

STYLE GUIDES

General:

Chicago Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors – 16th edition (Also available by online subscription

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/>)

The Economist Style Guide – 10th edition <http://www.economist.com/styleguide/introduction>

The Oxford Style Manual (combination of The Oxford Guide to Style and Hart's Rules)

The Yahoo! Style Guide (See <http://styleguide.yahoo.com/>)

EU Style Guide http://ec.europa.eu/translation/english/guidelines/documents/styleguide_english_dgt_en.pdf

The Elements of Technical Writing, Gary Blake & Robert W. Bly (US English, short, helpful)

The Elements of Style, William Strunk Jr., and E.B. White (US English, short, dry, prescriptive)

The Global English Style Guide, John R. Kohl (How to English write for translation)

Subject specific:

Microsoft Manual of Style – 4th edition

Read me First, A Style Guide for the Computer Industry, Third Edition by Sun

American Medical Association Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors – 10th edition (also available by online subscription <http://www.amamanualofstyle.com>)

<http://www.computer.org/portal/web/publications/styleguide> (From IEEE's Computer Society)

Society of Petroleum Engineers <http://www.spe.org/authors/docs/styleguide.pdf>

American Chemical Society Style Guide – 3rd edition. See <http://www.oup.com/us/samplechapters/0841234620/?view=usa> for sample chapters from the second edition.

EU Pharmaceutical Style Guide. Download it as a pdf called 'Compilation of QRD decisions on stylistic matters in product information'. 'Compilation of QRD decisions on the use of terms' is at the same place:

http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document_listing/document_listing_000267.jsp&murl=menus/regulations/regulations.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac05800b378b&jsenabled=true

NASA has a strong body of reference material for technical writers. This link leads to much their style guide.

<http://history.nasa.gov/printFriendly/styleguide.html>

<http://www.thelancet.com/lancet-information-for-authors/formatting-guidelines> (Location of the example I gave).

The image with the contrasting literary and technical quotes comes from this book: Introduction to Engineering, Chapter 6, Engineering Communication, available online at <http://astro.sfasu.edu/Courses/egr111/BookPDF/New%20Folder/5035-C06.pdf>



RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL WRITING

OTHER RESOURCES

Books, blogs, and websites:

On Writing Well, William Zinsser (On writing non-fiction in English)

Words Fail Me, Patricia T. O'Conner (Amusing book on all types of writing)

Eats, Shoots & Leaves (Amusing, with a focus on punctuation, UK English)

Kaplan Technical Writing, Carrie Hannigan *et al* (This is a college text book - dry)

<http://www.stc.org> Society for Technical Communication and its Technical Editing Interest Group

http://www.stc-techedit.org/tiki-directory_browse.php Substantial list of valuable resources

<http://www.shelfari.com/stc-techedit/shelf> A good book list with a focus on editing.

<http://www.subversivecopyeditor.com> A blog by the editor of the Chicago Manual of Style's monthly Q&A.

<http://www.jeanweber.com> Excellent site on technical editing, though becoming somewhat out of date.

Online book: Scientific and Technical Communication: Theory, Practice, and Policy, Collier & Toomey (available to download)

<http://www.muebooks.com/scientific-and-technical-communication-theory-practice-and-policy-PDF-6067515/> (Theoretical and extensive)

On plain English:

<http://www.plainlanguage.gov/>

<http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>

<http://www.clearest.co.uk/pages/publications>

<http://www.infomap.com/> Information Mapping

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online and in-person training courses:

Society for Technical Communication webcast professional development

<http://www.stc.org/education/online-education/certificate-courses>

<http://www.stc.org/education/online-education/live-seminars>

E.g., 'Technical Editing Fundamentals', the one I took in 2009, which is still available.

American Chemical Society webcast professional development <http://www.proed.acs.org/courses/index.cfm> ACS Webinars are free when live, but only free on demand to members.

E.g., 'Effective Technical Writing.' They also do in-person courses.

Coursera: Writing in the Sciences <https://www.coursera.org/course/sciwrite> If this Coursera course is offered again, I recommend taking it.

American Medical Writers Association <http://www.amwa.org/education>

Courses for medical translators: from grammar to terminology to plain language and medical matters

