valley	Darren Mitcham	thamesvalley_areagroup@istc.org.uk
East of Scotland	Holli Hamilton	eastscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk
Yorkshire	Dee Vincent-Day	yorkshire_areagroup@istc.org.uk

Contact the group leader if you want to attend one of the groups. Want to set up a new group? Contact Tom Dunic, our Area Groups Manager at areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk.

Training courses

Armada

February 2023

2-3 Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

Learn how to create and edit vector graphics quickly and effectively, in the leading application for vector graphics. The comprehensive toolset and features available provide everything you need to produce extraordinary graphics for print, video, the web and mobile devices.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).
£245 + VAT. Live online participation
£345 + VAT. In-class at Reading training centre
www.armada.co.uk/course/ai.

6-7 Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

Learn how to create and edit images using the de facto standard in the graphics industry.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).
£295 + VAT. Live online participation
£345 + VAT. In-class at Sheffield training centre
www.armada.co.uk/course/ps.

...February 2023

8-9 Introduction to Adobe InDesign

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign, including setting up new documents, shapes, frames and using InDesign's most popular features.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£295 + VAT. Live online participation
£345 + VAT. In-class at Sheffield training centre

www.armada.co.uk/course/id.

16-17 Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

Learn how to create and edit images using the de facto standard in the graphics industry. Techniques covered include colour correction, working with layers, compositing images and preparing images for use on the Web.

10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).

£295 + VAT. Live online participation
£345 + VAT. In-class at Bromsgrove training centre

www.armada.co.uk/course/ps.

Follow us: [@ArmadaTraining](https://twitter.com/ArmadaTraining)



Cherryleaf

ACCREDITED
TRAINING
COURSE



Technical Author/Technical Writer/
technical writing e-learning course

<https://www.cherryleaf.com/training/technical-author-basicinduction-training-course/>.

Learn to write like a professional technical communicator. This course teaches you the fundamentals of technical writing, and helps you understand your role as a Technical Author (or similar position).

This technical communication course is accredited by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators.

New two course bundles

We offer five bundle options that contain two courses at a discounted price:

- [Technical Writing & Screenshots Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & UI Text Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & User Onboarding Course Bundle](#)
- [Technical Writing & Copywriting Course Bundle](#)

ESTON Training

Technical/Commercial Authorship (Former ISTC Syllabus

Parts 1 & 2):

<http://www.estontrg.com/technicalcommercial-authorship/>. A £50 discount is offered to ISTC members for this course.

Simplified English:

<http://www.estontrg.com/english-language-courses/>.

Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML):

<http://www.estontrg.com/standard-generalised-mark-language-sgml-course/>.

Editing and Publishing Magazines:

<http://www.estontrg.com/editing-publishing-magazine-course/>.

Report Writing:

<http://www.estontrg.com/report-writing-course/>.

Business English:

<http://www.estontrg.com/business-english-course/>.

Firehead

Learn FrameMaker 2019:

<https://firehead.net/course/framemaker-2019-training-technical-authors/>.

Learn Adaptive Content Modelling:

<http://firehead.net/training/learn-adaptive-content-modelling/>.

Creating Mobile Apps without Coding:

<http://firehead.net/training/creating-mobile-apps-without-coding/>.

Customer Journey Mapping:

<http://firehead.net/training/customer-journey-mapping/>.

MadCap Software

For details of the latest MadCap Software training schedule (both on-site and online) visit: www.madcapsoftware.com/services/training/.

Free technical writing courses

Some free technical writing courses submitted by Mike Mee

<https://developers.google.com/tech-writing/overview>.

<https://www.udemy.com/course/technical-writing-a-quick-start-to-software-documentation/>.

<https://github.com/wise4rmgod/TechnicalWriterResources>.

<https://iimskills.com/a-guide-on-technical-writing-and-technical-writing-training/>.

<https://iimskills.com/a-guide-on-technical-writing-and-technical-writing-training/>.

Blogs and Podcasts Roundup

Michaël McFarland Campbell MISTC

Rob Words tells us about Thorn, eth, yogh, wynn, ash, ethel, eng, long S & the Tironian et. This video takes you on a tour of the letters we don't use anymore. It'll tell you where they came from and why they disappeared. Watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJxKyh9e5A>.

Justin Cuckow says, “talking and thinking about risk factors all the time and nurturing a climate of consultation, learning and trust are essential measures for maintaining resilience.” Find out more at <https://www.institutelm.com/resourceLibrary/which-leadership-style-fosters-effective-risk-preparedness.html>.

If you know of a podcast or a blog about technical writing that we should highlight, please get in touch with me at

michael@scholastica.org.uk.

Upcoming webinars

If you know of a webinar that will be of interest to readers, please email newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk.



Documentation workflow webinar

Kovai.co are running a webinar on how to streamline technical documentation workflows.

<https://document360.com/webinar/how-to-design-and-improve-your-documentation-workflow-continuously/>.



Let other technical communicators know your news

Michaël McFarland Campbell MISTC

InfoPlus is here to help technical communicators hear the news about our profession including—but not solely—news from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators. If you have information for the tech comm community, please do send it to me, so we can make sure as many people hear about it as soon as possible. My email is newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk.

InfoPlus is published and distributed usually on the first working day of each month. Please bear this in mind when submitting time-sensitive information.

The deadlines for the 2023 editions are:

Edition	Deadline
March 2023	Fri 17 February 2023 at 12 noon GMT
April 2023	Fri 24 March 2023 at 12 noon GMT
May 2023	Fri 21 April 2023 at 12 noon BST
June 2023	Fri 19 May 2023 at 12 noon BST
July 2023	Fri 23 June 2023 at 12 noon BST
August 2023	Fri 21 July 2023 at 12 noon BST
September 2023	Fri 18 August 2023 at 12 noon BST
October 2023	Fri 22 September 2023 at 12 noon BST
November 2023	Fri 20 October 2023 at 12 noon BST
December 2023	Fri 17 November 2023 at 12 noon GMT