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# InfoPlus<sup>+</sup>

February 15

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The ISTC is the United Kingdom's professional association for scientific and technical communicators, which includes authors, illustrators and information designers.

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This monthly Newsletter is emailed to about 1500 people. As well as ISTC news, *InfoPlus<sup>+</sup>* aims to cover anything of interest to the profession. To subscribe, contact the office.

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## ISTC news

### TCUK 2015 – In Scotland

The ISTC is delighted to announce that the Technical Communication UK (TCUK) conference for 2015 will be in Scotland for the very first time.

TCUK 2015 takes place on 29th and 30th September and 1st October, and is at the Beardmore Hotel and Conference

Centre ([www.thebeardmore.com](http://www.thebeardmore.com)), at Dalmuir in Clydebank, just outside Glasgow.

The Beardmore is a 10 minute walk from Dalmuir station with direct connections from Glasgow Central, Glasgow Queen

Street, Edinburgh Waverly and Sleeper Service to and from London. There is also free on-site parking for 300 cars. It is also conveniently placed for easy access from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Prestwick airports.



### About TCUK

Technical Communication UK (TCUK) is the ISTC's annual conference for everyone involved in writing, editing, illustrating, delivering and publishing technical information. With over 30 different presentations and workshops from both world renowned speakers and the ISTC's own members, it offers three days of intensive learning, with social activities for networking and an impressive vendor exhibition.

See the TCUK website ([www.technicalcommunication.com](http://www.technicalcommunication.com)) for details and reports of previous conferences, and check back for details of the call for proposals and other news coming very soon.



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### Attention ISTC members!

Membership subscriptions are now due. If you haven't yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible and continue to receive the benefits reserved for members. Use the online facility [www.istc.org.uk/online-shop/membership/](http://www.istc.org.uk/online-shop/membership/) – but don't forget to log in first!

It is also still possible to sign up for monthly direct debits. Go to <https://www.securecollections.com/dd/istc/details.asp> – again you must log in first.

### About The Beardmore

The Beardmore is a world-class conference venue set in picturesque grounds on the banks of the River Clyde in Clydebank, near Glasgow.

As Scotland's key dedicated conference venue, The Beardmore combines all the standards of a four star hotel with the facilities and first-class service required for successful conferences, training and meetings. The Beardmore is only the second venue in Scotland to be accredited as a 'Conference Centre of Excellence' and is committed to providing the highest professional standards.

The Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre is built on the former site of William Beardmore's Naval Construction Works. Once one of the largest shipyards in the UK,



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it opened in June 1906 with the launch of the battleship HMS Agamemnon for the Royal Navy. The shipyard was at its busiest during the First World War, employing 13,000.

In addition to shipping, the enterprising Sir William manufactured passenger airplanes, cars, railway engines and motor cycles and opened an experimental civil aviation department. Beardmore was also the chief sponsor of Ernest Shackleton's 1907 Nimrod Antarctic expedition, resulting in one of the world's largest glaciers being named after him.



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## Make a new year's resolution to get involved with ISTC projects

Yes, we covered this in the December edition of *InfoPlus*<sup>+</sup>, but we're still looking for volunteers! It's a good way for you to develop new skills, build your network and extend your professional development portfolio. Below are some of the opportunities available now. If you're interested in volunteering for any of the tasks, please contact [marketing@istc.org.uk](mailto:marketing@istc.org.uk).

### School lesson plan on technical communication

As part of the way in which the ISTC can promote technical communication, we're looking for someone who can develop a lesson plan on technical communication.

This would be published on the ISTC website for teachers to use. The plan could include some exercises in writing instructions, organising a table of contents and researching a subject.

### Day in the life of a technical communicator videos

The ISTC wants to encourage technical communicators to tell their own story. We've created a 'day in the life' playlist on YouTube for this purpose, and we now need

some videos to add to it. These videos will be embedded into the ISTC's website, as well as being on YouTube.

You can help by sharing with others what it's like for you to be a technical communicator.

The videos don't need to be highly polished - recordings from a smartphone would be fine - and we can help with editing and final production if you wish.

They don't need to be very long either. It could be three or four minutes on what your company does, what your role is within the company, what you enjoy about the work, and, (if that's the case) why you are an ISTC member.

The more videos we have, the more representative the playlist will be.

If you can create a video clip, you just need to send it (or a link to it) to the ISTC's main email address, and we'll do the rest. If you want to upload it to your own YouTube account, that's fine, as we can still add it to the playlist.

### Introductory primer articles on technical communication

We're looking for volunteers to write some introductory primer articles for the ISTC website that will help explain different

aspects of technical communication.

The topics are:

- What is technical communication?
- What do technical communicators do?
- What is localisation?
- What is technical illustration?
- What's the difference between technical communication and copywriting?
- Where do technical communicators work?
- When is it a legal requirement to provide a user guide?

The intended audience would be managers, students, journalists, and anyone else who is curious about technical communication. Each article should be around 500-800 words.

The ISTC can help in finding subject matter experts you could talk to.



Discover the five benefits of being an ISTC member:

[What the istc offers.](#)

## ISTC local area and special interest groups

### London Area Group meeting

The ISTC London Group invites you to meet with Galyna Key to learn about Gamification: The New Black! on Thursday 5 March 2015 at 18:30.

In this presentation Galyna will talk about what gamification is and why this idea is so popular right now. She'll explain why technical communicators should be interested in gamification, how to start thinking like a game designer, and what are the core game elements you should include in your design toolbox.

We're meeting once again at The London Canal Museum, which is 5 minutes walk from King's Cross rail and underground station (directions at <http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk/visit/find-us.htm>). Free tea and coffee will be available (and we'll probably all head out

for a drink afterwards!) There is no charge for this meeting but space is limited, so please book early.

See <http://istclondongroup-march2015-gamification.eventbrite.co.uk> for details and to reserve your place.

### Thames Valley Area Group

The next Thames Valley Group meeting will be on Tuesday 3 February at the Bird in Hand Country Inn, Knowl Hill, Reading at 19:30. The group will discuss foreign languages (we have Russian, Mandarin and Polish speakers in the group) to see how they can improve their writing with regards to foreign language speakers. For example, many languages do not have an equivalent concept of definite and indefinite articles.

If you would like to attend, please would you register your interest by following this link to Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thames-valley-area-monthly-meet-tickets-14224244097](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thames-valley-area-monthly-meet-tickets-14224244097).

### Report on our last meeting

The Thames Valley area kicked off the New Year with their regular first Tuesday in the month meeting at the Bird In Hand pub near Reading. We welcomed a new face, who is more used to going to Southern area meetings.

Discussion meandered around focal review processes, where do tech authors come from and go to in their careers, the rise of video in technical communication, and the main topic of the evening was rewriting dry drab technical info in verse, limerick or iambic pentameter. The conclusions were that writing in a more poetic way certainly gives the info memorability and probably appeals to much younger audiences. We recalled a verse from our youths: 'Stop says the red light; go says the green; wait says amber; blinking in between'.



## Southern Area Group: *Lessons for Technical Authors from the field of Software Engineering*

By Marjorie Jones – 10 February, 2015

It seems fitting that our first presenter this year, is the outgoing Southern Area Group Leader, Marjorie Jones, who is Technical Author at Exony.

This talk is a repeat of the presentation she gave at TCUK14. It will look at the software lifecycle and the parallels with the modern structured authoring process. There will be practical examples of how best practices and techniques borrowed from software development can help organise and structure document components, avoid errors and ensure quality, efficiency and maintainability. There may be time to include a little more detail in some places if anyone is interested, and hopefully it will be slightly less formal and more interactive, given the venue.

### Venue Details

The venue is the Royal Oak, entrance on Royal Oak passage (between High Street and St Georges Street) and also on St Georges Street (postcode SO23 9AU).

We have reserved the lower bar (which is supposedly the oldest bar in Winchester). Food is available for those who wish to eat.

If you would like to attend, please would you register your interest using the following link to Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/istc-southern-area-group-winchester-tues-10th-february-2015-7-10pm-tickets-15444886070>.

### Hyperlinks disclaimer

The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the ISTC of the linked websites, or the information, products or services contained on those sites. All external hyperlinks were accurate and working at the time of writing. However, the ISTC does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations, so the ISTC cannot be responsible for changes to content found at these locations or any material on those sites that may be inaccurate, misleading or offensive to you. All links are provided with the intent of meeting the mission of the ISTC and its Newsletter, and the ISTC disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and availability of any linked site. Please let us know about existing external links which you believe are inappropriate or inaccurate and about specific additional external links which you believe ought to be included.

### **InfoPlus+ submission deadlines**

If you have an article or other content you want to submit for inclusion in *InfoPlus+*, please note the following:

For feature articles, press releases, affiliate news and other general content, please ensure your submission arrives by 20th of the month prior to publication. For example, in the case of a June publication, copy should arrive by 20 May.

For ISTC news or event details, please ensure your submission arrives by 24th of the month prior to publication. For example, in the case of a June publication, news should arrive by 24th May. Every effort is made to ensure that *InfoPlus+* is published and distributed as early as possible in the month to which it relates. However, last-minute entries, adverts or cancellations can result in an issue being distributed up to a week into that month. Please bear this in mind when submitting time-sensitive information; especially if it concerns an event occurring in the first few days of the month.

## Current ISTC local area groups

Contact your nearest area or special interest group on the email shown below. If you're interested in setting up either an area group or a special interest group, please contact our area groups manager Tom Dumic at: [areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk](mailto:areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk).

### Area groups:

Name	Leader	Email Contact Details
Cambridge	Derek Cooper or Jeff Bronks	<a href="mailto:cambridge_areagroup@istc.org.uk">cambridge_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Central South	Co-ordinator wanted	<a href="mailto:areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk">areagroupsmanager@istc.org.uk</a>
East of Scotland	George Lewis	<a href="mailto:eastscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk">eastscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Irish Technical Writers	Patrice Fanning Yvonne Cleary, Bridget Walsh	<a href="mailto:irishtechnicalwriters@istc.org.uk">irishtechnicalwriters@istc.org.uk</a>
ISTC Irish Group	Adrian Rush	<a href="mailto:irishgroup@istc.org.uk">irishgroup@istc.org.uk</a>
London	David Farbey	<a href="mailto:london_areagroup@istc.org.uk">london_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Midlands	John Burns	<a href="mailto:midlands_areagroup@istc.org.uk">midlands_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
North East England	Janine Weightman	<a href="mailto:northeastengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk">northeastengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
North West England	David Jones	<a href="mailto:northwestengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk">northwestengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Southern	Claire Wood	<a href="mailto:southernengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk">southernengland_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
South Wales	John Espirian	<a href="mailto:southwales_areagroup@istc.org.uk">southwales_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Thames Valley	Darren Mitcham	<a href="mailto:thamesvalley_areagroup@istc.org.uk">thamesvalley_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
West of Scotland	Charles Addison	<a href="mailto:westscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk">westscotland_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>
Yorkshire	Nick Tonge	<a href="mailto:yorkshire_areagroup@istc.org.uk">yorkshire_areagroup@istc.org.uk</a>

### Special interest groups:

Name	Leader	Email Contact Details
MadSIG	Marjorie Jones, Tom Bridley Kai Weber	<a href="mailto:MadSIG@istc.org.uk">MadSIG@istc.org.uk</a>
Oil & Gas	Chris Knowles	<a href="mailto:oilandgas@istc.org.uk">oilandgas@istc.org.uk</a>

## Using Eventbrite to register attendance at area group meetings

Some area group meetings are posted on Eventbrite and where this is the case, we asked anyone expecting to attend to register online using this event management service. You can see a list of ISTC related events by visiting: [www.eventbrite.com/org/495786380](http://www.eventbrite.com/org/495786380).

**A plea: if you know you're not going to be able to attend a meeting that you've registered for, could you please contact the organiser, even if it is at short notice.**

## ISTC groups on LinkedIn

The ISTC has a number of LinkedIn groups for its members. Have you joined the relevant groups?

ISTC group: [www.linkedin.com/groups/Institute-Scientific-Technical-Communicators-1858546/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Institute-Scientific-Technical-Communicators-1858546/about).



This group has a number of sub groups for:

- ISTC NW Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/ISTC-NW-Area-Group-2445779/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISTC-NW-Area-Group-2445779/about)
- Southern Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4795279](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4795279)
- Thames Valley Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4805266](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4805266)
- ISTC Midlands Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/ISTC-West-Midlands-Area-Group-4835591/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ISTC-West-Midlands-Area-Group-4835591/about)

- South Wales Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5161265](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5161265)
- West of Scotland Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5081412](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5081412)
- ISTC Oil and Gas  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5023918](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5023918)

There are other area groups which aren't sub groups of the ISTC one:

- Cambridge Technical Communicators  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/Cambridge-Technical-Communicators-1805651/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Cambridge-Technical-Communicators-1805651/about)
- Irish Technical Writers – An ISTC Area Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/Irish-Technical-Writers-ISTC-Area-3369559/about](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Irish-Technical-Writers-ISTC-Area-3369559/about)
- MadCap UK and Europe Users Group  
[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5081593](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5081593)

## Simplified Technical English term checker

[www.simplified-english.co.uk](http://www.simplified-english.co.uk)



## Business affiliate news

### Morson Group recognises employee training and education

More than 40 Morson Group employees celebrated the completion of various training and learning achievements at an event in Manchester recently. The event was the first of two planned events in recognition of those who succeeded in completing further education or professional training courses in the past year.

Ged Mason, CEO of Morson Group, commented: 'I would like to extend my congratulations to all those across the company who are celebrating their learning achievements, and to those currently studying too. Morson has always supported its employees' ambitions for career development, and we can see the benefits of that here today.'

Morson supports employees of all disciplines with training requirements and learning ambitions; this ranges from management training courses and apprenticeships to professional diplomas and degrees.

Becki Ross, Group HR Manager, said: 'We are delighted with the achievements of Morson Group employees – over the past year we have enabled individuals to pursue a variety of career development courses. We hope to see many more success stories over the coming years.'

### About Morson Group

Since 1969, Morson Group has provided the world with engineering recruitment and design that really matters. The group is made up of three main subsidiaries, Morson International, Morson Projects and Vital Human Resources. Morson Projects Limited is an ISTC Gold Level Business Affiliate.



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## FEATURED SPEAKERS



Matthew Ellison  
UA, Europe



Derek Warren  
Venafi, Inc.



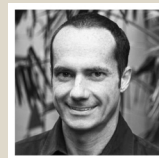
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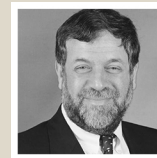
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## Industry news

### Lattice Technology announces Lattice3D Studio Version 13.1 for engineering and manufacturing companies

Lattice Technology, Inc., an industry leader of technical communication software for the manufacturing industry, has announced Lattice3D Studio version 13.1. This latest release of the company's authoring tool contains features that speed time to market and decrease development costs for companies that develop and manufacture complex products. New functionality includes 3D electrical routing, which completes the product representation by including the mechanical aspects of the electrical design. Additional features enable concurrent workflows between engineering, product documentation, assembly process planning, and work instruction development.

'The new features in this release continue our effort to enable the enterprise to leverage 3D engineering data to downstream processes and compact product release cycles,' explained Bill Barnes, General Manager, Lattice Technology, Inc. 'For instance, using Lattice3D Studio version

13.1, companies can now create electrical routing for complete product representation. This allows both electrical and mechanical data to be used in interactive work instructions, technical illustrations and any other technical documentation. Additional features better enable different team members to work concurrently.'

#### Create Electrical Routing in 3D

With version 13.1, accurate electrical routing (including wires, cables, harnesses and connectors) can easily be done in 3D and included with the mechanical representation from the CAD model. The complete product representation can then be leveraged into all of the various downstream processes required to bring a product to market, speeding time to market and reducing costs.

#### Enable Concurrent Process

During the late phases of product design when product release processes are started, changes will inevitably occur. The challenge for working concurrently is to minimise the re-work. With this release, change detection and visualisation capabilities have been added to enable quick identification of changes and the ability to incorporate them into the work already accomplished.

Lattice Technology delivers technical

communication solutions that may be used across the entire product lifecycle – for internal use, external stakeholders and customers. These solutions build on top of an organisation's 3D design data, allowing companies to leverage 3D CAD model data and business data. Ideal for assembly process planning, work instructions, technical illustrations, electronic spare part catalogues and service portals, the innovative technology is used by manufacturing and engineering companies as the backbone for sharing and using 3D model data across the extended enterprise.

For more information, visit: [www.lattice3d.com](http://www.lattice3d.com).

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email: [info@cliffordsells.com](mailto:info@cliffordsells.com)

## Blog news

By Ginny Critcher

Hello everyone. Here is this month's blog round up for you.

RJ Jacquez looks at 10 things Adobe gets right about mobile learning with Captivate: <http://rjacquez.com/10-things-adobe-gets-right-about-mobile-learning-with-captivate-8-review/>.

Rukmani Gopalan, program manager on the Microsoft Office team talks about a new feature in Insights for Office in Word Online: <http://blogs.office.com/2014/12/11/first-look-insights-office-word-online-bringing-knowledge-web-document/>.

Madcap announces its Madworld 2015 conference speakers and a new venue: [www.madcapsoftware.com/blog/2014/12/10/madworld-2015-premier-technical-communication-content-strategy-conference-north-america/](http://www.madcapsoftware.com/blog/2014/12/10/madworld-2015-premier-technical-communication-content-strategy-conference-north-america/).

Alan Pringle at Scriptorium speculates on content trends in 2015: [www.scriptorium.com/2015/01/2015-content-trends/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=2015-content-trends](http://www.scriptorium.com/2015/01/2015-content-trends/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=2015-content-trends).

David Farby also looks at key trends for 2015:

[www.welocalize.com/four-key-technical-communication-trends-2015/](http://www.welocalize.com/four-key-technical-communication-trends-2015/).

Mark Baker continues his discussion on topic patterns:

<http://everypageispageone.com/2015/01/12/successful-patterns-are-the-best-guide-to-information-design/>.

Tom Johnson presents a summary of his recent survey on API documentation:

<http://everypageispageone.com/2015/01/12/successful-patterns-are-the-best-guide-to-information-design/>.

Cherryleaf's Ellis Pratt interviews technical authors for the ISTC's Youtube channel. [www.cherryleaf.com/blog/2015/01/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-technical-communicator-interviews-on-youtube/](http://www.cherryleaf.com/blog/2015/01/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-technical-communicator-interviews-on-youtube/).

Ginny has a background as a skilled trainer and information designer, and is responsible for the development of Cherryleaf's training courses. In addition to her skills in information design, she has over twenty years experience in teaching and training throughout the world. She is Cherryleaf's representative to the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators (ISTC).



Do you have a blog? Let Ginny know so she can include it in her monthly review. Simply email [ginny@cherryleaf.com](mailto:ginny@cherryleaf.com).

## Training courses

If you know of a training course that will be of interest to readers, please let us know. You can send details by email to [newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk). Please try to give us plenty of notice. The deadline for receiving information for *InfoPlus*<sup>+</sup> is 24th of the month preceding publication.

Listings are restricted to scheduled courses that are low cost or are in some way unusual. Listings are a service to members. A listing does not imply ISTC endorsement.

If you hear of any training courses that you think might be of interest to *InfoPlus*<sup>+</sup> readers, please contact the Newsletter copyeditor at [newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter.editor@istc.org.uk).

If you would like to promote your course or event to ISTC members, why not consider giving ISTC members a discount for courses and events listed in our newsletter. For more information, please email [istc@istc.org.uk](mailto:istc@istc.org.uk).

### MadCap training

For details of the latest MadCap Software Training Schedule: Web-based and On-site Training, visit: [www.madcapsoftware.com/services/training/](http://www.madcapsoftware.com/services/training/).

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## February

### 2-3 Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

Learn how to create and edit images using the de facto standard in the graphics industry. Techniques covered include colour correction, working with layers, compositing images and preparing images for use on the Web.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course).

### 3-4 Introduction to Adobe Premiere Pro

Provides a thorough grounding in the key tools Premiere Pro provides. It then goes on to explore further useful techniques including adding video effects, exporting frames, clips and sequences, and managing your projects.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/premiere-pro-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/premiere-pro-training-course).

4-5

### Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

Provides you with the essential knowledge you need to create shapes, work with type and layers and apply effects and styles, giving you the basics to build on.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course).

5-6

### Introduction to Adobe After Effects

Entry-level course providing a thorough grounding in the tools and techniques used to carry out the most common tasks in After Effects, and introducing some of the more sophisticated features available including tracking, keying, 3D space and shape layers.

10% discount for ISTC members

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/after-effects-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/after-effects-training-course).

9-10

### Introduction to Adobe InDesign

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the powerful capabilities of InDesign, including setting up new documents, shapes, frames and using InDesign's most popular features.

10% discount for ISTC members

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/indesign-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/indesign-training-course).

9-11

### Introduction to Adobe FrameMaker

Provides a thorough grounding in FrameMaker in unstructured (standard) mode, covering the essential techniques for generating high standard printed documents. Includes the generation multi-document books, table of contents, index and cross-references.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/framemaker-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/framemaker-training-course).



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## ...February

### 11-13 Basic and Intermediate MadCap Flare

Learn how to work efficiently and effectively with Flare, becoming familiar with features including variables, conditional text and multi-format publishing.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/madcap-flare-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/madcap-flare-training-course).

### 19-20 Introduction to Adobe After Effects

Entry-level course providing a thorough grounding in the tools and techniques used to carry out the most common tasks in After Effects, and introducing some of the more sophisticated features available including tracking, keying, 3D space and shape layers.

10% discount for ISTC members

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/after-effects-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/after-effects-training-course).

### 23-25 Introduction to Adobe RoboHelp

Course for beginners, teaches how to use RoboHelp to create online help in most popular formats.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/robohelp-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/robohelp-training-course).

### 26-27 Introduction to Adobe Captivate

Learn how to develop web enabled e-learning modules and interactive software simulations.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/captivate-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/captivate-training-course).

### 26-27 Adobe InDesign Introduction Course

Through this two-day course, you will learn how to produce documentation from design concept right through to output. Practical projects will range from creating single sided literature to longer publications incorporating text and graphic elements to

achieve appropriate layouts. The Adobe InDesign course includes topics and theory sessions listed in the course outline which will give you a comprehensive understanding of features and processes involved in producing effective documentation.

10% discount to ISTC members

[www.mekon-creatives.com/courses.cfm?course=indesignintroduction&type=all](http://www.mekon-creatives.com/courses.cfm?course=indesignintroduction&type=all).

## March

### 2-6 Technical Authoring Training Programme

ISTC-accredited programme comprising: Introduction to technical authoring (1 day); Intermediate technical authoring (2 days); Advanced technical authoring (2 days). Attend the complete programme, or just the modules relevant to your experience.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/technical-author-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/technical-author-training-course).



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## ...March

### 2-3 **Introduction to Adobe Photoshop**

Learn how to use the de facto standard in the graphics industry. Techniques covered include colour correction, working with layers, compositing images and preparing images for use on the Web.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course).

### 3-4 **DITA Open Toolkit Course**

Our two-day DITA Open Toolkit training course guides participants through customisation techniques and tools for developing DITA Open Toolkit plugins. It is a commonly used method of obtaining output from DITA content in a variety of formats, including PDF and a range of XHTML based formats such as help systems.

This course has been designed for developers who need to customise publishing systems for

4-5

DITA content using the DITA Open Toolkit, assuming that the attendees are already familiar with; DITA Maps & Topics, XSLT (& XSL-FO) and general programming techniques. This course enables participants to develop their own DITA Open Toolkit customisations for PDF and HTML related outputs, and know how to package and distribute these customisations as plugins.

10% discount to ISTC members

[www.mekon.com/index.php/pages/services/dita-open-toolkit-customisation-training/services](http://www.mekon.com/index.php/pages/services/dita-open-toolkit-customisation-training/services).

### **Introduction to Adobe Illustrator**

Provides you with the essential knowledge you need to create shapes, work with type and layers and apply effects and styles, giving you the basics to build on.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course).

5-6

### **Simplified Technical English Course**

This two-day course is a practical introduction of Simplified Technical English. The course introduces the philosophy of Simplified Technical English, explains the underlying grammatical principles and gives delegates opportunities to use Simplified Technical English in practical exercises based on their company's documentation.

10% discount to ISTC members

[www.aerospace-defence.com/index.php/pages/training/asd-simplified-technical-english-specification/t-standards](http://www.aerospace-defence.com/index.php/pages/training/asd-simplified-technical-english-specification/t-standards).

## ...March

### 11-13 <oXygen/> Author for DITA

This course is designed to help technical communicators become productive using <oXygen/> Author to create, edit and manage content through DITA topics and maps. The <oXygen/> Author for DITA Course is a bundle of two separate courses: DITA/XML Introduction Course (1 day) and <oXygen/> Author Basic Course (2 days).

10% discount to ISTC members.

[www.mekon.com/index.php/pages/services/oXygen-XML-for-DITA-authors/training](http://www.mekon.com/index.php/pages/services/oXygen-XML-for-DITA-authors/training).

### 16-17 Introduction to Adobe Photoshop

Learn how to create and edit images using the de facto standard in the graphics industry. Techniques covered include colour correction, working with layers, compositing images and preparing images for use on the Web.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/photoshop-training-course).

### 18-19 Introduction to Adobe Illustrator

Provides you with the essential knowledge you need to create shapes, work with type and layers and apply effects and styles, giving you the basics to build on.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Milton Keynes.

[www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/illustrator-training-course).

### 19-20 Website creation essentials with Adobe Dreamweaver

Course for new or novice website designers, and anyone who is responsible for creating or updating web pages. Teaches how to design, develop and maintain a professional website using Dreamweaver. During the course, delegates create a fully functioning website, and receive a copy of their files to take away.

10% discount for ISTC members.

Armada, Bromsgrove, Midlands.

[www.armada.co.uk/dreamweaver-training-course](http://www.armada.co.uk/dreamweaver-training-course).

## Events listings

If you know of an event that will be of interest to readers, please let us know. You can send details by email to [events@istc.org.uk](mailto:events@istc.org.uk). Please try to give us plenty of notice. The deadline for receiving information for *InfoPlus+* is 24th of the month preceding publication.

This section introduces new events and reminders of the most relevant events in the coming months. ISTC events are highlighted. You can view previous events listings on the ISTC website's Newsletter archive at [www.istc.org.uk/Publications/Newsletter/newsletter.htm](http://www.istc.org.uk/Publications/Newsletter/newsletter.htm).

## February

### 3 Thames Valley Area Group Meeting

The group will discuss foreign languages (we have Russian, Mandarin and Polish speakers in the group) to see how they can improve their writing with regards to foreign language speakers. Meeting starts at 19:30.

Bird in Hand Country Inn, Knowl Hill, Reading

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thames-valley-area-monthly-meet-tickets-14224244097](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thames-valley-area-monthly-meet-tickets-14224244097).

## ...February

- 10 ISTC Southern Area Group Meeting**  
Marjorie Jones leads a presentation on Lessons for Technical Authors from the field of Software Engineering. The session will include practical examples of how best practices and techniques borrowed from software development can help authors.  
Winchester, UK  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/istc-southern-area-group-winchester-tues-10th-february-2015-7-10pm-tickets-15444886070>.

- 13-15 XML Prague**  
A conference on markup languages and data on the web. Topics this year include Publishing for the 21st century, XML technologies and Big Data, Semantic visions and the reality, and Markup and the Extensible Web.  
Prague, Czech Republic  
[www.xmlprague.cz](http://www.xmlprague.cz)

- 26 MEGAComm 2015**  
A gathering of techcomm professionals and marcom professionals for an intensive full day conference.  
Cinema City, Jerusalem  
[www.megacomm.org](http://www.megacomm.org).

## March

- 5 The ISTC London Group Gamification: The New Black!**  
In this presentation Galyna will talk about what gamification is and why this idea is so popular right now. She'll explain why technical communicators should be interested in gamification.  
See <http://istclondongroup-march2015-gamification.eventbrite.co.uk> for details and to reserve your place.

- 12-13 tcworld India 2015**  
India's only international conference for technical communicators and language professionals.  
Bangalore, India  
<http://conferences.tekom.de/tcworld-india-2015/home>.

- 17 tcworld China 2015**  
First international conference for technical communicators and language professionals in China. The conference will focus on Technical Communication in China and Europe, Product Safety, and Skills and Competence.  
Shanghai, China  
<http://conferences.tekom.de/tcworld-china-2015>.

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## ...March

**23-25 Intelligent Content Conference**  
Intelligent content is 'content which is not limited to one purpose, technology or output.' In it's 7th year, ICC covers Content Strategy, Content Marketing, Adaptive Content, and more.  
San Francisco, USA  
[www.intelligentcontentconference.com/](http://www.intelligentcontentconference.com/).

**25-27 Learning Solutions Conference and Expo**  
eLearning conference exploring new technologies to extend and enhance the learning experience. Aimed at learning professionals focused on the design, development, management, and distribution of technology-based learning.  
Orlando, Florida  
[www.learningsolutionsmag.com/lscn/content/3600/learning-solutions-2015-conference--expo--home](http://www.learningsolutionsmag.com/lscn/content/3600/learning-solutions-2015-conference--expo--home).

## April

**12-14 MadWorld 2015**  
MadWorld 2015 is the premier technical communication and content strategy conference for technical writers, documentation managers and content strategists.  
San Diego, California  
Conference info: [www.madcapsoftware.com/events/madworld/](http://www.madcapsoftware.com/events/madworld/).

**17-18 TCeurope 2015 colloquium**  
The TCeurope 2015 Colloquium is hosted by STC France, and offers sessions on information delivery, emerging technologies relevant to technical communicators, and methods for engaging users. Saturday hands-on sessions include an Adobe Workshop.  
Brussels, Belgium  
[www.tceurope.org/colloquia](http://www.tceurope.org/colloquia).

## 22-26 IA Summit

Information Architecture Summit exists to promote discourse and offer practical advice about the strategic and intentional design of information environments. New this year: 5-minute Ignite talks and extended round-table discussions.  
Minneapolis, USA  
[www.iasummit.org](http://www.iasummit.org).

## 29-30 Adobe Summit

Digital Marketing conference with more than 100 sessions across ten tracks including Personalisation and Optimisation, Marketing Analytics, Digital Experience Management, and Mobile Development and Marketing.  
London, UK  
<http://summit.adobe.com/emea>.

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## May

**17-19 Write the Docs**  
A three-day event to explore the art and science of documentation. Learn about documentation systems, tech writing theory, and information delivery.  
Portland, Oregon, USA  
[www.writethedocs.org/conf/na/2015/](http://www.writethedocs.org/conf/na/2015/).

**20-22 Confab Central**  
Content Strategy conference hosted by Brain Traffic and Kristina Halvorson (co-author, Content Strategy for the Web). Confab Central is for marketers, UX professionals, technical communicators, and content engineers.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA  
<http://confabevents.com/events/central>.

## June

**3-5 UXLx User Experience Lisbon**  
16 workshops, 10 talks, UX Book Fair and Sponsors Expo. Speakers are Usability Experts, Information Architects and Interaction Designers. Sessions themes include responsive design, designing wearable experiences and interface writing.  
Lisbon, Portugal  
<https://www.ux-lx.com/>.

**4-5 UA Europe Annual Conference**  
Focus is on software user assistance and online help. Sessions on agile, Kanban, findability and Information Architecture.  
Southampton, UK  
[www.uaconference.eu](http://www.uaconference.eu).

## 10-12 mLearnCon

mLearnCon focuses on the management strategies, technology alternatives, and design and development considerations for mobile learning.

Austin, Texas, USA

[www.elearningguild.com/mLearnCon/content/3400/mlearncon-2015-mobile-learning-conference--expo--home/](http://www.elearningguild.com/mLearnCon/content/3400/mlearncon-2015-mobile-learning-conference--expo--home/).

## 21-24 STC 2014 Summit

The Summit consists of over 80 educational sessions, organised in tracks and 20-minute Spotlight Talks covering all aspects of technical writing, editing, project management and publication production. Keynote starts on Sunday evening. Summit Expo runs during conference with over 50 exhibitors.

Columbus, Ohio, USA

<http://summit.stc.org>.