

Tinker Tailor Soldier Sailor -- What you can do as a technical communicator

by Beth Agnew - for STC Toronto Career Day Sep 25, 2010

Sometimes you are reluctant to do something because you don't know you *can*; other times you go ahead and do things because you don't know you *can't*.

Vision of the STC: Technical communication is recognized as an essential part of every organization's competitive strategy.

Mission of the STC: STC advances the theory and practice of technical communication **across all user abilities and media** so that both businesses and customers benefit from safe, appropriate, and effective use of products, information, and services.

Who we are:

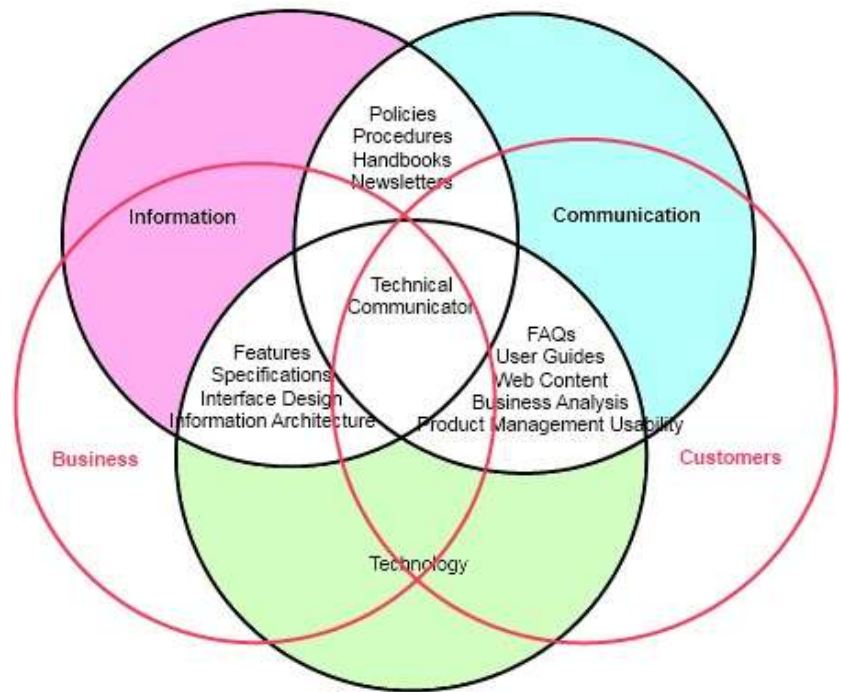
Technical Communicator	Information Developer	Data Development Engineer	Technical Documentation Specialist	Technical Author or Knowledge Author
Technical Writer	Interface Designer	Documentation Specialist	Documentation Designer	Engineering Writer
Technical Communicator	Technical Trainer	Business Analyst	Systems Analyst	Product Manager
Project Manager	Web Content Author	Web Content Developer	Knowledge Manager	Content Manager
Usability Tester	Information Architect	User Support Specialist	Technical Editor	Content Editor
Feature Writer (even Journalist)	Policy Writer or Analyst	Communications Consultant	Procedures Writer	Regulatory Content Specialist
Technical Marketing Writer	Technical Illustration	Digital Publisher	Grant Writer	Technical Advisor
Technology Transfer Specialist	Technical Critic	Multimedia Author	E-learning Writer	Management Consultant

What we do:

- Documentation of all kinds
- Beta Testing Programs
- Blogs & Wikis
- Content Management
- Corporate videos/documentaries
- Customer Newsletters
- E-book publishing

September 25, 2010

- E-Learning
- E-mail response writing
- Error messages, interface tooltips and labels
- Focus Groups & Customer Advisory Boards
- Help files
- Installation instructions
- Knowledge Management
- Marketing brochures, spec sheets, labels, signs, packaging, press releases
- Mass personalization
- Meeting Facilitation
- Policy & Procedures writing
- Process Maps, Workflows
- Product Demonstrations & Trade Shows
- Project documentation
- Science Writing
- Single-Sourcing
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Technical reports
- Usability testing
- User guides
- Voice mail script writing
- Web sites
- White papers



Our Skills:

- General Business Skills
- General Communication Skills
- General Technical Skills
- Human Resources
- Interviewing
- Leadership
- Management & Budgeting
- Negotiation, Risk Management, etc.
- Project Management
- Publishing
- Research & Analysis
- Writing & Publishing

Add Accounting and you have an MBA!

What you can do as a technical communicator is limited only by your imagination, your skills, and how effectively you can convince someone to pay you for what you want to do. The correct question is, "What CAN'T you do as a technical communicator?"!