

# Technical Communication UK 2011

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# Communicator

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Winter 2011

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# Horace Hockley award 2011

**Tony Self FISTC** wins this year's annual ISTC award.

Each year the Council of the ISTC invites nominations for the Horace Hockley Award, and selects a winner. The award recognises someone who has made a considerable contribution to the profession over a long period of time.

Tony Self, who is based in Australia, was unable to attend the Technical Communication UK conference to receive his award in person, but he sent a video of his acceptance speech.

"I was surprised and very thrilled to learn I was the recipient of this year's Horace Hockley award, and so I would like to thank everybody very much for bestowing this honour upon me."

Tony started as a technical writer in 1979 writing aircraft manuals, and as a young man interested in aircraft this was a dream job. In those days he used pens and pencils because typesetters and typists were those responsible for keyboard tasks.


While still at the aircraft manufacturer, he became interested in Computer Aided Design, and then later on whilst writing banking documentation, he got involved with Computer Based Training and the use of hypertext.

In 1993, he co-founded HyperWrite and still works through that company

as a consultant and trainer. He has always been drawn to working with emerging technologies, which today is less and less about help text and more and more about implementing DITA and XML database documentation solutions.

He has worked all over the world, establishing the Australasian Online Documentation Conference in 1998, and he has been a regular lecturer at the Swinburne University's postgraduate programme in technical communication.

Most recently, he has been involved with the OASIS DITA Technical Committee, and he chairs the Help sub-committee.

*"I've had, so far, a very interesting and rewarding career. Technical communication has given me the opportunities to travel; opportunities to work on really interesting projects; opportunities to make friends: different people all round the world. I hope for all of you that technical communication is, likewise, a rewarding profession and one that is intellectually stimulating, and one that makes you feel good about yourself!"* 

**Paul Ballard FISTC**  
ISTC President



**Tony Self FISTC**

## References






Horace Hockley Award  
[www.istc.org.uk/About\\_the\\_ISTC/horace\\_hockley\\_award.html](http://www.istc.org.uk/About_the_ISTC/horace_hockley_award.html)  
HyperWrite Consultancy and Training, Australia  
[www.hyperwrite.com](http://www.hyperwrite.com)  
Tony Self's acceptance speech  
[www.helpml.com/horace.wm](http://www.helpml.com/horace.wm)



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