

About the Society for Technical Communication—the STC

The STC is dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication, promoting awareness of the latest trends and technology in the field, and providing innovative services for the education and professional development of its members. With 150 chapters and 25,000 members worldwide, the STC is the world's largest organisation for technical communicators. STC offers industry leadership and the education, networking and information required in a world where change is 'the way it is'.

Members include technical writers, editors, graphic designers, videographers, multimedia artists, Web and intranet information designers, translators and others whose work involves making technical information available to anyone who needs it.

About the Australia Chapter

The Australia Chapter was formed in 2001, with membership initially composed of those who signed the original petition. To join the Australia Chapter Australian STC members need to affiliate through the STC head office.

International STC chapters operate with a large degree of autonomy, while upholding the constitution and bylaws of the STC. The Australia Chapter provides an opportunity for Australian members to initiate and become involved in local activities, and to discuss local issues. It also ensures that a proportion of memberships fees are returned for use in Australia by the Australia Chapter for the benefit of the technical communication community.

Mission Statement

Designing the future of technical communication.

Society Goals

- Enhance the professionalism of the members and the status of the profession.
- Provide information through publications, reports, and conferences.
- Report on new communication technologies, methods, and applications.
- Provide recognition and awards.
- Provide services to members at all levels of the Society.
- Promote the education of members and support research activities in the field.
- Give service to industry and academe.

STC Strategic Plan 2000-2005

Demonstrate leadership in using technology for communication.

- Improve the STC Internet infrastructure.
- Extend the availability of online technical communication resources.
- Harness Internet technology to leverage the Society's collective knowledge base and avoid duplication of effort among regions and chapters.
- Implement secure online member service transactions.

Increase the visibility of the technical communication profession.

- At the executive level, raise awareness of the value of technical communication.
- Equip chapters and members to represent the technical communication profession.
- Develop international competitions in languages other than English.
- Develop and publicize information resources on the profession.
- Record and preserve STC's history and the history of our profession.

Improve educational opportunities for technical communicators.

- Increase the activity and value of Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
- Support secondary and college-level education in technical communication.
- Provide additional educational opportunities in advanced technologies.

Enhance resources for STC leaders.

- Enhance leadership training.
- Improve the infrastructure for leadership support.
- Improve organizational models.

Provide information and resources to support technical communicators with special needs* as well as to better serve end users with special needs.

* Special needs are defined as physical or mental disabilities that impair a technical communicator's ability to practice the profession or impair an end user's ability to receive the information in technical communication products.

- Research and define the relationship of special needs to the practice of technical communication, considering both practitioners and end users.
- Heighten awareness of, and make information available about, special needs in technical communication.

The Objectives of the Australia Chapter

- Promote the mission and goals of the STC.
- Make members of the STC, from all over Australia, feel they are part of a large community and not isolated.
- Use the money generated by STC annual fees, and returned to the Chapter, for the betterment of the Australian STC community.
- Promote the profession of technical communication within Australia by endeavoring to establish professional standards for technical communicators, and to campaign for recognition of those standards.
- Encourage the establishment of higher education that is suitable for technical communication professionals.
- Sponsor scholarships for students of technical communication through STC grants.
- Enlarge the technical communication community by encouraging professionals, such as information architects and web designers to become part of our community. Thus extending our reach and support and enabling us to make a larger impact on the business community. Note that this ties in to the STC definition of a Technical Communication professional.
- Provide professional advancement programs to members by offering short courses or by assisting in the development of suitable short courses offered by other groups.
- Subsidise members to attend workshops and conferences.
- Foster networking amongst our members via the website and possibly an egroup.
- Encourage members to form special interest groups.
- Attempt to bring an STC regional conference to Australia.
- Cooperate with other professional groups to achieve any of the aims listed here.