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President's view

It's been a relatively quiet year so far on the presidential front: pretty much 'business as usual'. However, there are a few things I want to let you know about.

Oxford Reference Online
We surveyed our members — as you know, I mentioned it last time — to find out which of the titles we subscribed to were actually used. Following on from the results of that, we decided to cull the list, removing those titles that no-one said they used, and some of those that only one or two people use. We also wanted to add a couple of titles suggested by those who responded to the poll. We duly sent off our list, and were really pleased to discover that we could subscribe in a different way that both *increases* the number of titles available and reduces our expenditure. How? We've chosen an option where we have a fixed number of concurrent users rather than a completely unlimited subscription. We will shortly update the Oxford Reference Online page and will be monitoring usage to see if we need to increase the number.

TCeurope
We have been a member of TCeurope – an umbrella organisation consisting of national technical communication associations – for a number of years now, and in that time, TCeurope has done some really good work. Our own international representatives have been very proactive in involving us in Europe-wide issues, and our financial contribution has helped to run the colloquium, hosted each year by one of the member associations, and support the TCeurope Honours Award. The colloquium is a free one-day conference on technical communication – but you have to get there (last year it was in Portugal, this year it was in Finland) and very few of our members have attended.

Over the last few years, more and more of the (larger) national associations have left TCeurope. The remaining associations at the start of this year were from Portugal, France, Sweden, Finland and the ISTC.

As with everything we spend your money on, the ISTC Council has to review exactly what return we're getting. That doesn't necessarily mean a monetary return – the Oxford Reference titles, for example, don't bring in any revenue, but everything has to be both relevant and provide value for money.

We have been debating over the last six months or so (since our November Council meeting) whether to remain in TCeurope or leave, and as a result, we have now resigned.

Why? Few of our members attend the colloquium, apart from our international representative. We haven't been involved in any TCeurope project since the survey that took place in 2015, and we haven't yet seen the results of that particular project. As we struggle to get sufficient volunteers for ISTC-related work, even if a project were to be proposed we don't have the capacity to contribute very much. (And neither do the other remaining member associations, who are all much smaller than us.) The larger European associations (for example, tekom) are not members, so TCeurope does not fully represent technical communication across Europe.

Does this mean we're cutting all ties? NO! Other associations can still talk to us, and we to them. The benefits we offer (for example, member discount to TCUK) are available to members of the individual national associations and don't rely on TCeurope membership – either ours or theirs – as they apply to members of *all* national associations.

If you feel that we've missed something fundamental, please let us know.

Technical Communication UK
On a more positive note, it was a lovely surprise to me when I found out that TCUK this year is being held in Nottingham. Why? Because it's my home city!

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to what is always a great three days of enthusiastic sharing of best practice and camaraderie. And if I can put in a bit of a 'tourist' plug too, the conference hotel is pretty much in the city centre, so there's plenty to see and do without having to spend a fortune on taxis.

We're publishing a book!
The ISTC has been working on a book, *Current Practices and Trends in Technical and Professional Communication*, with chapters written by leading practitioners and academics in the field. Watch this space for publication details! C

> **Books.** www.istc.org.uk/publications-and-resources/istc-books
> **Oxford Reference Online**. Login ISTC website *Publications and Resources > Oxford Reference Online* www.istc.org.uk/publications-and-resources/oxford-reference-online

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Member news

New Members
Member
Alexander Bell	Nottingham
Nissa Dann	London
David Davis	Brighton
Rosina Hussain	Essex
Annette Jetting	Denmark
Lyndsay Marshall	Aberdeen
Jennifer O'Neill	Brussels
Julia Wilson	Surrey

Associate
Michael Horton	Dudley
Andrew Hunt	London

Junior
Grzegorz Kossobudzki	Poland
Kevin Murphy-Steele	Blairgowrie

Transfers
Fellow
John Banham	St Neots
Bruce Felstead	Cambridgeshire

Member
Stuart Heath	Staffordshire
Amanda Maher	Oxfordshire
Robert Pallant	London

Rejoiners
Member
Monique Gionet	Canada
Herman Jordaan	London
Matthew Reilly	Suffolk
James Stevenson	Dubai