Communicator

Can you disconnect
from work?

Learn all about
sub-editing

Tips to improve
your confidence

Develop your
content strategy

Chirp

Squawk

President's view

The ISTC was in survey-mode over the winter. I've just had the results of the survey to find out what use our members make of the Oxford Reference Online (ORO) resources (only available to members), and the annual ISTC Technical Communication survey is also underway.

Thank you very much to those of you who completed the ORO survey – and a special thanks to those who contacted me with specific suggestions. We really appreciate you taking the time at a very busy time of year.

Council is still looking at the results, but I can tell you that a total of 61 people completed the survey, and our first dilemma is whether we assume this is a representative sample (and use relevant percentages to calculate actual usage) or assume that people who didn't respond don't use ORO at all. One to ponder over the few weeks remaining until we must decide whether to renew our subscriptions to the various titles or not.

The main ISTC survey doesn't close until the end of this month (January), but I will try to get some information from it into the next *Communicator* issue.

Other useful resources

The ISTC has a section on its website called *Publications and Resources*. It's where you'll find all the information about *Communicator*, articles and other bits and pieces. Some of the resources are only available to members – the menu items are hidden if you have not logged in – and these include (the Australian and New Zealand journal), the results of past surveys, Oxford Reference Online and the ISTC Logos. All the other resources are available to anyone, and we're always interested in hearing about things that people have used and may be useful to others.

While we can't endorse (in a commercial sense) any product or service, we can provide a link to something in the context of sharing information amongst our members. For example, the MadCap resources page collates links to tutorials, blogs and other information.

A suggestion from one of the respondents to the ORO survey was for a repository of useful symbols (such as safety symbols) that ISTC members could use. We will investigate this, but while you're waiting, I thought I'd mention the Font Awesome website[1] – if you're looking for icons of any sort to use in documentation, this could be a good place to start your search.

I followed the discussion in January's 'Ask Me Anything' thread in the user forum with interest as well. The subject was automating documentation, starting from 'What do you mean by automation?' and going on from there. I didn't contribute as my learning time at the moment is taken up with learning how to use some new tools and I get too easily distracted by something I don't know much about, but I found the subject intriguing, and if nothing else, it shows that you don't have to be *visibly* engaged to be appreciative of something.

ISTC badges

Another active topic on the discussion forum – although mainly comprising "I've got mine" and "Mine hasn't come yet" – relates to the ISTC badges. Well, I now have mine – it arrived yesterday, and I'm trying to think where best to pin it so it's with me the greatest percentage of the time. I think possibly attaching it to the strap of my handbag in some way, as I rarely wear coats or jackets.

The idea is that it's like everything else, the more you see something, the more familiar it is – and if nothing else, it may prove a talking point during a coffee break at some point. **C**

Reference

[1] Font Awesome. 'The Iconic Font and CSS Toolkit' http://fontawesome.io

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Member news

New Members

Member

Ian Birchall	North Yorkshire
Rebecca Brookes	Hampshire
Mary Enna de Soissons	Cambridge
Keith Hopkins	Tyne & Wear
David McCormick	Ely
John Prendergast	Bradford
Ramya Rajgopal	St Albans
Jennifer van den Broek	Surrey
Rob Woodgate	Neath

Associate

Michal Fraczek	Poland

Junior

Hugh Jarvis	Glasgow
Steve Jones	Cumbria
Peter Rylands	Oxford
Jakub Wiśniewski	Poland

Student

Mark Charlwood	Hampshire
Darren Doyle	Leeds
Mirijam Marx	Reading
Anthony Simister	Stevenage

Transfers

Fellow

Richard Bridge	Redditch
Andrew McFarland Campbell	Dublin

Rejoiners

Member

Stephen Avery	Powys
David Borthwick	Ely
Philip Daniels	Surrey
Shona Isbister	Belfast

Fellow

Andrew Simpson	Wolverhampton
Andrew Slack	Cyprus