



# InfoPlus+

Monthly newsletter from the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

July 2023

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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.

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As we move into the summer, we have quite a short *InfoPlus* for July. However, I hope we will have more information to share as we move towards the TCUK Conference and the UKTC Awards. If you do have something to say to your fellow technical communicators, please do send it in to me so we can share it more widely.

## ISTC News

### ISTC mentoring scheme

*Linda Robins FISTC, President*

Today's competitive marketplace, coupled with the rapid change in technology makes it more critical than ever to develop your professional skills. We aim to support our members in this process of professional development, and we have provided several services and resources to help. One such service is the ISTC Mentoring Scheme.

The ISTC offers a voluntary mentoring scheme for Entry-level Members. The scheme matches up Entry-level Members who are just starting out in the profession of scientific and technical communication with experienced technical communicators for advice and guidance. The goal of the scheme is to provide a framework for the professional development of ISTC Entry-level Members, and gives them a considerable advantage over other new starters in the profession who may have nowhere to turn to for practical help. The scheme is designed to help Entry-level Members progress to the full Member grade.

Our volunteer mentors are all Fellows or Members of the ISTC who are keen to share their knowledge and experience with new entrants to the profession.

If you are an Entry-level Member of the ISTC and would like to take part in the scheme, or if you are a Member (MISTC) or Fellow (FISTC) who would like to volunteer as a Mentor, please contact the Mentoring Scheme coordinator on [mentoring@istc.org.uk](mailto:mentoring@istc.org.uk).

## News from TCUK23

Preparations for our return to a live and in-person conference continue. The call for session proposals is now closed, please keep one eye on our [website](#) and your inbox for announcements about confirmed sessions, tickets, and pricing.

### Announcing our first Keynote Speaker, Relly Annett-Baker

Ever felt you were having trouble getting a seat at the table where it really matters? We're excited to welcome Relly to TCUK23 - her refreshing take on content is so inspiring, you'll leave with the confidence to create your own table and decide for yourself who is important enough to pull up a chair!

Relly has a wealth of experience in product content, UI microcopy, content modelling and systems, and training content creators of all kinds in how to create flexible, reusable, structured content, and she's currently Head of UX Content Strategy at Google, leading a team of more than thirty

UX writers/content designers and technical writers for Google's internal tools organisation.

She's previously worked with ClearScore, Financial Conduct Authority, Alphagov (the pilot project for GDS), CERN, government departments, universities, non-profits and e-commerce retailers.

Relly is an experienced, enthusiastic, and interesting speaker and we're confident you'll be buzzing about her keynote speech for a long time to come.

### About TCUK23

TCUK is back, live and in person, on 26-27 September 2023 at [voco St. John's Hotel](#) in Solihull, UK.

Read on for details of the different ticket options available or visit the [website](#) for more information and booking options.

### Sponsor Spotlight

Many thanks to 3di for sponsoring TCUK23 and making it possible for us to host a fabulous drinks reception before the celebration dinner on Tuesday 26th September.



3di

Clear technical  
documentation.  
Complex  
translation &  
localization.

Learn more

## 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](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/1858546)

#### England

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

#### Scotland

- Technical Writers (East Scotland ISTC)  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/13536907](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/13536907)

#### Ireland

- Irish Technical Writers – An ISTC Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/3369559](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/3369559)



### ISTC on Facebook

Our main Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/ISTC.org.uk](http://www.facebook.com/ISTC.org.uk)

® You can join the ISTC Community group at [www.facebook.com/groups/490570891153888](http://www.facebook.com/groups/490570891153888) for discussion with fellow professionals.

The TCUK Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/techcommuk/](http://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/](https://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
Midlands	James Bartley	midlands_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 Dumic, our Area Groups Manager at [areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk](mailto:areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk).

## Training courses

### Armada



### July 2023

#### 3-4 Introduction to Adobe After Effects

Teaches all the key skills needed to use the leading professional software for motion graphics, video compositing and visual effects. Used across all forms of video and screen-based media, After Effects offers a powerful set of tools to deliver stunning visual results. 10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10). £345 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course  
£395 + VAT. In-class at our Bromsgrove training centre  
[www.armada.co.uk/course/ae](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ae).

#### 10-14 Technical Authoring Training Programme

ACCREDITED  
TRAINING  
COURSE



ISTC-accredited programme comprising:

- Introduction to technical authoring (1 day)
- Intermediate technical authoring (2 days)
- Advanced technical authoring (2 days)

Training in core technical authoring skills for new and experienced technical authors. Attend the complete programme, or just the module(s) relevant to your experience. This course is now hosted by Matthew Ellison. 10% discount for ISTC members (coupon code ISTC10).  
£1,195 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course  
£1,495 + VAT In-class at Reading training centre  
[www.armada.co.uk/course/tatp](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/tatp).

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## ...July 2023

### 17-18 Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

Learn how to create and edit vector graphics quickly and effectively, in the leading application for vector graphics.

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

£295 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Milton Keynes training centre  
[www.armada.co.uk/course/ai](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ai).

### 24-25 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. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Milton Keynes training centre  
[www.armada.co.uk/course/id](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/id).

## August 2023

### 7-8 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. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Sheffield training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ps](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ps).

### 14-15 Introduction to Adobe InDesign

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign, using InDesign's most popular features.

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

£295 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Bristol training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/id](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/id).

### 23-24 Introduction to Adobe After Effects

Teaches all the key skills needed to use the leading professional software for motion graphics, video compositing and visual effects.

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

£345 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£395 + VAT. In-class at our Milton Keynes training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/ae](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/ae).

### 29-30 Introduction to Adobe InDesign

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign, using InDesign's most popular features.

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

£295 + VAT. Instructor led, live online course

£345 + VAT. In-class at Reading training centre

[www.armada.co.uk/course/id](http://www.armada.co.uk/course/id).

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

**An Introduction to Content Operations**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/an-introduction-to-content-operations>.

**Creating user onboarding content**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/creating-user-onboarding-content>.

**Creating Screenshots and Images for User Guides**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/creating-screenshots-and-images-for-user-guides>.

**DITA concepts**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/dita-concepts>.

**Introduction to Content Design**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/content-design>.

**Specifications for Technical Communicators**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/specifications-for-technical-communicators>.

**Fundamentals of modern technical communication**

<https://firehead-training.net/course/technical-communication-fundamentals-1>.

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## MadCap Software

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

## Let's talk content ops

ISTC Honorary Fellow, Rahel Baillie, hosts some webinars talking about things that are of interest to technical communicators.

Webinars include:

- ContentOps as Part of Product Lifecycle Management
- Let's Talk Content Operations
- Growing a Customer Support Site Into a ContentOps Pipeline
- Turning Team Pains into Operational Gains

Find out more at

<https://www.brighttalk.com/search/?q=Let's+Talk+ContentOps>.

## New name, same institute

News from our friends at the now former Institute of Leadership & Management:

*We're taking a step forward toward a clearer future, as *The Institute of Leadership*.*

The world is changing, and nowhere is this more evident than in the arena of leadership. The time is right for us to have a new voice, with a new message and direction. For 75 years, your Institute has studied and shared the principles and practices of great leadership. Now, as we step into the next chapter of The Institute's history, we are adding a texture of modernity to our mantle of tradition. We become **The Institute of Leadership**.

## New name, same institute.

We are proud to move forward with our new name, but our commitment to our community remains as strong as it always has been. We continue to be the professional body trusted by members, clients and partners across the world.

You'll see that we still look the same (even our logo looks familiar) and our brand values – Authenticity, Vision, Achievement, Ownership and Collaboration – stay unchanged. If you want to shorten our name,

you can use “IoL”, and you’ll see those characters reflected in our new post-nominal letters for professional members (AIoL for Associate members, MIoL for Members, FIoL for Fellows and CIoL for Companions).

We’re so excited to share this next chapter with you all. Together, we’ll inspire great leadership, everywhere.

First published at  
<https://www.institutelm.com/resourceLibrary/we-re-changing-our-name.html>.



## Let other technical communicators know your news

*Michael 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](mailto: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
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

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