

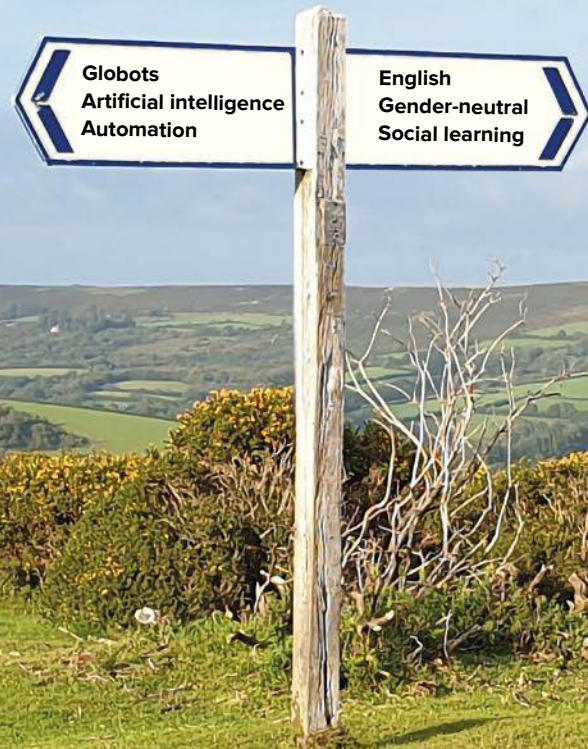
Communicator

The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators

Summer 2021

Emerging trends

- Make predictions: the Globots are coming
- Create social and collaborative learning
- Read about trends in English
- Learn about the latest release: MadCap Flare 2021



President's View

Linda Robins, shares the latest ISTC news.



Changing times

As the year progresses, it is reassuring to find we are moving towards more freedom to mix with others, although at a social distance at the time of writing. With the pandemic still spreading in other parts of the world, we cannot expect life to be back to normal just yet.

As working professionals, we must also recognise that many will never return to the routine of commuting to work, travelling for meetings and gathering regularly for conferences. For although it may become safe to do so, employers have discovered ways to improve productivity, reduce our carbon footprint and rethink the deployment of workforce radically. For many, working lives will have been altered without the prospect of or even a wish to return to the 'old' ways. I am continuing to track developments to consider the effects on technical communicators. As usual, I will report back.

Professional development



**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
& RECOGNITION**

Recently, I have been describing the benefits of ISTC membership for businesses and sectors of industry with particular reference to our CPD framework. This has led me to Warren Singer's article on 'Continuous

Professional Development' in the Spring issue of *Communicator*. Here Warren stresses that "all ISTC members have a responsibility to maintain their professional competence." An important part of membership is commitment to the ISTC Code of Professional Practice:

https://istc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Code_of_Professional_Practice_v1.3.pdf.

It is some time since I last studied the detail. The code is comprehensive in scope; it encompasses the moral, ethical and legal aspects of our profession, as well as the expected requirements for competence and thoroughness in our work. It is well worth restating the introduction:

"Our first duty is to the people who employ us or commission work from us and to the people who make use of the information products we create. In considering our professional conduct, we should always be aware of the effects of our attitudes and actions on our employers, clients, colleagues, suppliers, users and fellow professionals. Not only should our conduct be exemplary, but we should invest in our skills so that we are able to offer a high degree of competence exercised in a responsible manner. We should aspire to the highest standards in honesty, legality, quality, teamwork, cultural sensitivity, social responsibility and professional growth. We should respect other people's privacy and intellectual property, being fair in all our dealings. We should contribute to the development of our professional association, the ISTC, and participate actively in its publications, forums and events."

The Code then provides details of the ISTC member's duties to the following: the Institute, the profession; clients or employers, peers and colleagues; users and suppliers.

If, as ISTC members we are upholding the code, then we can assure prospective employers and ourselves that we are true professionals.

ISTC News

Resources



We have a new page on the ISTC website: 'Resources for ISTC Members' listing new content and links to both ISTC and external resources:

<https://istc.org.uk/resources-for-technical-communicators>

There are tools and resources available to ISTC members and Business Affiliates; these include ISTC accredited courses; articles; reference material plus links to external resources, websites and tools. There is a wealth of material. Please take a look.

UK Technical Communication Awards



We are now taking entries for the UK Technical Communication Awards 2021.

Please see the dedicated UKTC Awards website: <https://uktcawards.com>. The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2021. See also page 12.

TCUK Metro Online



For this year's TCUK Metro Online, we are planning events across a week with a Conference Day on **Tuesday 28 September**. The main events will be held on that day: ISTC Annual General Meeting, presentations for the UKTC Awards plus two webinars followed by a Q & A session. In the same week we plan to hold other online sessions. These may include: presentations,

workshops, special interest group sessions, networking events, socials and quizzes, watch parties and breakout sessions. See also page 8.

Communicator



After 11 years as Commissioning Editor of *Communicator* and the journal's representative on the ISTC Council, Katherine Judge will

be moving on to another role. This is her last issue. Under her editorship, *Communicator* has won numerous awards over successive years. The content has continued to improve in scope and quality to promote the ISTC's aims and objectives.

In Autumn 2018, Katherine produced a special supplement to celebrate 50 years of *Communicator*. This included articles on changes to the journal and our profession. In researching material for the supplement, I looked through many previous issues. I was impressed once again with the quality of Katherine's editorship and her commitment to the Institute.

She has extended the pool of expert contributors and ensured a variety and wealth of content. Our journal is held in high regard among the membership and in technical communication circles. We thank Katherine for her significant contribution.

We welcome Thayna Desmond as our new Commissioning Editor from the Autumn issue. ■

References

ISTC Professional Code of Professional Practice
https://istc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Code_of_Professional_Practice_v1.3.pdf

Resources for ISTC Members
<https://istc.org.uk/resources-for-technical-communicators>

Singer W (2021) 'Continuous Professional Development (CPD)' *Communicator*, Spring 2021: 12-15

TCUK Metro 2021
technicalcommunication.com

UKTC Awards
uktawards.com

Linda Robins FISTC

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Member news

as at 17 May 2021

New members

A warm welcome to all new members who have joined the ISTC.

Member

Steve Fearn	Cheshire
Leslyanne Gray	Scotland
Michael Ingeldew	West Sussex
Rene Macahig	Singapore
Alan Maynard	Devon
Julian Maynard Smith	London
Mark Pinchen	Australia
James Roberts	Cumbria
Catherine Rushton	Hampshire



Junior

Clare Allen	Oxfordshire
Martin Boushear	Berkshire
Gary Crow	Aberdeenshire
Amy Jonsson	Hertfordshire
Caitriona MacNeill	London
Robin Perrie	Scotland
Paul Snell	Buckinghamshire

Associate

Thayna Desmond	London
Colin Rainey	Northern Ireland

Transfers

Congratulations to all on your new membership status.

Member

Timothy Greenhalgh	Cheshire
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Rejoiners

Welcome back! We hope you gain much from your membership.

Member

Rachel Johnston	Manchester
Andy Snape	Yorkshire



A recent quote from a Member of the ISTC:

"For me, being a member is not so much about the list of benefits but more about the connection to other technical communicators, the opportunity to share my experience with others and benefit from being part of a community."

And while there are other organisations, such as the STC, the ISTC is the only truly local and UK/ European-focused organisation for technical communicators."

WS, January 2021.