

Resources

[Extracted from Bill's 25+ pp. hypertext resource list – email him (bsanders@scribble-count.com) re: requests for the longer list or comments concerning exclusions or annotations.]

Alertbox. See: Nielsen, Jakob.

Anderson, Daniel; Bret Benjamin; & Bill Paredes-Holt. *Connections: A Guide to On-line Writing*. Needham, MA: Allyn & Bacon, 1998. Pbk. 331pp., index. ISBN: 0-205-28647-1.

[Excellent beginning/intermediate college tech writing text emphasizing hypertext and telecomm.]

Birkerts, Sven. *Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*. NY: Fawcett, 1995 (orig. London: Faber & Faber, 1994). Pbk. ISBN (Fawcett): 0-44991-009-1.

[Essays written by an extreme neo-Luddite, partially in response to Doheny-Farina (not cited in this short bibliog.) Overstates extent to which printing will disappear (thus overstating the loss of print-related thought patterns), ignores fact that different thought patterns will emerge from new media.]

Boulder Writers Alliance Website. <http://www.bwa.org>. [Accessed 10/13/99]

[Resources for writers. Panelists Karen Rabin and Marella Colyvas will reference.]

Busch, David D.; & J. W. Olsen. *Cascading Style Sheets Complete*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998. Pbk. ISBN: 0-07-913703-2. 423pp., glossary, index, CD.

[Three intros: to HTML, to style, and style sheets; several §§ on CSS; then implementation on both servers and w/ various editors; ends w/ valuable speculation on future of style sheets.]

comp.infosystems.www...

[Subsets of the newsgroup exist – but don't submit unless you launder your address or like receiving spam.]

Contentious: The Webzine for writers, editors, and others who create content for online media. Ed. by Amy Gahrn. Monthly. <http://www.contentious.com>. [3/12/98]

[Vociferously promotes substance over fluff. Feature articles, commentary, interviews, examples of good and bad online writing.]

Druckrey, Timothy (ed.). *Electronic Culture: Technology and Visual Representation*. Aperture Pr., 1997. Pbk. ISBN: 0-89381-678-7.

[Heavy emphasis on effects of digital imaging technology of last decade. Contributors are mix of theorists/academics and practitioners, but emphasis is on the former. Not light reading.]

Dumas, Joseph S., & Janice C. Redish. *A Practical Guide to Usability Testing*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 1993.

[Good reviews, but panelists have not used.]

Editorial Eye. See: *Stet!* and *Stet! Again*.

"Enabling Extremely Rapid Navigation in Your Web or Document". By Michael Hoffman.

<http://www.cybertrans.com/infostrc/infoaxes.htm>.

[Self-published monograph (180K downloaded, c. 50pp. printed) consisting of rules to help authors write material that does not contribute to Web's current info glut. Content is partially general consensus, partially valid opinion; organization and emphasis is high idiosyncratic.]

Fidler, Roger. *Mediamorphosis: Understanding the New Media*. Pine Forge Pr., 1997. Pbk. 320pp. ISBN: 0-80399-086-3.

[Theoretical approach to the media revolution we're all caught up in; not particularly useful for practical Tech Comm problem solving, and good for a broader perspective only if your natural bent is scholarly.]

Garcia, Mario R. *Redesigning Print for the Web*. Indianapolis: Hayden Books, 1997. Pbk. 239pp., appendixes, index. ISBN: 1-56830-343-2.

[§§ on audience analysis, layout, & color are excellent. Author limited by his newspaper background.]

Hackos, JoAnn T.; and Dawn M. Stevens. *Standards for Online Communication*. New York: Wiley, 1997. Pbk. 380pp., bibliog., index, CD. ISBN: 0-471-15695-7.

[Addresses best the online side of the print-online dialectic; several panelists will address aspects of it. Appendix A provides excellent last-minute checklist; CD (using WinHelp HAT HDK) illustrates book's principles and demonstrates again that the best technology need not be the industry leader.]

Horton, William. *Designing and Writing Online Documentation: Hypermedia for Self-Supporting Products*, 2nd ed. New York: Wiley, 1994. Pbk. ISBN: 047130-6355.

[Deals almost exclusively with design generalities, rather than nuts-and-bolts specifics.]

Horn, Robert E. *Visual Language: Effective Language for the 21st Century*. MacroVuIn, 1998. Pbk. 270pp. ISBN: 1-89263709-X.

[Starting from the obvious that we have all seen (that internationally recognized rules have been emerging for some time concerning the use of graphics), Horn argues that the two are beginning to coalesce into a words/graphics mix with its own rules and syntax. Seminal, even if you don't accept a bit of it – and it's hard not to accept a good bit. Excellently illustrated with more than 3000 visuals.]

Horton, William. *Illustrating Computer Documentation: The Art of Presenting Information Graphically on Paper and Online*. NY: Wiley, 1991. Pbk. ISBN: 0-471-53845-0.

[Horton deals in general principles, and these haven't changed significantly in 7 years.]

Johnson-Eilola, Johndan. *Nostalgic Angels: Rearticulating Hypertext Writing*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex, 1997. Pbk. 273pp., bibliog., index. ISBN: 0-56750-281-4.

[Theoretical/philosophical musings on diverse aspects of hypertext and connectivity. Don't even look unless you unwind with this type of thing – and then remember: both the book's title and we warned you.]

Johnson, Steven R; & Steven A. Johnson. *Interface Culture: How New Technology Transforms the Way We Create and Communicate*. New York: Basic Books, 1999. 264pp. Pbk. ISBN: 0-46503-680-5.

[Not yet published; advance copies only available. Takes social emphasis: how the technology is transforming us. GUIs, agents, connectivity affect our personality surprisingly quickly. (However, book also has technical implications, since Tech Writers must address this Brave New User; see our essay on "Assertive Users" -- wds.) Written for non-techies.]

Lopuk, Lisa. *Designing Multimedia*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press, 1996. Pbk.

Ludlow, Peter. *High Noon on the Electronic Frontier: Conceptual Issues in Cyberspace*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Pr., 1996. Pbk. 536pp., index.

[Nothing on the technical aspects stressed in this presentation – but the collection is so diverse that almost any participant today can find an essay of collateral interest.]

Mandel, Theo. *The Elements of User Interface Design*. New York: Wiley, 1997. Pbk. 440pp., bibliog., index. ISBN: 0-471-16267-1.

[More for software developers than documenters; main uses for us are distinctions between GUIs and OUIs; audience analysis; and layout standards. Difficult reading.]

- Marcus, Aaron. *Graphic Design for Electronic Documents and User Interfaces*. NY: ACM Pr., 1992.
[Technical and somewhat dated -- but makes a fine impression on programmers.]
- Microsoft Corp. *(The) Windows® Interface Guidelines for Software Design*. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Pr., 1995. Pbk. 556pp., appendixes, glossary, bibliography, index. ISBN: 1-55615-679-0.
[Microsoft's comprehensive rules for developers of its GUI. At least passing knowledge of this set of standards is required for nearly every tech writer in the computer field.]
- Murray, Janet H. *Hamlet on the Holodeck: The Future of Narrative in Cyberspace*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Pr., 1997. Pbk. 324pp. ISBN: 0-26263-187-3.
[Murray has become a cultural icon in Massachusetts and Virginia acadème. Well written for an academic, and surprisingly optimistic for an accomplished story teller in the traditional formats.]
- Nielsen, Jakob, *The Alertbox: Current Issues in Web Usability*. Bi-weekly.
[Http://www.useit.com/alertbox](http://www.useit.com/alertbox).
[One of hypertext's usability gurus, very minimalist in approach. Cf. Spool, who is almost as minimalist and more designer-oriented.]
- Nielsen, Jakob, *Interface Design Handbook*. NY: Wiley, 1997.
- Nielsen, Jakob, *Usability Engineering*. Cambridge, MA: Academic Pr., 1993.
- Online Writing Mailing List. Email online-writing-admin@clio.lyris.net. Archived material at <http://www.planetarynews.com/online-writing>. [Accessed xxxx]
[Excellent on differences between online and linear writing, and on techniques for maximizing hypertext's advantages. Primary focus in free-lance online content.]
- "The Online User: Assertive and Demanding". On the Scribble-Count Website
([Http://www.scribble-count.com/Newsltr_3-2&3.html](http://www.scribble-count.com/Newsltr_3-2&3.html)). [10/13/99]
[Argues that online users come from more assertive segments of society and that the Web ethos reinforces a demanding attitude, resulting in an egalitarianism between author and consumer that tech writers must recognize and address.]
- Petrauskas, Bruno, "Online Reference System Design and Development". In *Perspective on Software Documentation* (ed. Thomas Barker). Amityville, NY: Baywood, 1991.
[Main weakness is 1991 date; reference works ideally utilize more complex formatting than was possible in that dim, dark past. But the principles haven't changed much, and Petrauskas states them well.]
- Rubin, Jeffrey, *Handbook of Usability Testing*. NY: Wiley, 1994.
- Siegel, David. *Creating Killer Websites*, 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Hayden Books, 1997 (1st ed. 1996). ISBN: 1-56830-433-1.
[Just two years ago, Siegel's glitz was the rage; now cited as a textbook for technique avoidance. (Siegel has recanted and revamped his Website – but kept the royalties. And most of the copycat sites remain.)]
- Spool, Jared, *et al. Usability Engineering*. New York: Morgan Kaufman, 1998. Pbk. ISBN: 1-55860569-X.
[Sparse, utilitarian approach, providing concrete techniques and tips for the designer, not abstract concepts. Cf. Nielsen, normally considered the other major usability luminary. (Spool speaks frequently at conferences; some of this audience has probably heard him.)]
- Stet!: Tricks of the Trade for Writers and Editors*. Ed. by Bruce Boston, compiled by EEI Communications. Alexandria, VA: EEI Pr., 1986. Pbk.
[Best of EEI's *Editorial Eye* newsletter, and a good source for the print side of our dialectic. (See *Stet! Again* for the other half – and, hopefully our discussion for a move toward the synthesis.)]

Stet! Again: More Tricks of the Trade for Publications People. Compiled by EEI Communications. Alexandria, VA: EEI Pr., 1996. Pbk. 354pp. ISBN: 0-935012-20-6.

[Best of EEI's *Editorial Eye* newsletter since 1990, stressing online communication. (See *Stet!* for print emphasis.)]

TECHWR-L. <http://www.raycomm.com>. [Accessed 3/26/99.]

[Unmoderated discussion group for technical communicators; excellent resource for nearly all aspects of our profession. Archive available at www.cpub.com/techwrit/techwrit-1.htm.]

Use It Website. <http://www.useit.com>

[Jakob Nielsen's Website, stressing online design issues from a practical, no-frills approach. Includes newsletter Alertbox.]

Vitanza, Victor J. *Writing for the World Wide Web.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1997. Pbk. ISBN: 0-2052-6693-2.

[Twin objectives of how to write and how to publish in electronic format. Title and emphasis are WWW, but most of the style portion pertains to electronic media and hypertext in general.]

Web Design Group Website. <http://www.winhelp.com>.

[Despite name, coverage is cross-platform and not confined to Microsoft's authoring environment.]

Weinman, Lynda. *Designing Web Graphics*, 2nd ed. Indianapolis: New Riders, 1997. Pbk. ISBN: 1-56205-715-4.

[Professional Web designers recommend it for beginning/intermediate use.]

"XML, Java, and the Future of the Web" (rev. 10-Mar.-97). By Jon Bosak. <http://sunsite.unc.edu/pub/sun-info/standards/xml/why/xmlapps.htm> [Accessed 10/6/98]

[9-pp. & fairly balanced. Bosak is from Sun (probably preferable to Microsoft spin, but spin nonetheless).]

Yale C/AIM Web Style Guide. Compiled by Patrick J. Lynch and Sarah Horton. 1997.

<http://info.med.yale.edu/caim/manual/>. [Accessed Jan. 99.]

[Succeeds in doing what the *Wired Style* guide (not cited in this bibliography) purports. Six main sections ("Philosophy"; "Interface Design"; "Site Design"; "Page Design"; "Web Graphics"; "Multimedia"), each with three to more than a dozen subtopics. "Interface Design" section deals with practical applications of the concepts discussed in the presentation; entire manual should be required professional reading. Complete and convenient download instructions for both HTML and PDF formats.]